



Environmental Assistance Bulletin

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PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP GRANT

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) will accept proposals for a statewide Product Stewardship project from February 1, 2011 to March 31, 2011. A total of \$50,000 in funding is available through the Michigan Community Pollution Prevention (P2) Grant Program. Also known as extended product responsibility (EPR), product stewardship asks manufacturers, retailers, users, and disposers, to share responsibility for reducing the environmental impacts of products. The program developed under this grant will encourage product stewardship efforts by local governments in Michigan and develop an approach for effectively handling at least one specific consumer product. To assist the effort, the grant includes funding for membership and participation in the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) by the grantee and all local governments in Michigan.

Local governments currently bear a significant portion of the collection, management, and disposal costs of many community wastes. In addition, they face increasing demands for more community recycling as public awareness grows of the local and global environmental impact that common household product wastes can have. Product stewardship increases recycling and reduces the financial burden on government and taxpayers by involving manufacturers, retailers, users, and disposers, to share responsibility. More information is provided in the Request for Proposals (RFP) at: www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/dnre-oppca-communityp2-rfp_311980_7.pdf.

Under the Michigan Community P2 Grant Program, the DNRE provides matching grants to assist local and tribal governments, local health departments, municipalities, non-profits, and regional planning agencies identify opportunities to apply innovative solutions to community based environmental challenges. The purpose of this grant is to increase cooperation between citizens and local governments, and to foster the development of local models and approaches that can effectively address waste management issues in Michigan.

DNRE AWARDS GRANT TO MICHIGAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION TO HELP REDUCE MERCURY

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) awarded a \$270,000 grant to the Michigan Dental Association (MDA) to assist dentists in Michigan with the installation of mercury amalgam separators, regardless of MDA membership status.

Mercury amalgam from dentists has been identified as a significant source of mercury for some waste water treatment plants (WWTPs). Many of Michigan's

WWTPs are required by the DNRE to reduce mercury levels in their collection systems to prevent discharges to lakes, rivers, and streams. In addition, a 2008 state law requires most dentists to install, operate, and maintain amalgam separators no later than December 31, 2013.

Under this dental amalgam separator grant, many of Michigan's dentists are eligible for up to \$300 to assist with the cost of the installation of eligible amalgam separator units, and reduce mercury discharges. The MDA will assist dentists with the grant process but a dentist does not have to be a member of the MDA to qualify for a grant. However, MDA membership may be required for additional "member only" discounts.

This program should result in both a decrease in the amount of mercury sent to a landfill and discharged to the state's rivers and streams and other waters of the state. This funding is possible under a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant. Further information on mercury can be found at www.michigan.gov/mercuryp2.

Anyone with general questions about mercury should contact Maggie Fields at fieldsm@michigan.gov or 517-335-6250. Dentists interested in participating in the program should contact the MDA at 800-860-2272.

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE CORNER

Question: What are the Proposed Changes to the Open Burning Regulations and Why is the DNRE Doing this?



The Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) is in the process of updating the open burning provisions of the air pollution and solid waste management rules. The proposed changes will eliminate the current open burning exemption that allows the burning of household trash, including plastics, rubber, paper, shingles, treated wood, and other rubbish. This means that after April 1, 2011, the exemption that allows residents to burn their trash will no longer exist and it will become illegal to open burn residential trash under state regulations. The amendments also add three open burning exemptions that allow the burning of contraband by a police agency, prescribed burns, and the burning

of diseased or infested wooden apple bins. The amendments will not change the provisions that allow the burning of leaves, brush, and other yard clippings nor will they prohibit recreational campfires.

Compliance assistance staff are experienced department personnel in OPPCA that specialize in another environmental program division. Staff provide one-on-one and referral assistance on calls received by the Environmental Assistance Center. If you have any environmental question on which you need assistance, call 1-800-662-9278.

