

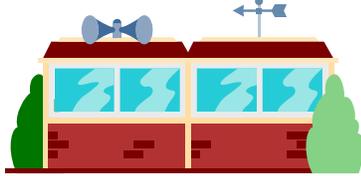


DEM Business Roundtable Newsletter

August 28, 2003

RI Chemical Safe Schools Committee - Don't Miss This Opportunity

Submitted by : Bev Migliore



The RI Chemical Safe Schools Committee is a

collaborative effort of participants from: RI Departments of Environmental Management, Education, Health, Labor and Training, the RI State Fire Marshals Office, Brown University, Community College of RI, University of RI, RICOSH, independent environmental consultants and others who have come together to look at the unique environmental risks in school settings. Their mission, over the past few years, has been to eliminate or minimize the risks associated with everyday exposure to chemicals in the workplace.

This group has discussed this issue with members of the Rhode Island educational community, fire chiefs, the Diocese of Providence, RI Local Emergency Planning Commissions, and others. This targeted outreach effort was geared to provide information associated with maintaining compliance with regulatory requirements governing the safe management of chemicals in schools.

Efforts have been made to introduce science educators to concepts such as demonstration projects and microscaling

experiments, to reduce the use of dangerous chemicals in schools. Examples of science curriculum using alternative, non-hazardous products have been offered to science teachers and have been incorporated into several school curriculum plans.

One of the best examples of this group's innovative efforts is the incorporation of many of the initiatives of this group into the Department of Labor's School Health Regulations. The group initiated a project that will ultimately ban many chemicals from schools by September 2005. This ban is based on existing requirements for school districts to have updated chemical hygiene plans and designated chemical hygiene officers. In addition, the public has expressed concern about the exposure of children to chemicals at school. This effort is modeled after a program implemented in Colorado, and promises to set a new standard for both safety in schools and inter-agency cooperation.

This group is actively soliciting funding mechanisms that can be used to supplement local contributions for the waste disposal activities that result from the ban. The group is seeking federal grant dollars, which are scarce, and has urged local school districts to plan for this activity. This group is investigating funding from corporate sources to support the waste disposal activities.

Why not consider taking a leadership role in your community by using your knowledge, skills and funds as an environmental business and adopt a local school district. Your help is needed to plan, organize and facilitate these local waste removal programs. Become a partner with the RI Chemical Safe Schools Committee and help us reach our goal of reducing the risks in our schools. Contact Bev Migliore at bmigliol@dem.state.ri.us or (401) 222-4700 x7503 for more information.

Stormwater General Permit Updates

Submitted by: Eric Beck



The Department of Environmental Management has made significant progress towards the issuance of two general permits. These general permits control the discharge of stormwater from publicly owned stormwater systems and from construction activities.

The first general permit is intended to reduce pollution from stormwater systems in urban areas owned by local, state and federal governments in accordance with new federal Clean Water Act requirements. The draft general permit allows municipalities flexibility to develop cost-effective local programs for their municipal stormwater systems that use best management practices to address local water quality issues. The programs must include public education and outreach, public involvement and participation, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site stormwater runoff control, post-construction stormwater management, and pollution prevention or

"good housekeeping" for municipal operations.

DEM held a public hearing on the draft permit for publicly-owned stormwater systems on March 13. Based on comments received during the public comment period, selected changes are proposed. DEM held a public workshop on July 24 to discuss the proposed changes and solicit stakeholder feedback. DEM is accepting public comments on the selected changes from August 21 to September 23 and will hold a public hearing on September 21 upon request. For additional information, visit the DEM website at:

<http://www.state.ri.us/dem/programs/benvi ron/water/permits/ripdes/stwater/t2regula/p nfeb03.htm> or contact Margarita Chatterton at mchatter@dem.state.ri.us or at 222-4700, extension 7715.

