

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: May 22, 2006 (grant approval date) through September 30, 2006

Prepared by: Steven A, DeGabriele, Project Manager, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)

Date: September 13, 2006

Summary of Activities

- Completed revised Quality Assurance Project Plan in response to EPA comments.
- Completed several revised final grant applications in response to EPA comments on pre-proposal and draft final grant application
- Solicited support letters from the NEWMOA Directors confirming their commitment to work on the project
- Negotiated contract between MADEP and NEWMOA to administer and support the Common Measures Project.
- Established a project steering group comprised of the project manger, the quality assurance project officer, NEWMOA, EPA project leads and MassDEP senior management.
- Developed a project steering and oversight communication protocol
- NEWMOA hired a part time staff person to assist state staff with the technical aspects of the Common Measures Project
- Planned, organized, staffed and delivered a Project Kick-off and Training Meeting for ten states on June 23, 2006 at the EPA Region 1 lab in Chelmsford, MA. The meeting covered developing a common understanding of the project goals, a preliminary discussion of candidate groups for measurement, discussion about understanding performance indicator choices and discussion about understanding data quality choices, characteristics and limitations.
- Developed and implemented a location on the NEWMOA website for storing and sharing project information.
- Distributed and posted training materials, state homework assignments and other project information on NEWMOA’s website
- Developed, distributed and compiled results from two "summer homework" assignments: 1) Preliminary identification of preferred groups to measure and 2) For the preferred groups, a preliminary listing of possible indicators and the data quality issues associated with the indicators.
- Contracted with firm to provide Common Measures and Data Quality Training. on September 28, 2006.

- Planned, organized and supported development of ten-state measures and data training course to be held on September 28, 2006 at EPA Region I Lab in Chelmsford.
- Planned, organized and issued invitations to States to participated in the kick-off meeting in Denver, CO on October 17 and 18 for an new States ERP Consortium to develop, promote and implement innovative measurement and compliance enhancement strategies including common measurement approaches
- Held numerous group and individual conference calls and meetings to support the activities above.
- Additional information project information may be found at the NEWMOA website at <http://www.newmoa.org/hazardouswaste/measures>

Accomplishments and Problems

- The completion of the activities above result in the successful completion of phase 1 of the project.
- Project states have received substantial training about the issues associated with using common group performance measures, the choices in selecting measurement indicators for groups and the data quality issues necessary to successfully measure environmental performance within and across states.
- Project states have identified the leading candidate groups for performance measurement: hazardous waste small quantity generators, auto body facilities, dentists/dental practices and underground storage tanks.
- Project states have compiled a preliminary list of candidate performance indicators and identified the data quality issues associated with using each indicator.
- A draft mission statement, organizational procedures and session plans have been developed for the States ERP Consortium meeting to be held on October 17 – 18, 2006 in Denver, CO.
- Some states have expressed 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 the next phases of the project.

Schedules

- The Common Measures project performed all activities on schedule during this period. Phase 1 of the project was completed by September 30, 2006 as planned.

Funds

- The project has expended approximately \$45,000 of grant funds through September 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 accomplishments section above, the Common measures project is on track by completing Phase 1 by September 30, 2006. The next phases and schedule are 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:
 - Planning and providing follow-up training and assistance to states as determined necessary after September 28, 2006 training
 - Participating in the States ERP Consortium meeting in Denver, CO and performing follow-up work as necessary.
 - Selecting business sectors or regulated groups for performance measurement
 - Selecting of group environmental performance indicators
 - 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.