

Environmental Assistance Network: October 22nd Meeting Summary

Meeting Attendees

The following were represented at the meeting:

- EPA's Office of Compliance (OC); Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS), Office of Environmental Information; Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (ORCR); Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT); Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP), and Regions II and VIII.
- State representatives from Michigan, Illinois, Colorado, Tennessee
- Small business owner

EAN Activity Update

- Karin Koslow (OC) provided an update on the Regional Network Strategies and Seth Heminway gave an update on the ECOS/EPA Framework. The Regional Network Strategies will support EPA and State Small Business Assistance Program (SBEAP) collaboration; a draft should be available for review by the end of November. The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Framework document will support collaboration between ECOS and EPA program offices; a draft will be available for review in November.

ECOS & EPA; Working Together

- Annette Fulgenzi (Illinois Small Business Environmental Assistance Program) and Dave Fiedler (MI Department of Environmental Quality) provided a background on the SBEAP and discussed the successful partnership between ECOS and OAQPS.
- ECOS/OAQPS collaboratively engage in a variety of activities to help small businesses understand how to comply with the area source rules:
 - ECOS activities include:
 1. commenting on proposed rules
 2. supporting visits at impacted businesses to provide OAQPS with a better understanding of business practices
 3. providing comment on compliance assistance resources
 - OAQPS activities include:
 1. providing updates on rules proposals
 2. relaying ECOS concerns/issues to rule writers
 3. participating at the annual SBEAP / SBO conference
- EPA's Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (formerly the Office of Solid Waste) expressed interest in working more closely with ECOS and the SBEAP.
- The TRI program expressed interest in better connecting to the SBEAP's technical steering committee

EPA Sector Pages

- Tracy Back (OC) provided a template for the OC's new sector Web pages and invited comment / suggestions.

Next Steps

- Build upon the lessons learned / success of the ECOS / OAQPS collaboration; schedule program office-specific conference calls to further discuss.
 - Tracy Back will begin this effort by facilitating a meeting with key staff in ORCR
- Define which EPA rules would benefit from ECOS / EPA collaborative outreach.
 - The GHG Rule was suggested
 - Consider prioritization criteria, such as, large number of small businesses impacted, opportunities for multimedia assistance, impacts on individual sectors, or geographic area, likelihood that rule will make measureable impact on well defined environmental problem, others.
- Consider developing forms / recording keeping tools during rule development process to better identify potential implementation issues.
- Identify capacity building and rule specific training needs
- Schedule the next EAN meeting for January, 2010.