



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, PORTLAND DISTRICT
PO BOX 2946
PORTLAND OR 97208-2946

CENWP-OP

October 8, 2003

Jeff DuTeau
EMS Program Director
Global Environment & Technology Foundation
7010 Little River Turnpike, Suite 460
Annandale, VA 22003

Dear Mr. DuTeau:

The Portland District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is very interested in participating in the Environmental Management Systems (EMS) program. Our district has a strong and aggressive environmental program that I believe can be enhanced by our participation in the EMS program. We propose implementing EMS at our Channels and Harbors Project, and specifically, our U.S. Government Moorings Shipyard Facility (Plant Maintenance Section) and associated Dredge Fleet and Survey Fleet (Dredge Operations Section), located in Portland, Oregon.

Our district fully supports the concept and use of EMS and looks forward to participating in this program. We understand that participation in this 18-month program may provide benefits in terms of improving the level of our environmental compliance, expanding the current pollution prevention programs that we manage, increasing operational efficiency, and strengthening our relations with the regulatory community. Enclosed please find our application for the program. Once accepted into the program, please provide our agency with specifics of the funding requirements for the program application fee.

Should you have further questions, our point-of-contact for EMS is Carolyn Markos, Environmental Compliance Coordinator for the Channels and Harbors Project, at (503) 808-5406.

Sincerely,

DEBORAH L. CHENOWETH
Chief, Operations Division
Portland District

Enclosure

CF:

CECW-ON (Smith)

CENWP-OP-N (Beach)

CENWP-OP-NP (Robison)

CENWD-CM-OC (Peloquin)

Application for EMS Program

Sponsored by:

Global Environment & Technology Foundation

1. A brief description of the project, its management structure and activities.

Channels and Harbors Project is responsible for the maintenance dredging of all assigned navigation projects within Portland District. The U.S. Moorings Facility is the home base for the Portland District hopper dredges and survey boats used to support the Channels and Harbors Project mission. The Project's Plant Maintenance Section is responsible for both the operation of the U.S. Moorings Facility and the maintenance of the Portland District vessels.

2. Name of Project Manager within the facility who will have the responsibility and authority to lead the EMS project described above as well as a description of how the Project Manager intends to work with relevant departments in developing and implementing the EMS. The project manager should be available to travel to participate in all Project Workshops.

Ms. Carolyn Markos is designated as the Project Manager for our participation in the EMS program. Ms. Markos is the Environmental Compliance Coordinator for the Channels and Harbors Project. She has excellent working relationships with both shipyard and dredge fleet personnel and the technical knowledge, experience, commitment, and leadership skills to make the program successful. She will have the full support of management at both her duty station and the Portland District headquarters to attend all required workshops and travel as required by the program.

3. Preliminary indication of the fence-line (eg. geographic and operation boundaries) for the EMS.

Improved Chemical Management System

We would like to focus on improving our chemical management system to ensure the safety of our employees and reduce the number of waste disposals. The U.S. Moorings Plant Maintenance Section has a strong Hazard Communication program, which allows the Environmental Compliance Coordinator to review all new chemical purchases. The existing chemical management program has assisted the Plant Maintenance Section in reducing the quantity and toxicity of chemicals purchased, thus reducing hazardous waste disposals. The facility typically maintains a *conditionally exempt small quantity generator* status.

However, since all waste generated by the dredges, survey vessels and Moorings shipyard are disposed under a single EPA ID Number, it is important to further this system to improve our effectiveness in the area of chemical management (from the time the chemical is purchased to its ultimate disposal).

4. A description of the reason the facility wishes to participate in the Project and some of the benefits it hopes to realize from adopting an EMS.

Improved chemical management will benefit the Corps of Engineers, Portland District by increasing employee safety, reducing the quantity and toxicity of chemical products, and reducing the number of hazardous waste disposals and the costs associated with them. Using the EMS system, the facility may further improve pollution prevention by use of a “systems” approach to chemical management. The Corps will develop organizational policy supported and practiced by both management and employees. In the future, other Portland District Operational Projects may also utilize this important knowledge and systems approach.

5. A clear assurance that top management will provide the necessary visibility, staff time, and other resources necessary to successfully develop and implement the EMS. Ongoing top management support is the most critical factor for ensuring a successful and sustainable EMS.

The Project Manager for the EMS Project shall receive the full support of all affected Portland District management and staff personnel and will be provided with whatever time and support necessary to enable this project to be successful.

6. A willingness to track data and information and contribute to case studies and other outreach materials that describe the benefits, barriers, and keys to success of the EMS development and implementation process as well as a willingness to communicate and share this information with local stakeholders, regulatory agencies, and the National EMS clearinghouse for Public Entities.

We recognize the huge investment in the EMS program and fully intend to use the information to improve processes at our facility. Case studies are an excellent way to depict the benefits, potential barriers, and success stories in the development of the EMS. Sharing this information with the environmental community including the Corps, stakeholders and regulatory agencies, will improve our processes and foster stronger relationships.