



## Office of Technical & Customer Assistance

### Quarterly Project Report

**Project Title:** *Auto Salvage Environmental Results Program: Improved Compliance & Performance Through Innovation*

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**Reporting Period:** **October 1 - December 31, 2007**

**Project Description:** RIDEM OTCA's vision is to reduce environmental health risks by improving regulatory efficiency and auto salvage yard industry compliance through a comprehensive, multi-media program patterned after the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's ERP model and consisting of three parts:

- 1) Facility certification
- 2) Statistically-based performance measurement
- 3) On-site compliance monitoring, pollution prevention and technical assistance

RIDEM regulatory stakeholders, industry representatives, and project partners will be recruited to assist OTCA in reaching a goal of 75% industry-wide voluntary certification with a 25-50% average measurable improvement in selected environmental business practice indicators (EBPIs) during the first years of implementation.

EBPIs will be selected to assess improvements (relative to baseline conditions) in industry performance in air, water, and RCRA compliance as well as pollution prevention; the potential for release prevention, emissions reduction and human health/environmental protection will be key considerations. Outcomes will be measured using the statistical approach developed for the RI Auto body ERP including: statistically determined number and randomly selected locations for baseline and post-implementation compliance audits (given pre-specified levels of statistical confidence, power and compliance rate proportions), generally accepted methods for data analysis and EBPI comparisons, and summary reports that outline findings with appropriate descriptive statistics.

### **The Auto Salvage Yard Industry in Rhode Island:**

In Rhode Island, there are currently eighty-six (86) Auto Wrecking & Salvage Yards licensed by the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation (RIDBR), located in twenty-six (26) communities. The license is active for a three (3) year time period, and must be renewed with RIDBR to maintain it. Auto Salvage Yard Facilities are required by law to be licensed by RIDBR in order to operate.

As of December 31, 2007, there were sixty-seven (67) of those licensees that were in operation as auto salvage yard facilities.

A no-cost time extension for the grant/project has been granted by EPA, until March 31, 2009.

### **Project Activities Completed During Reporting Period:**

- Handled telephone, email, and in-person inquiries related to Compliance Certification Checklists received and yet to be submitted
- Attended an Auto Recyclers of Rhode Island meeting on October 24, 2007, made presentation on Auto Salvage Yard Facilities Certification Program and answered questions from attendees
- Through December 31, 2007, received thirty-seven (37) certification checklist packages and three (3) Facility Non-Applicability Statements
- Continued to research the status of potential additional inactive facilities
  - This continuing effort will assist in more accurately targeting those facility licensees actually operating auto salvage yard facilities to receive certification information and services, as well as providing more accurate information when analyzing data
  - University of Rhode Island Center for Pollution Prevention and Environmental Health staff has been visiting licensees that are not yet participating in the program to verify current activity, encourage their participation, answering any questions they may have, and assist them to complete the certification checklist. The goal is to maximize participation by actively operated auto salvage yard facilities
- Continued participating in the NEWMOA/States Common Measures Project (R. Gagnon, T. Armstrong)
- Continued participating in the States ERP Consortium activities, including co-chairing Sharing Information work group (T. Armstrong) and co-chairing Automation work group (R. Gagnon)
- Participated in States ERP Consortium conference calls during this reporting period (T. Armstrong, R. Gagnon)

### **Expenditures During Reporting Period:**

*Financial Information removed by EPA as confidential business information.*

### **Major Activities Planned for Next Quarter:**

- Handle telephone, email, and in-person inquiries related to Compliance Certification Checklists received and yet to be submitted
- Review Compliance Certification Checklists that have been received
- Participate in appropriate outreach activities with auto salvage yard facility operators
- Handle requests for compliance or technical assistance as requested and needed with RIDEM and/or University of Rhode Island Center for Pollution Prevention and Environmental Health staff
- Begin randomly selected audits and inspections for both participating and non-participating facilities, will continue in the next quarter
- Continue participating in the NEWMOA/States Common Measures Project (T. Armstrong, R. Gagnon)
- Continue participating in the States ERP Consortium activities, including co-chairing the Information Sharing work group (T. Armstrong) and co-chairing the Automation work group (R. Gagnon)

- Continue participating in States ERP Consortium conference calls during this reporting period (T. Armstrong, R. Gagnon)