The proposed changes reflect the DNRE's increased knowledge of the risks associated with this activity and the changes that have occurred in availability of waste disposal throughout the state. The open burning of household trash emits fine particulate matter containing a number of toxic contaminants that may have both acute and chronic health effects on the individuals exposed. Trash burning also causes a significant number of wildfires and property fires throughout the state and generates numerous smoke and odor complaints. Considering these health and safety factors and the increased availability of waste disposal services since the time the rules were first promulgated, the DNRE determined that updating the rules is appropriate.

The immediate concern of the DNRE is protecting the health of those adversely affected by trash burning. It is expected that any necessary enforcement will be complaint-driven and conducted primarily by local units of government, as needed. The DNRE does not intend to actively target residents for enforcement of this rule, but rather focus on educating residents and local officials about the dangers of trash burning and the options available to deal with open burning complaints in their communities. The DNRE believes that these changes will provide local units of government with a regulatory tool to help them address open burning concerns in their

communities. By eliminating the current exemption that allows the open burning of household trash, the DNRE is no longer promoting or condoning this activity as a waste disposal option under the state rules, which will make it easier for local governments to pass similar ordinances if they choose to do so.

The DNRE will not require that local units of government adopt these changes or enforce the state open burning regulations. However, for those communities that are interested in addressing the issue, the DNRE will provide help with the development of ordinances. Where ordinances do not exist, the DNRE can assist local authorities with writing citations under the state regulation.

More information about open burning and the proposed open burning rule amendments can be accessed at www.michigan.gov/openburning or by contacting the DNRE at 800-662-9278.

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE SUPPORTS MEECS

The US Environmental Protection Agency awarded the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) \$245,528 to enhance Michigan's environmental education curriculum and provide teacher workshops. The Great Lakes Connections Project will update the Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support (MEECS) and provide materials and Great Lakes-oriented professional development for 1,000 teachers. The five units will be updated to integrate the alignments of the Michigan content expectations; update connections to Great Lakes sustainability; repurpose materials for the new 3rd and 4th grade Michigan/Great Lakes Region requirement; and provide strategies to adapt materials for outdoor education.

The US Environmental Protection Agency requested proposals in January 2010 to help restore the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative made hundreds of millions of dollars available to organizations and governments that could contribute to maintaining and improving the health of the Great Lakes. While environmental education was not at the forefront of the goals of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the DNRE argued that if Michigan students develop a better understanding of basic environmental principles and sustainability issues today, Michigan citizens will be better able to make informed decisions tomorrow. And if Michigan citizens do not make good decisions about sustainability, any effort to maintain and improve the Great Lakes will be difficult, if not impossible.

The project will run through 2012. Production and revisions are scheduled to be completed by fall 2011, and workshops will begin soon thereafter for the second year of the project. We intend to produce revisions and enhancements in a way that will not render existing units obsolete; rather, we hope to create supplements that will enhance the use and relevance of MEECS. Just as with the original MEECS project, the DNRE is working closely with Central Michigan University and Professor Mike Libbee, who will be coordinating the production and the training.

For more information, contact Tom Occhipinti at Occhipintit@michigan.gov or 517-373-2379.

ITRC NO-COST TRAINING COURSES

The Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC) offers a wide variety of guidance documents and training courses on innovative environmental technologies and approaches specific to the areas of site characterization, monitoring, and remediation as well as other environmental topics. Summarized below is the February, March, and April 2011 schedule of upcoming FREE Internet-based training courses provided by the ITRC. A complete list of course offerings can be found at www.itrcweb.org/ibt.asp.

