

## State Innovation Grant Quarterly Report

**Project:** “Promoting Implementation of Innovative Environmental Compliance Strategies in the Northeast and Use of Common Business Sector Performance Measures” (States Common Measures Project)

**Reporting Period:** October 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006

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### Summary of Activities

- Compiled final list of participants (26) for the Common Measures and Data Quality Training held on September 28, 2006.
- Held States ERP Consortium Kick-off Meeting in Denver Colorado on October 17 – 18, 2006.
  - Meeting outcomes included: draft Consortium charter, draft Consortium priority list, establishment of 4 work groups for Reporting ERP Results; Sharing Information and Building In-state Support for ERP; Building Support for ERP within EPA; and ERP Automation.
- Held Common Measures Project conference call/meeting on November 6, 2006.
  - Meeting included: States readiness to select a measurement group or groups; Process for deciding measurement indicators; Finalizing each state’s project status – learning state or participating state; Preliminary discussion of Project Phase 3 – the data collection phase.
- Held Common Measures Project conference call/meeting on November 21, 2006.
  - Selected hazardous waste small quantity generators and the auto body sector as the measurement groups.
- On November 30, 2006 briefed NEWMOA Directors on project status.
- Tara Acker of NEWMOA initiated individual calls/meetings with each project state to establish final commitments on groups to be measured, indicators to be used, the source or sources of data to be used, and when each state plans to begin data collection.
- Beth Termini and Steve DeGabriele agreed to set up individual meetings with the states of Maine and Vermont to discuss possible EPA support or grant commitment flexibility for participation in the project.
- Held numerous group and individual conference calls/meetings to support the activities above.
- Additional project information may be found at the NEWMOA website at <http://www.newmoa.org/hazardouswaste/measures>

## **Accomplishments and Problems**

- The States ERP Consortium kick-off meeting was held, planning outcomes were achieved and on-going work groups were established (see above).
- Phase 2 of the Common Measures Project (selecting measurement groups and indicators) is underway and is planned for completion in March 2007.
- Measurement groups have been selected (see above).
- Project states with support from NEWMOA are making final decisions on groups, indicators and data
- The preliminary list of candidate performance indicators and the data quality issues associated with using each indicator for the small quantity generator and auto body sectors were compiled and sent to each project state.
- Some states have continued to express concern about resources and EPA's willingness to allow flexibility to vary from grant commitments should it become necessary to generate new data by performing inspections in phase 2 of the project.

## **Schedules**

- The project manager plans to present draft final group and indicator choices at the March 2007 NEWMOA Directors meeting. The project states have committed to make final their group and indicator decisions as soon as possible to allow preparation for the NEWMOA meeting.

## **Funds**

- The project has expended approximately \$49,911 of grant funds through November 2006. It is anticipated that project will spend \$160,000 during FFY07 and \$50,000 in FFY08. As of the end of this quarter, no funding problems are identified to date or for the remainder of the project.

## **Estimates**

- As indicated in the accomplishment and schedule sections above, the Common Measures Project is on track for completing Phase 2 by March 2007. The overall project schedule is as follows:

PHASE 2- DECISIONS ON GROUP(S), INDICATORS AND DATA  
(JAN. 2007)

- Measurement and Statistical Check-in
- NEWMOA Directors Check-in

PHASE 3 – DATA COLLECTION AND TRANSFER (2007 – 2008)

PHASE 4 – DATA ANALYSIS AND REPORTING (2008 –2009)

- Anticipated project activities include:
  - Selecting group environmental performance indicators
  - Briefing NEWMOA Directors
  - Revising QAAP as necessary
  - Deciding statistical methodologies
  - Developing and implementing a data management strategy
  - Building new data management tools as necessary

- Collecting, evaluating, aggregating and reporting initial data provided by states
  - Collecting, organizing, analyzing, distributing and/or posting informational material
  - Organizing and supporting two or more live workshops/meetings associated with the above steps
  - organizing and supporting 5-6 conference calls or more associated with the above steps
  - Developing and executing subcontracts as may be necessary to accomplish project goals
- As indicated in the funding section above, at this point there appear to be sufficient funds identified to successfully complete the project on schedule.