DEM also plans to issue a final general permit to cover storm water discharges associated with construction activity. The permit requires operators to implement erosion and sediment controls best management practices to minimize sediment and pollutants from entering the storm water discharge. The new permit now covers all construction activity that disturbs greater than one acre. There were no significant comments received during the public comment period from June 11 to July 15, therefore DEM intends to issue the final general permit. It should become effective in September. For additional information visit the DEM website at:

<http://www.state.ri.us/dem/programs/benvi ron/water/permits/ripdes/stwater/t2regula/p nmay03.htm> or contact Greg Goblick at ggoblick@dem.state.ri.us or at 222-4700, extension 7265.

Proposed Arsenic Revisions

From the OWM website



DEM is proposing amendments to the "Rules and Regulations for the Investigation and Remediation of Hazardous Material Releases, amended August 1996." A public hearing will be held if DEM receives appropriate requests from the public. If a public hearing is held, a public notice will be published announcing the date, time, and place of such hearing.

The proposed amendments to the rules and regulations include:

- ♦ Revised arsenic standards for residential, and industrial/commercial direct exposure - Table 1 in Section 8.0
- ♦ Special requirements for managing arsenic in soil - Section 12.0.

Copies of the proposed regulations can be obtained at the DEM website, <http://www.state.ri.us/dem>. (Click on [Publications](#) and go to the [proposed regulations section](#)), or at DEM's Office of Technical and Customer Assistance, [235 Promenade Street](#), Providence, RI 02908, or by calling DEM at 222-6822 weekdays, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

Air Toxics Regulation Update

Submitted by: Barbara Morin

DEM will propose revised amendments to the Rhode Island Air Toxics regulation in September 2003. Amendments to that regulation were proposed last year, along with changes to the requirements for dry cleaning operations. At the request of commenters, DEM convened a

stakeholders group that met several times earlier this year to discuss the proposed revisions to the Air Toxics regulation. The September 2003 proposal will incorporate many of the recommendations made by that group. The main changes from the amendments proposed in 2002 include:

- Regulatory requirements will be triggered by the amount of a toxic substance emitted from a facility rather than the amount used by the facility.
- Applicability thresholds in pounds per hour and pounds per day were dropped. Thresholds are now expressed only in pounds per year. This change results in simplified record keeping and reporting requirements.
- Fuel burning sources that are not major sources of air pollution will be exempted from the regulation. Major source fuel burning sources will be exempted from Air Toxics Operating Permit requirements for five years.
- Asbestos and lead abatement projects regulated by the Department of Health and other DEM rules will be exempted from the regulation, along with sodium hydroxide emissions from air pollution control equipment like caustic scrubbers.

A hearing on the proposed revisions has been tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 24, at 10:00. Note that the dry cleaning regulation proposed in 2002 will be promulgated this fall with modifications in response to comments. That regulation will not be included in the October 24th hearing. For more information, contact Barbara Morin at bmorin@dem.state.ri.us or 222-2808 extension 7012

2003 Legislative Update

Submitted by E. Stone



A number of bills were passed during the last legislative session that are of interest to the business community and include the following:

Solid Waste Management Pilot Projects

Allows DEM to approve solid waste management pilot projects proposed by municipalities as a means of encouraging the development of safe, alternative waste management techniques in Rhode Island. Such pilot projects would serve to promote waste reduction and the safe and effective management of solid waste

Assaults on DEM Inspectors

Makes it a felony to assault DEM inspectors while engaged in the performance of their duties, extending the existing provision that covers assaults against state and municipal police officers, DEM environmental police officers, RIPTA bus drivers, and other officials.

Funding for RIPDES Program

Amends the FY 04 budget to restore funding for the Rhode Island Pollution Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) program as administered by DEM. The RIPDES Program is responsible for issuing permits, and for tracking compliance with permit requirements for discharges of pollutants from any point sources into waters of the state. Such discharges include municipal and industrial wastewater, storm water and combined sewer overflow. The program is the backbone of the state's water pollution control strategy. Also creates a six-member legislative commission to determine the

merits of Rhode Island having the delegated responsibility of maintaining the program.

Tree Stumps

Authorizes the Town of Richmond to promulgate rules and regulations governing tree stump disposal in the town.

