

FISCAL YEAR 2007 PROJECT Hazardous Waste

Common Measures Project

Project Strategy: Develop and use common measures of environmental performance for one or more business sectors/groups across several NEWMOA member states. The purpose is to advance the use of valid statistical methods and measurement tools to enable comparison of performance changes across states resulting from the use of various environmental compliance assurance approaches.

In Fiscal 2007 the NEWMOA state environmental agencies will develop and use shared core performance measures for one or more business sectors or regulated groups. The project will rely on the models of innovative compliance strategies, including the Environmental Results Program (ERP) and other statistically valid compliance/performance rate approaches already in use. By developing and using shared measures, the participating states can not only evaluate the effectiveness of their own programs, but can also evaluate the relative effectiveness of the other states' programs and decide to adopt the more successful compliance assurance approaches used throughout the region. The project goals are to:

- Improve the ability of state environmental agencies to develop, implement, and analyze innovative performance measures for targeted business sectors
- Improve the ability of the state environmental agencies to develop and implement innovative compliance strategies, including ERP

Project objectives:

- Develop and implement a common, core set of performance measures for business sectors or regulated groups on a multi-state basis
- Promote the implementation of innovative compliance strategies, including ERP, in the states in the Northeast that have not yet begun these initiatives, including New York and New Jersey
- Combine and present the environmental outcome data that is collected from the states using the core performance measures for at least one business sector and analyze and present the results

Anticipated project results:

- Illuminate the nature, scope and seriousness of problems within each selected sector
- Quantify environmental performance in the selected sectors
- Record group environmental performance status and changes over time
- Facilitate general comparisons of the effectiveness and efficiency of different state compliance assurance strategies within the same sector
- Enable participating states to better focus their limited resources on specific problem areas and to use those strategies that have been demonstrated to achieve the greatest environmental results improvements in the future.

In Fiscal 2007 the participating state staff will receive training on measurement and the use of statistical methods along with direct technical assistance and support from NEWMOA staff, experienced state staff, and consultant contractors to assist them with their state's project participation.

This effort is funded by an EPA grant to the MA DEP. MA DEP has contracted with NEWMOA to provide administrative and other support services to the project.

For more information visit www.newmoa.org/hazardouswaste/ or contact: Bill Cass, NEWMOA, (617) 367-8558 x301; wcass@newmoa.org.