

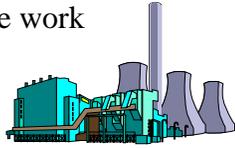


DEM Business Roundtable Newsletter

February 28, 2002

Greenhouse Gas Action Plan Project Update

DEM has begun the process of developing a Greenhouse Gas Action Plan. The action plan is being developed using three work groups, i.e., Buildings and Facilities, Transportation and Land Use, and Energy Supply and Solid Waste. Each group has held their first round of meetings.



The first series of meetings discussed the following issues:

- Overview of Process, Goals, Schedule, Ground-rules, and Summary of Research and Work to Date
- Sector Background and Baseline Forecast in RI
- Overview and Discussion of Potential Technologies, Programs and Policies for Reducing GHG in each sector

In response to the comments and input of work group members during the first work group meetings, Tellus Institute and Jonathan Raab produced:

- Action Table - detailing the questions/requests members posed and their responses as to how each issue will be addressed in the next work group meeting and in the revision of the scoping reports.
- Redlined Scoping Reports – revised reports in accordance to the changes suggested in the action tables
- Prioritization Memo – detailing the process by which prioritization of options can begin according to a combination of factors including; the cost of saved carbon, the amount of carbon saved and any co-benefits
- Prioritization Tables & Scatter Plot – Tables include all the options presented in the scoping report in order of priority based on the cost of saved carbon; amount of carbon saved and co-benefits. The scatter plot represents the list of prioritized options broken out into three categories of “High” – “Medium” - “Low” priority based on the tables.

The second round of work group meetings began in early February with the Buildings & Facilities work group. For further information concerning this topic, contact Ana Baptista at 222-3434 extension 4440, or visit the web site at: <http://rihg.raabassociates.org/>

DEM 2001 Annual Report

DEM's 2001 Annual Report is in its final stages of development and should be ready for release in March. This document will be posted DEM homepage. This report will highlight the major challenges and developments that DEM faced in 2001, along with progress reached in accomplishing the department's goals.

Major legislative developments include:

- ◆ A new approach that will allow much needed dredging projects to move forward
- ◆ The development of a new commercial fisheries licensing system
- ◆ Advances made with respect to boating safety
- ◆ The phasing out of mercury in various products
- ◆ Lower tax rates for open space protection, and
- ◆ Significant tax incentives for historic preservation

Regulatory highlights include:

- ◆ The strengthening of air quality rules for low emission and heavy duty diesel vehicles
- ◆ Amendments of our wetland rules to improve consistency with the Coastal Resources Management Council
- ◆ New storm water management regulations that control non-point sources of pollution in our watersheds
- ◆ Permit streamlining task forces that completed their work on wetlands, septic systems and waste management, while others started on air quality and dredging

Other achievements include:

- ◆ Publishing DEM's second two-year work plan, that was coordinated with EPA
- ◆ Publishing the wetlands program 2001 Year End Report, which documents DEM's successful efforts to reduce delays in the permitting process and evaluates our performance in tracking wetland losses and gains
- ◆ A record-setting year for open space protection

Challenges include:

- ◆ Working to find a solution to Pascoag's drinking water supply problems
- ◆ Supporting the state's efforts that were put into place after the September 11th Tragedy, and,
- ◆ Impacts of the budget crisis, where DEM has been unable to fill vacancies that are critical to our programs, let alone develop new initiatives.

DEM Training Update

DEM has conducted a number of training opportunities that were the result of permit streamlining task force recommendations. In



the last four months DEM sponsored two wetlands workshops and collaborated with the Rhode Island Society of Environmental Professionals on a

seminar on the recently developed Marginal Risk Policy.

Last year, DEM's Office of Waste Management, with the assistance of the Waste Site Remediation [Permit Streamlining Task Force](#), developed the Marginal Risk Policy. The purpose of this policy was to streamline the process DEM uses to evaluate contaminated sites that do not pose a serious risk to the public health or environment. For more information on this policy, click on the following website: <http://www.state.ri.us/dem/programs/ombuds/pstream/waste/pdfs/simpstrw.pdf>

On January 29, DEM in partnership with the Rhode Island Society of Environmental Professionals hosted an overview and training session on this policy at the Radisson Airport Hotel in Warwick. Approximately 50 members of the regulated community and 10 DEM employees participated in this training exercise.

DEM is in the planning stages of developing a basic site remediation course with RISEP. This course will be designed to give an entry-level professional an overview of DEM's Site Remediation regulations. This course is tentatively planned for early June. Contact Tom Getz at 222-4700 extension 2417 for more information.