Upcoming Course Dates (registration opens 4-6 weeks in advance):

- February 15, 2011, Quality Consideration for Munitions Response Quality Consideration for Munitions Response, 2:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. EASTERN Time
- February 17, 2011, In-Situ Bioremediation of Chlorinated Ethene – DNAPL Source Zones, 11:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. EASTERN Time
- February 24, 2011, Mine Waste Treatment Technology Selection, 11:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. EASTERN Time
- March 10, 2011, Decision Framework for Applying Monitored Natural Attenuation Processes to Metals and Radionuclides in Groundwater, 11:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. EASTERN Time
- March 22, 2011, LNAPL Part 1: An Improved Understanding of LNAPL Behavior in the Subsurface, 11:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. EASTERN Time
- March 23, 2011, LNAPL Part 2: LNAPL Characterization and Recoverability, 11:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. EASTERN Time
- March 24, 2011, LNAPL Part 3: Evaluating LNAPL Remedial Technologies for Achieving Project Goals, 11:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. EASTERN Time
- April 12, 2011, Project Risk Management for Site Remediation, 2:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. EASTERN Time
- April 26, 2011, Incorporating Bioavailability Considerations in the Evaluation and Remediation of Contaminated Sediment Sites, 2:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. EASTERN Time
- April 28, 2011, Enhanced Attenuation of Chlorinated Organics: A Site Management Tool, 11:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. EASTERN Time

Note: All dates/times are subject to change – check www.itrcweb.org for the most up-to-date information.

Registration: <http://clu-in.org/studio/seminar.cfm> or www.itrcweb.org - select “Internet-based Training”. Course registration opens 4-6 weeks prior to each course offering.

Associated Guidance Documents: Available from www.itrcweb.org. You can download the ITRC guidance documents that are the basis for the training materials - select “Guidance Documents.”

For additional information, please contact Michigan’s State Point of Contact (POC) Joe Rogers at rogersj5@michigan.gov or (517) 373-9897.

In addition to the Internet-Based Training, the ITRC is also offering its two-day classroom training on Vapor Intrusion in the Detroit area this summer. The class will be held at the Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel, 21111 Haggerty Road in Novi on July 18-19, 2011. Additional information, including the course brochure can be accessed at www.itrcweb.org/crt.asp.

EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2011

1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

2011 INTRODUCTION TO MAERS (MICHIGAN AIR EMISSIONS REPORTING SYSTEMS) WORKSHOP, VARIOUS LOCATIONS, MICHIGAN. The Introduction to MAERS workshop is offered annually to help companies submit their MAERS reports. The 2011 workshop will feature the new Web-based Michigan Air Emissions Reporting System (MAERS). Workshop participants will be taken step-by-step through the new system in an interactive, hands-on format. This workshop has been designed specifically for businesses subject to MAERS reporting. Introduction to MAERS Workshop participants will learn how to register as a user in MAERS, how to navigate through the Web-based forms and utilities, and how to complete and submit reports

using MAERS. MAERS reporting begins January 2011. A limited number of seats are available so register early. Workshop attendees will receive the "MAERS Workbook" and other guidance materials. Registration fee: \$75. Updated event information is available on the Web at www.michigan.gov/dnreworkshops, click on "Upcoming DNRE Workshops." *Note: This workshop is introductory and designed for businesses subject to MAERS reporting. Consultants and users already familiar with the MAERS system may wish to view the on-line tutorials and other on-line tools that will be available in December at www.michigan.gov/dnreworkshops (select on "Online Learning" then "MAERS").* The DNRE will also be hosting Webinars at various times. Webinar dates will be posted they become available at www.michigan.gov/dnreworkshops. Information Contact: **Jim Ostrowski**, Office of Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance, 517-241-8057 or ostrowskij2@michigan.gov. Registration Information: **Environmental Assistance Center**, 800-662-9278 or dnre-assist@michigan.gov.



<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
2/9/11	Lansing Community College, West Campus, Lansing *attendees registering now must bring their own laptops to this training
2/10/11	M-TEC in the Groves, Kalamazoo Valley Community College

FEBRUARY 9, 2011

16TH ANNUAL HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP, MEIJER GARDENS, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN. This workshop provides a review and update of hazardous waste regulations and related waste management compliance issues. It is designed to be beneficial and informative for both new and experienced personnel in the field of hazardous waste management. This is a half-day workshop followed by a luncheon. DNRE will have presenters at this event. For additional information, visit www.wmawma.org, or contact **Jill Kamp** at jkwmawma@comcast.net or 616-540-3594.