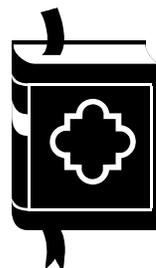
Mercury

Amends the 2001 Mercury Reduction and Education Act by pushing off, until 2005 and later, many of the key provisions of the law (e.g. phase-outs, labeling, disposal ban, collection plans, and disclosure for formulated mercury-added products). Creates a 14-member Commission on Oversight and Planning for Mercury Hazard Reduction and Elimination in Rhode Island. The Director of DEM, or a designee, shall serve as an ex-officio voting member of the commission. In addition, novelties incorporating one or more mercury-added button cell batteries as their only mercury-added component(s) are no longer subject to the ban on the sale, use, or distribution of mercury-added novelties.

For additional information about this legislative session visit the DEM website at: <http://www.state.ri.us/dem/index.htm>, then click on Pubs / Regs and scroll down to legislation.

EPA and DEM Guides for Waste Management

From the EPA website



EPA has published a "Guide for Industrial Waste Management". This Guide provides facility managers, state regulators, and the interested public with

recommendations and tools to better address the management of land-disposed, nonhazardous industrial wastes. In the Guide, you will find:

- Considerations and Internet-based tools for siting industrial waste management units
- Methods for characterizing waste constituents
- Fact sheets and Web sites with information about individual waste constituents
- Tools to assess possible risks posed by the wastes
- Principles for building stakeholder partnerships
- Opportunities for waste minimization;
- Guidelines for safe unit design
- Procedures for monitoring surface water, air, and ground water,
- Recommendations for closure and post-closure care

Additional information about this guide can be found at the following location: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/industd/info.htm>

DEM has also developed a workbook that provides guidance on how to identify and properly manage hazardous wastes. This handbook details the special storage, handling, labeling, emergency planning and training requirements for hazardous wastes.

The first step on the road to environmental compliance is to look for opportunities to use fewer hazardous materials and to generate less waste, thus stopping pollution at its source. Why manage wastes when you can eliminate them? Pollution prevention techniques can help you reduce your compliance burdens, make your

workplace cleaner and safer, increase your competitiveness, and save you money. This workbook outlines some easy first steps for facilities to take to prevent pollution. This information will also assist companies to comply with the regulations concerning hazardous waste.

This workbook can be found at the DEM website located at:

<http://www.state.ri.us/dem/programs/benvi ron/waste/pdf/hwgenbk.pdf>

Virtual Environmental Campus

From the MIT website



Among the biggest challenges facing colleges and universities is the sheer number of environmental regulations that govern their activities. This is also true for small businesses. This website, although dedicated to resolving issues in the academic arena, applies to many of the same problems faced by the small business community. Addressing these challenges requires innovative management strategies. MIT has developed this "Environmental Virtual Campus" ("EVC"). This website provides assistance with environmental management practices, including both regulatory compliance and non-regulatory "green" environmental practices. The site is organized around nine typical areas that are normally subject to environmental regulations. These featured areas include:

- A laboratory
- A central hazardous waste storage area (for generators storing waste for less than ninety days)
- A power/heating plant
- An auto and grounds maintenance area
- A residential area
- A food service area

- A graphic arts/theatre department
- Drains and sewers
- A medical facility

Within each area, content is presented that discusses generally the federal environmental regulations that might commonly apply. In addition, "best practices" are included that cover additional (non-regulated) practices. In some cases the "best practices" and regulatory requirements overlap.

Additional information on this topic can be viewed at the following website: <http://www.c2e2.org/evc/about.html>

**Soil Evaluator and ISDS
Designers' Exam**

Submitted by: D. Knauss

The Department of Environmental Management will offer licensing examinations for soil evaluators and Individual Sewage Disposal System (ISDS) designers this fall.