In November 2001, DEM hosted a Wetlands Permit Training Workshop for 55 consultants. The RI Association of Wetland Scientists, along with the City of Cranston and the Department of Administration, helped in planning the event. The purpose of this informative workshop was to improve the

quality of application submittals and reduce the number of repeat deficiencies.

DEM hosted another Wetlands Permit Training workshop for Municipal Officials in January 2002. This workshop included a Town/City & DEM Coordination panel discussion. Nearly 50 participants from 21 different cities and towns attended this workshop.

Workshop topics included site plan requirements, exempt activities, avoidance and minimization techniques, and a permitting process overview. For the second workshop there was also a panel discussion on ways to improve wetland protection.

Program supervisors and staff, as well as wetland biologists and engineers gave presentations. Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, EPA, Region I, and Army Corps of Engineers representatives were present to help answer questions. The workshops were held at DEM's main office in Providence.

DEM received many favorable evaluations on both workshops. Participants recommended that these workshops become annual events.

For more information on the workshops, contact Susan Ely at 222-3961 extension 7205.

Establishment of Fee on the Generation of Hazardous Waste

Roughly three thousand companies regularly generate hazardous waste in Rhode Island. Hazardous wastes may include toxic substances, corrosive materials, flammable materials, and various other chemicals and chemical by-products. Companies that generate hazardous waste range from the major manufacturers and chemical companies to the corner dry cleaner and automobile repair facility. If not managed properly, hazardous wastes can seriously affect our environment and threaten the health of our communities.

Based on data from calendar year 1999, there are 1,272 companies generating more than one ton of hazardous waste per year. Those 1,272 companies generated a total of 357,193,738 pounds of hazardous waste in 1999 alone. The Department is proposing to establish a fee schedule for those companies that generate more than one ton of hazardous waste per year. Approximately 1,700 hazardous waste generators will not be subject to the fees since they generate less than 2000 pounds per year.

The fee ranges from \$1,500 for companies that generate more than 1 million pounds of hazardous waste per year, to \$300 for companies that generate between 2,000 and 9,999 pounds of hazardous waste per year. Approximately 50% of the facilities impacted will be in the latter category. The fee will raise about \$700,000.

This fee schedule has two positive aspects. First, it funds the programs that the state has established to protect the environment and prevent pollution. Second, it creates an economic incentive for companies to minimize the amount of hazardous waste they generate. Hazardous waste can be minimized by re-engineering manufacturing processes and by substituting less harmful materials in those processes.

Proposed Increased Fees on the Management of Underground Storage Tanks

DEM is proposing to raise the registration fees for underground storage tanks from \$50 to \$75. There are approximately 2,240 registered underground storage tanks in Rhode Island. Most of these tanks have been updated since the federally mandated deadline for corrosion protection passed in December of 1998.

The new tank systems are more complex to operate and maintain. Most underground storage tanks are used for the storage and distribution of gasoline and other petroleum-based fuels. Leaks and failures of underground tanks can affect water supplies, wells, and homes. This fee increase is meant to support the regulation of these tanks and maintain the program staffing at current levels.

Providence River Dredging Project

On February 15, 2002 the Department of Environmental Management issued a Water Quality Certificate to the Army Corps of Engineers for the Providence River and Harbor Maintenance Dredging Project. The Certificate was issued in accordance with the state's water quality regulations after an extensive process of participation and review in coordination with other state and federal agencies.

The Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, completed the Final Environmental Impact Statement in August of 2001. Approximately two and one-half miles of the Providence River federal channel will be dredged to an authorized width of 600 feet and an authorized depth of 40 feet. The total volume of material to be removed from the federal channel is 3.9 million cubic yards of maintenance material. The material defined as

unsuitable for unconfined open water disposal (2.8 million cubic yards) will be disposed of at the off-shore disposal site defined as Site 69B. Site 69B is located outside of state waters; however, the transport barges will travel through state waters to reach the disposal site. Material defined as unsuitable for unconfined open water disposal (1.1 million CY) will be placed in Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) cells located in the upper reaches of the Providence River.

There are two dewatering sites associated with the project, identified in the FEIS as the Providence and Worcester Railroad Company property on the east shore of the Providence Harbor and the Johnson and Wales University property located on the southern portion of Fields Point. The Providence and Worcester Railroad site will dewater and retain a quantity estimated at 250,000 CY of material at the existing South Quay bermed area. An additional quantity estimated at 300,000 CY of material will be transported to the proposed dewatering site at the Johnson and Wales site. In both cases, the dewatered material will be used as construction fill on these sites as described in the FEIS.

