

# Federal Laboratory Compliance Assistance



## *Outcomes and What We Have Learned*

# **Compliance Assistance Workshops and Programs**

## **Environment 101: Compliance Assistance Workshops**

**17 for Academic Institutions, 12 for Hospitals (New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and The Virgin Islands 2000 through 2004)**

**In addition to compliance these included EMSs, the Audit Policy Program and Voluntary Pollution Prevention Programs such as WasteWise, EnergyStar and others**

# **ADDITIONAL WORKSHOPS**

- Greening the Government Conference with Regions 1, 2 and 3 in Philadelphia, 3 days in June 2003 with excellent participation and evaluations**
- Universal Waste in New York, 2005, New Jersey, 2006**
- Tanks in New York, New Jersey and Puerto Rico in 2007**
- Regions -1, 2 and 3: 6 - 1/2 Day EMS Training Sessions in NJ and PR for Federal Facilities in 2004-2005**
- Facility Response Training in NJ in 2004**

# ADDITIONAL WORKSHOPS

- RCRA / HW Management Workshops for Hospitals in 2004 and 2005, included the VA
- EMSs for Hospitals Workshops in 2007 and 2008, included the VA

- **Government agencies attending the workshops: VA, DOE, DOD, DOI, DOA, DOT, HS and among these specific institutions such as WestPoint, Brookhaven National Laboratory, The Merchant Marine Academy, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation**

# So Now to the Federal Laboratory Workshops

**WORKSHOP PURPOSE: “Improving Environmental Compliance and Environmental Management Systems at Federal Labs”**

**The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hosted 13 free, two-day workshops for the federal laboratory community in 2007-2008.**

**The workshops focused on federal facility lab requirements under various environmental statutes, regulations and Executive Orders, as well as environmental management systems and P2 strategies**

**The workshop educated federal laboratory staff on regulatory compliance requirements, executive orders, environmental management systems and P2 strategies**

**Identify specific tools, guidance and best practices to help lab personnel manage environmental compliance, EMS implementation and pollution prevention programs**



**Help participants incorporate and integrate environmental practices and strategies into their facility's EMS**

**Host a panel of experts and other practitioners who will share environmental management system, compliance, and pollution prevention success stories**

	Region	Physical Location of Workshop	Date
1	EPA Reg. 10 Seattle, WA	EPA Office	August 7-8, 2007
2	EPA Reg. 5 Chicago, IL	EPA Office	August 28-29, 2007
3	EPA Reg. 4 Atlanta, GA	EPA Office	September 6-7, 2007
4	EPA Reg. 9 San Francisco, CA	EPA Office	September 13-14, 2007
5	EPA Reg. 1 Boston, MA	Connecticut/Hudson ( <b>full and closed</b> )	September 18-19, 2007
6	EPA Reg. 3 Philadelphia, PA	Fort Meade, Maryland ( <b>full and closed</b> )	September 20-21, 2007
7	EPA Reg. 7 Kansas City, KS	EPA Office	October 2-3, 2007
8	EPA Reg. 6 Dallas, TX	EPA Office	October 18-19, 2007
9	EPA Reg. 2 New York, NY	Princeton Plasma, DOE lab in Princeton, NJ	November 13-14, 2007
10	EPA Reg. 3 Philadelphia, PA	Fort Meade, Maryland	March 18-19, 2008
11	EPA Reg. 8 Denver, CO	EPA Office ( <b>new</b> )	March 25-26, 2008
12	EPA Reg. 2 New York, NY	Albany, NY	April 22-23, 2008
13	EPA Reg. 9 San Francisco, CA	EPA Office ( <b>new</b> )	May 14-15,

# Overall Workshop Statistics

**315 TOTAL Attendees for all workshops**

**48 attendees was the highest**

**14 at the lowest (there was one that was smaller, but that may have been due to registration miscommunications)**

# Agency Attendance (Rounded, %)

- VA 35
- DOA 11
- DOD 10
- DOE 7
- NASA 5
- DOC 3
- EPA 10
- DOI 7
- DOHS 2
- DHHS 3
- DOJ 3
- CIA 1

# PRE TEST/POST TEST COMPARISONS

- In the workshops on average, the score on the pretest was about 90% correct
- The post test scores were on average 95% correct, thus improvement did occur \*

\*Problems with reporting results: Seattle participants had a different post test, Fort Meade participants were given shorter versions of the pre- post tests and post tests were given orally. These post tests were not included in the summary data.

# Workshop Survey Findings

- Over 90% of the attendees said their “understanding of environmental requirements and opportunities” was increased and that they would share the knowledge with others
- When asked what regulatory actions would be taken over 50% of the attendees said none, slightly over 20% said other, almost 20% left it blank—these results may have been due to previous actions taken by the attendees

# Lessons Learned

**How do we get greater participation under these circumstances?**

- **where there were inspections going on or “threatened,” attendance at the workshops went up.**
- **Where enforcement was not considered likely, attendance was often not as strong**

# Now for the Important Questions

- Here we started with Environment 101 and found fairly high scores on the pretests in most cases- From this, do we need more in-depth training in these course?
- What can we do for you? What kind of training do you want?
- In Region 2, DOD recently said that because of new staff and changes, comprehensive training is again needed—we may do a Symposium, possibly with Region 1

**We are open to suggestions from you.**

**The FedCenter.gov federal laboratory discussion group is taking place at this time.**

**What else can we do? Media and tools?  
CDs, Webinars, Workshops?**

**Please email me, [buxbaum.diane@epa.gov](mailto:buxbaum.diane@epa.gov), stating what your facility/agency needs are, and we will use this information in helping to determine what compliance assistance will be offered.**

# Contact Information

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