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"The one-stop shop for public entity Environmental Management System information and resources."

Issue #1: April 2006

Kent County, DE Celebrates Three Management System Accreditations, including NBP Certification

The Kent County Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility in Milford, Delaware, a participant in the U.S. EPA supported 3rd EMS Initiative for Public Entities, recently completed the implementation of an Environmental, Health and Safety Management System (EHS-MS) and National Biosolids Partnership (NBP) Management System. In January 2006, the facility received formal recognition for ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 (Safety and Health), and NBP certification, becoming the first public entity in the nation to achieve this accomplishment. For more information on Kent County's EHS-MS and NBP, please visit:

<http://www.co.kent.de.us/Departments/PublicWorks>

U.S. EPA Signs EMS Position Statement

U.S. EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson signed a new EMS Position Statement on December 13, 2005, reaffirming EPA's continuing support of EMS adoption across all sectors. The revised Position Statement reaffirms the Agency's long-held opinion that implementing an EMS will enable businesses, agencies, and other institutions to improve their environmental performance and business competitiveness. For additional information on U.S. EPA's support of EMS, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/ems>

2nd Port EMS/SMS Assistance Project Launched

Commencing in February 2006, 9 Seaports from throughout the nation will implement management systems focused upon environmental or security issues over a two-year timeframe. Through participation in this project, each port will receive training, technical assistance, and mentoring aimed at effectively and efficiently implementing a management system, based upon the ISO 14001 and 28000 Standards, within a port-defined area of operations. For additional information, please visit: <http://www.aapa-ports.org>.

This EMS News (April 2006) is the first in a series of newsletters, funded through a cooperative agreement with the EPA Office of Wastewater Management, that will be published quarterly by the PEER Center. The goal of each EMS News will be to keep readers informed of current developments, events and articles on environmental management systems (EMS) in the public sector.

NEW RESOURCES

[Third EMS Initiative for Public Entities \(2003-2005\) -](#)

[Final Report](#) details the experiences of nine public organizations that participated in a U.S. EPA supported two-year EMS initiative. The report describes the implementation strategy, benefits, resources, and lessons learned, including individual organization profiles.

[EMS Case Studies in the Public Water Sector](#) is a

compendium of case studies highlighting the EMS experiences of five wastewater and drinking water agencies, published in November 2005.

LRC CORNER

The eleven PEER Local Resource Centers (LRCs), located around the country, promote EMS competence and encourage government-to-government sharing and mentoring between public sector organizations. Each Center supplies communities with technical expertise, field-tested tools, and support for EMS implementation. For more information, visit: <http://www.peercenter.net/whocanhelp/lrc.cfm>

Zero Waste Alliance

The Zero Waste Alliance (ZWA) recently published a Final Report from the 1st Northwest Public Entity EMS Initiative. The report details the experiences of three public organizations that participated in a U.S. EPA supported eighteen month EMS project. ZWA is currently soliciting applications for a 2nd Initiative, for more information please visit: <http://www.zerowaste.org/nwpub2/>

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

TCEQ will be offering free training for local governments in the Dallas/Fort Worth area that will assist municipalities in implementing an EMS. The remaining class schedule includes: April 25th, May 30th, June 21st, July 20th, and August 21st 2006. For more information, contact: [David James](#) at TCEQ.

University of Massachusetts - Lowell

UMass-Lowell has developed an EMS software tool called EMS WebWare™ to streamline the EMS development, implementation and management process. For additional information and to test this new tool please visit: <http://www.emswebware.com>



VREMS PARTNERSHIP

The Virginia Regional Environmental Management System (V-REMS) is a multi-level partnership between federal, state and local organizations. Partners work closely together to apply a management systems approach for environmental issues important to each partner and that apply across the region.

The partnership recently focused working groups in the following areas: stormwater; energy efficiency; and, air quality. For more information on V-REMS, visit the [Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's P2 Programs Page](#).



EMS LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVE



Jim Newton joined the Kent County, Delaware Wastewater Treatment Facility (KCWTF) in 2002.

Over the last three years he has become the champion for KCWTF's EMS, leveraging over 30 years of experience as an environmental engineer. In December 2005, KCWTF achieved third-party certification to the National Biosolids Partnership program and in January 2006, to ISO 14001 (EMS) and OHSAS 18001 (Safety and Health) for their EHS-Management System. The following interview was conducted in March 2006:

Your facility recently completed audits for three external certifications, you must be exhausted?

It has been a long three years, but it has really been professionally enjoyable and the time has flown. After receiving our certifications it seems like it is time to rest on our laurels, but now the real effort begins.

I feel it will take much more effort to maintain the momentum. Remember an EMS is a program and not a project.

Can you offer any words of wisdom for those preparing for external audits, especially in making your staff feel comfortable?