The Water Quality Certificate includes significant provisions and conditions for monitoring dredging and disposal operations to ensure that both the quality of the water and the fishery resources are protected. The estimated start date for this project is November 2002, with an estimated project duration of 18 months. One of the unique aspects of this project will be the requirement of a sequencing plan to phase dredging operations to minimize impacts to fishery resources. Sequencing priorities developed by the Department and the Corps are included for development of the plan with the dredging contractor. In addition to protecting fishery resources, the sequencing plan will ensure that the project continues uninterrupted, saving substantial money from additional de-mobilizations and mobilizations.

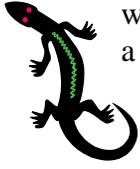
Pollution Prevention Case Studies

DEM's Office of Technical and Customer Assistance (OTCA) provides assistance to businesses that are seeking to comply with environmental regulations and/or reduce wastes. In helping companies reach these goals, DEM and industry partners have reduced wastes, recycled materials, minimized pollution and, in many instances, increased company profits. DEM was able to assist 55 businesses to reach their goals. For more information on these cases call Rich Enander at 222-6822 X4411 or visit the website located at:

<http://www.state.ri.us/dem/programs/benviron/assist/csindex.htm>

Wetland Year End Report

DEM recently released its 2001 year-end report that catalogs work accomplished in the wetland program. Part of this report is a follow-up on the status of the recommendations that were a result of the DEM Wetland Task Force. Implementation of the Task Force recommendations was a high priority for DEM in 2001. Highlights of the report include:

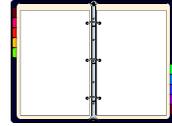


- Two wetland rule amendments were completed. The first amendment, effective January 2001, established uniform appeal periods. The second amendment effective in September clarified DEM and Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) regulation of freshwater wetlands among other things. Phase 2 rules under development include a revised fee schedule and a reorganized rule structure.
- Wetland permitting and compliance statistics for 1999 and 2000 were compiled in 2001. DEM granted 593 permits during the 2-year period with the majority of the permits being for residential development. A net loss of 2.6 acres of biological wetland was permitted.
- DEM stepped up permit compliance inspections in 2001 and found that approximately 17% of permittees were in noncompliance of some sort. In the year 2000, the Office of Compliance (OCI) received 551 wetland-related complaints and issued 99 enforcement actions. OCI determined that there were 17.4 acres of unauthorized wetland, river, and stream alteration, and 10.8 acres of unauthorized alteration of the perimeter, riverbank and floodplain wetlands.
- DEM and EPA Region 1 supported and worked closely with scientists at URI who completed a survey of wetland map users and experts; developed a proactive freshwater wetland restoration method, and developed a vernal pool website.
- DEM also worked with partners to acquire valuable wetlands such as those at the Toste Farm in Tiverton and Little Compton.
- The Office of Water Resources expanded its wetland outreach efforts in 2001. New guidance materials were developed and several successful training workshops were conducted.
- DEM and EPA Region 1 also supported several local wetland protection projects.

For more information about this the [2001 Wetlands Year-End Report](#), visit the DEM website and click on programs. The file is located in the wetland section.

DEM Calendar

DEM is a busy agency and things will be getting more hectic with the onset of warmer weather. In order to inform the public on the breadth of these activities, DEM has developed a Calendar of Events for the year. If you are interested in taking advantage of these events, visit the DEM website located at: www.state.ri.us/dem to view these activities. If you would like additional information about an event, contact the person listed in the calendar.



The major events for the next several months include the following activities:

March

- 9-11 Kids First Nutrition Expo 2002, RI Convention Center
Contact: Steve Volpe, Agriculture, 222-2781
- 17-24 National Agriculture Week
Contact: Steve Volpe, Agriculture, 222-2781

April

- 1 Goddard Park Golf Course Opens
Contact: Steve Wright, Parks & Recreation, 222-2632
- 13 Opening Day of Trout Season
Contact: John O'Brian, Fish & Wildlife, 789-4757
- 15 Campgrounds Open
Contact: Steve Wright, Parks & Recreation, 222-2632
- 20 Earth Day Festival, Roger Williams Park, Providence
Contact: Melinda Hopkins, Strategic Planning & Policy, 222-3434
- 26 Arbor Day
Contact: Paul Dolan, Forestry, 647-4389

May

- 1 Ozone Alert Kick-Off Event
Contact: Len Giuliano, Air Resources, 222-2808 ext. 7041
- 3 Farmers' Markets Open
Contact: Pete Susi, Agriculture, 222-2781 ext. 4517
- 25 State Beaches Open
Contact: Steve Wright, Parks & Recreation, 222-2632
- 26 Safe Boating Week Begins
Contact: Mike Scanlon, Enforcement, 222-2284