2011 PTI SERIES

FEBRUARY 9, APRIL 13, JUNE 8, SEPTEMBER 14, NOVEMBER 9

AIR PERMIT APPLICATION WORKSHOP FOR FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS, CONSTITUTION HALL, LANSING, MICHIGAN. For most first-time applicants, completing the Permit to Install application is a daunting task. However, submitting a complete and timely application can be more manageable if you know what's expected. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment is offering this workshop designed to give information on how to submit a complete permit application. Since this workshop is geared to first-time applicants, a significant portion of the session is devoted to your specific application. Air Quality Division permit engineers will be available to discuss your permit application with you one-on-one. To take full advantage of this time with the permit engineer, it is recommended you bring detailed information about your project with you to the session. This training is designed for first-time air permit applicants who need help completing their permit application; however, those who have applied before and need a refresher are welcome to attend as well. Registration fee is \$35 and includes workshop materials. Updated workshop information and registration is available at www.michigan.gov/dnreworkshops, select "Upcoming DNRE Workshops". Information Contact: **James Ostrowski**, Office of Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance, 517-241-8057 or ostrowskij2@michigan.gov. Registration Information: **Environmental Assistance Center**, 800-662-9278 or dnre-assist@michigan.gov.

February 25, 2011

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m..

MEECS TRAINING: MICHIGAN SCIENCE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL PRE-CONFERENCE, AMWAY GRAND PLAZA HOTEL & DEVOS PLACE, GRAND RAPIDS. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) is holding five pre-conference Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support (MEECS) training workshops: Air Quality, Ecosystems & Biodiversity, Energy Resources,

Land Use, and Water Quality. Registration is available for these workshops at www.michigan.gov/dnreworkshops, select "Upcoming DNRE Workshops." Registration Fee: \$35.00. Information Contact: **Thomas Occhipinti**, Marketing, Education & Technology Division, 517-373-2379 or occhipintit@michigan.gov. Registration Information: **Environmental Assistance Center**, 800-662-9278 or dnre-assist@michigan.gov. General conference information is available at www.msta-mich.org/conference/

JULY 18-19, 2011

ITRC VAPOR INTRUSION PATHWAY TRAINING, SHERATON DETROIT NOVI HOTEL, NOVI, MICHIGAN.

Save the date for this important training, based on the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council's (ITRC) national VI pathway guidance which was developed through the combined efforts of more than 100 professionals, including state and federal regulators, consultants, technology vendors, industry, and community stakeholders. Led by internationally recognized experts, this 2-day ITRC classroom training will enable you to:

- ▶ Learn the latest strategies to conduct site screening and investigations
- ▶ Determine what tools are appropriate to collect quality data and evaluate the results
- ▶ Apply multiple lines of evidence to ensure quality decision-making
- ▶ Build solutions for VI issues through understanding of mitigation options
- ▶ Network with environmental professionals
- ▶ Learn about new USEPA VI developments

Interactive learning with hands-on exhibits, classroom exercises, and frequent Q&A sessions will reinforce these course objectives and contribute to a practical understanding of this difficult pathway. Regulatory staff involved in remediation programs, members of the regulated community with remediation projects or problems, remediation consultants, public stakeholders, and others interested in gaining a better understanding of the vapor intrusion pathway should attend this training class. Space is available for 200 participants and may be limited by sector to ensure participant diversity. Registration will be available by May 1. To register, visit "Classroom Training" at www.itrcweb.org/crt.asp and select the "Registration" link. DNRE is a sponsor of this event. For additional information, please contact the **ITRC Training Program** at 402-201-2419 or training@itrcweb.org.

If you are interested in participating in the development of or exhibiting at any Office of Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance event, please call **Mary Goodhall** at **517-241-7968** or goodhallm@michigan.gov.