

**DEM Workplan status - 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter FY2000**  
**Bureau of Environmental Protection**

**Office of Waste Management -**

Highlights/Notable Accomplishments:

- OWM was completing its first comprehensive survey of the volumes of solid waste handled by solid waste management facilities in RI to provide a baseline for future solid waste planning.
- UST staff is being trained to ensure proper and consistent inspections of new tank systems installed after the 1998 deadline. Staff trained with the Resource Recovery staff, which helps both agencies.

Issues to watch:

- Certain Superfund site assessments have been re-scheduled to fit the work plan project period ending June 30, 2000, rather than the grant period, ending December 30, 2000.

Significant modifications:

- Eliminate (or re-define the scope and project timeline) the commitment to develop a policy on Natural Resource Damage Assessment because this extends beyond the boundaries of OWM.

**Office of Technical and Customer Assistance**

Highlights/Notable Accomplishments:

- OTCA prepared to offer 3, one-hour sessions to Offices of Air, Waste, and Water (Compliance and Inspection staff will also participate) on incorporating pollution prevention into permitting programs.
- The advisory panel for the auto body certification program has been formed and will meet quarterly to develop the program.
- OTCA and OC&I have met with municipal public works officials in the Woonasquatucket River watershed to discuss pollution prevention opportunities and solid waste management.

Issues to watch:

- The development of the customer survey is behind schedule. A draft survey instrument on OTCA has been prepared, but no other offices have been addressed.
- The permit-tracking project is on track, but at the expense of the Small Business Assistance and customer service projects.

Significant modifications:

- OTCA has proposed anew objective: To support the development of the "Center for Cleaner Production and Environmental Health" at URI.

## **Office of Compliance and Inspection**

### Highlights/Notable Accomplishments:

- OC&I have dedicated 5% of its wetlands compliance staff effort to checking on compliance at permitted projects.
- The Lead Paint enforcement strategy, a model notice of intent to enforce (NOI), and a model immediate compliance order (ICO), have been prepared and are in use this quarter.
- OC&I staff met with Woonasquatucket River watershed officials along with OWM staff.

### Issues to watch:

- Reducing the backlog of complaints is behind schedule. Water and ISDS complaints are being addressed, but work toward reducing the wetlands complaint backlog has been slowed to address current issues, and solid waste complaints are behind largely due to the amount of time that has been required to oversee removal of tires from the Davis site. Due to the high number of air complaints, only 50% of these complaints are being addressed.

### Significant modifications:

- Dam safety - added activities - a booklet on dams for municipalities; identification of state-owned dams that need repairs; and participating on the dam safety task force.

## **Air Resources**

### Highlights/Notable Accomplishments:

- EPA did not fund the Equity, Air Toxics, and Risk Communication project, but has funded an extensive air toxics monitoring project in Providence.
- The Inspection and Maintenance program is on schedule and going well.
- CMAQ funding recommendations have been made to the State Planning Council.

### Issues to watch:

- The Greenhouse Gas/Climate Change Action Plan is behind schedule. Several meetings are scheduled with state agencies we will work with to develop a set of potential strategies for reducing carbon dioxide emissions to present to the broad stakeholder group as the first step in the development of the action plan.
- The Medical Waste Incinerator regulations were proposed for promulgation by 1/31/00. The public hearing was held April 13.
- Processing of air toxics operating permits, including air quality modeling to determine if sources comply with the Acceptable Ambient Levels (AAL) in Regulation 22 is behind schedule as measured against target number (56% of the permits have been processed at the 3/4 mark of the year).

### Significant modifications:

- Amend the workplan to change the Equity, Air Toxics, and Risk Communication project to an extensive air toxics monitoring project in Providence.
- Amend the end date of the work with DOH to compile data needed to amend APC Regulation No. 22, Air Toxics, to add federal Hazards Air Pollutants and develop new health-based standards from June 30 to September 30.

## **Office of Water Resources**

### Highlights / notable accomplishments:

- There has been significant progress in reducing the RIPDES permit backlog since the beginning of the year. In January the 68% of the major RIPDES permits were expired and the backlog has been reduced to 32%. The Cranston, Warwick, West Warwick, and Woonsocket permits were issued in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.
- The final draft of the Barrington and Runnins River TMDL was completed and is in the comment stage.
- A successful wetlands open house was held with approximately 200 people attending. These were mostly homeowners and teachers interested in learning more about the wetland permitting process.
- Separate open house sessions are planned for later this year for consultants and for municipal officials.
- A Wetlands Guide to Permitting has been developed and is now available.
- The second exam for Class IV Septic System Designer licensing will be given June 29.
- Reports on Wellhead Protection and Wastewater were completed and are on the Department website.

### Issues to watch:

- TMDL schedule

### Significant modifications:

- RIPDES permits - permits for seven major facilities shifted one quarter.
- TMDLs for 3 waterbodies