Soil Evaluators

The exam to license Class IV soil evaluators, which is offered once annually, will take place on Thursday, September 25 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will have both a written and a field component. The rain date for this examination is Friday, September 26. A pre-examination briefing session will be held Thursday, September 4, from 9 a.m. to noon in Room 300 at [DEM Headquarters](#) at 235 Promenade Street in Providence. The meeting places for each component of the exam will be provided at the briefing session. The registration deadline for the briefing session is Monday, August 25, and applications to take the exam must be

received at DEM no later than Thursday, September 4. To register for the briefing session, contact Deb Knauss by email at dknauss@dem.state.ri.us or at 222-4700 ext. 7612.

ISDS Designers

All applications to DEM for ISDS designs must be submitted by an ISDS designer holding a valid DEM ISDS designer license. The exams to license Class I, II, and III ISDS designers are offered once annually.

The exam to license Class I ISDS designers will take place on Thursday, November 20, from 8 a.m. to noon in Room 300 at [DEM Headquarters](#). Applications to take the Class I exam must be received by Thursday, October 30.

The exams to license Class II and III designers will take place on Friday, November 21, in Room 300 at [DEM Headquarters](#) in Providence. The Class II exam will be administered from 8 a.m. to noon; the Class III exam will be administered from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Applications for the Class II and III exams must be received at DEM by Friday, October 31.

A study guide for the Class I, II & III exams will be available Friday, September 29 on [DEM's website at www.state.ri.us/dem](#) by clicking on [Programs](#), then [Water Resources](#), then [Professional Licenses](#), then [ISDS](#). Hard copies of these study guides will also be available at DEM's Office of Water Resources, Room 200 at [DEM Headquarters](#) at 235 Promenade Street in Providence, or by calling Carol MacAndrew at 222-4700 ext. 7220.

Applications for the exams are available at [DEM's website at www.state.ri.us/dem](http://www.state.ri.us/dem) by clicking on [Programs](#), then [Water Resources](#), then [Professional Licenses](#), then [ISDS](#). They may also be obtained by calling Carol MacAndrew in DEM's Office of Water Resources at 222-4700 ext. 7220. For additional information, contact Deb Knauss by email at dknauss@dem.state.ri.us, or at 222-4700 ext. 7612.

Internet-Based Training Courses

Submitted By: Mary Yelken



The Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) offers a wide variety of (NO COST) Internet-based training courses on innovative environmental technologies and approaches specific to the areas of site characterization and remediation. These courses were developed by multi-disciplinary technical teams to reflect the consensus of members from states, federal agencies, the private sector, and citizen stakeholders.

ITRC also offers a variety of classroom training courses at locations around the country. Details can be found at <http://www.itrcweb.org> click on "Classroom Training". Topics include: Accelerated In Situ Bioremediation (Oct. 28-29 in Chicago, IL), Phytotechnologies (Oct. 23-24 in San Francisco, CA & Oct. 27-28 in Seattle, WA) and Unexploded Ordnance (Oct. 28-29 in Austin, TX).

Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council Internet-Based Training Courses: August / September

Surfactant / Cosolvent Flushing of DNAPL Source Zones

September 9 (Tuesday 2:00 – 4:15 PM)

Characterization and Remediation of Soils at Closed Small Arms Firing Ranges

September 11 (Thursday - 11:00 AM– 1:15 PM)

In Situ Chemical Oxidation

September 16 (Tuesday - 2:00 – 4:15 PM)

Natural Attenuation of Chlorinated Solvents in Groundwater: Principles and Practices

September 23 (Tuesday - 2:00 – 4:00 PM)

Passive Diffusion Bag Samplers for Volatile Organic Compounds in Ground Water

September 25 (Thursday - 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM)

All course dates are subject to change please check the ITRC website for the most up-to-date information

(www.itrcweb.org)

Registration information is available at: www.itrcweb.org, then click on "Internet-based Training." You can download the technical and regulatory guidance documents that are the basis for the training materials by clicking on "Guidance Documents." Course registration opens 4-6 weeks before each course offering. These ITRC courses are delivered in partnership with USEPA's Technology Innovation Office on their website at www.clu-in.org/studio/. Contact Mary Yelken at myelken@earthlink.net or 402-325-9615 for additional information.