We practiced auditing with our people. Having members of our core team and our in-house auditing staff prepare them. But really getting this far, any program should have the employees well indoctrinated to the system. Remember, the system should not be created on its own, but should use the management systems that have been in place for many years at your facility and build on them.

What was the most challenging element of implementing your EHS-MS? How did you overcome this challenge?

Employee buy-in was by far the hardest part. The EMS is often looked upon as a project with a beginning and an end, but there is no end to it. You have to continue to place the EHS-MS in front of your staff all of the time. We have continually used posters; given away mugs and magnets, displayed banners and anything else we could think of to help the employees see the importance and keep the EMS on their minds. We have also used one-on-one coaching to emphasize the importance of the program and what we are trying to accomplish.

What made your organization's top management committed to an integrated EHS-MS implementation?

We had the support of the Director of Public Works from the very beginning. When I first saw the announcement of EPA's EMS MUNI III program, I began to provide him with as much information about EMS as I could. He quickly saw the utility of the EMS. We then sold our commissioners on the benefits of the program, especially the outside recognition that could ensue.

How did your EMS link and integrate with other utility management programs, initiatives and management systems?

We haven't integrated all of our management programs into our EMS, but we have integrated the ISO 14001, NBP and OHSAS 18001 programs. These programs are each based upon the Plan-Do-Check-Act model and include many of the same elements. NBP and ISO 14001 have pretty much the same element. The major differences are what operations are covered (i.e., "fenceline"), the terminology for describing the environmental impacts and involvement of the public.

For NBP, only biosolids operations are covered under our scope or fenceline and for EMS, our entire treatment facility is our fenceline. For our EMS, the critical environmental impacts are called significant aspects, while the NBP calls them critical control points. So there are 2 terms for our employees to be aware of.

The third difference between NBP and EMS



is involvement of the public. Since the NBP stresses public acceptance of biosolids quality, the public becomes a major stakeholder in the NBP

Program. Public involvement can also be important for an EMS, but it is not a requirement under ISO 14001 and it is up to the organization on how they want to involve the public.

It's also important to mention that we integrated the OHSAS management system at the direction of our commissioners to address employee health and safety. They felt that it was important to look at health and safety as well as our impacts to the environment.

Did the local community express interest in your EHS-MS activities? How were they involved?

We tried many ways to engage the public in dialogue about our EMS. We sent out press releases, conducted briefings, and involved two citizens groups that were formed to assist the county in its sewer expansion efforts. Public involvement is a critical element of the NBP program. We have had an ongoing dialogue with our local farmers about our biosolids product, Kentorganite, and have had excellent acceptance.

Being a seasoned EMS practitioner now, what one piece of advice would you give early implementers?

I think the most important part of the process is beginning. Not only must you have as many of your employees and senior management on board, but you must emphasize that it takes time and resources to implement an EMS. Build on the management system components you have in place and don't create more procedures or programs than is necessary.

Are there any other environmental initiatives at KCWTF that we should be aware of?

Yes. KCWTF is also implementing a Pretreatment Environmental Excellence Program (PEEP) that offers incentives for our local industries to participate and implement an EMS of their own. We see their EMS as a means for helping us determine how they are managing their releases to our wastewater treatment facility.

Where can someone find additional information about Kent County's EHS-MS efforts?

They can go to the [Kent County Public Works Environmental Programs Website](#) or to the [Kent County Environmental Management System Homepage](#).

EMS SECTOR CORNER



The Port of New York and New Jersey has implemented a Green Ports Program. One of the elements of the Program, the Green Practices Task Force, is composed of tenants and Port Authority staff. The Task Force identifies and implements initiatives that address: air and water quality; waste minimization; and, energy conservation. Tenants at the Port have voluntarily increased their efforts to contain runoff and improved air quality through their cargo handling equipment modernization efforts. For more information Ports initiatives, visit: <http://www.peercenter.net/sector/ports/>



The National Biosolids Partnership has just released a new brochure entitled: Certified Biosolids Management Systems - A Compendium of Biosolids EMS Success Stories (2003-2005). The 24-page brochure provides wastewater case studies and describes the treatment facilities' biosolids management programs and lessons learned. For more information and to obtain a copy of the brochure, please visit: <http://www.biosolids.org/>

IN THE NEXT PEER EMS NEWS ...

Updates on the availability of New Resources:

- ✓ EMS Wastewater Aspects Workbook
- ✓ EMS Wastewater Manager's Compendium
- ✓ 1st Ports EMS/SMS Assistance Project Final Report

This [PEER Center EMS](#) Newsletter will be developed quarterly under a Cooperative Agreement between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the



[Global Environment & Technology Foundation](#)

To submit an idea to EMS News, or to join the list serve to receive a quarterly copy, please contact Nick Martin at 703-379-2713 or nmartin@getf.org.