

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: January 1, 2007 through March 31, 2007

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Date: April 2, 2007

Summary of Activities

- During January and February 2007, NEWMOA (Tara Acker) contacted each participating state to discuss and confirm the characteristics of the sector (or sectors) to be measured, the project leads, the estimated universe size, the draft indicator definitions, the data sources that will be used for measurement and the estimated measurement period.
- Completed the “Common Measures Assessment – Phase 2 Matrix” on February 13, 2007.
- Developed training materials for Common Measures Project Workshop on Selecting Indicators.
- Held Common Measures Project Workshop on Selecting Indicators at the EPA Region I Laboratory in Chelmsford, MA on March 13, 2007.
 - 17 attendees from project States and EPA
 - Workshop was video conferenced to the California EPA
 - Reviewed and agreed on common group definitions for hazardous waste small quantity generator (SQG) and auto body sectors, developed final draft indicators for SQGs and decided to defer auto body sector indicator selection until June 2007.
 - Assigned “homework” to participating states to confirm the final indicators, sign-off on data quality issues and confirm that the state is ready to begin Phase 3 – data collection. Responses are due on April 2, 2007.
 - Developed and distributed state-specific inspection numbers for a range of confidence intervals based on each states sector universe size.
 - Established goal of being ready to begin field measurement by May 2007.
- Held numerous group and individual conference calls/meetings to support the activities above.
- Initiated planning for the next State ERP Consortium all-members meeting that will include information transfer about the Common Measures Project.
- Additional project information may be found at the NEWMOA website at <http://www.newmoa.org/hazardouswaste/measures>

Accomplishments and Problems

- Anticipate completion of Phase 2 in April 2007. Final decisions on indicators, data quality issues and data sources for SQGs.
- Anticipate start of Phase 3 – Data collection - in May 2007 following an inspector training conference call.
- The final list of candidate performance indicators and the data quality issues associated with using each indicator for the auto body sector will be deferred until June 2007.
- One state continues 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 3 of the project.

Schedules

- Overall the project is on schedule. See details above and below.

Funds

- The project has expended approximately \$71,241 of grant funds through February 2007. 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 April 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.