

Assistance From EPA

An important element of an ERP is the workbook that lays out a facility's requirements in a user-friendly fashion. EPA is developing a workbook template based on federal UST requirements so that States adopting ERP can easily revise it to meet their state-specific needs.

EPA actively promotes collaboration between States and has provided financial assistance to help States start programs.

States interested in developing an UST ERP can also apply for assistance through several competitions that EPA has set up to provide funds for certain types of programs. Two competitions that may be appropriate are:

Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response Innovation Initiative: State agencies and other stakeholders must partner with EPA regional or headquarters employees on innovative projects proposed for this initiative. For more information on this competition and key contacts, see <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/IWG.htm>.

State Innovation Pilot Grant Competition: EPA anticipates holding a competition in mid- to late- 2003 and would award funds pending approval of the President's 2004 budget request. For more information on this competition, see <http://www.epa.gov/innovation.stategrants>.

Want More Information?

Contact EPA

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For general information about ERP and active ERP projects, visit:

Massachusetts (dry cleaning, printing, photoprocessing, & boilers):
www.state.ma.us/dep/erp

Florida (auto repair & auto salvage):
www.dep.st.fl.us/waste/categories/hazardous/pages/autocert.htm

Rhode Island (auto body repair):
www.state.ri.us/dem/programs/benviron/assist/abdycert/abdycert.htm

U.S. EPA:

<http://www.epa.gov/permits/masserp.htm>

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Environmental Results Program for Underground Storage Tanks



Is the innovative Environmental Results Program a good fit for your State underground storage tank program?



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The Environmental Results Program

The Environmental Results Program or ERP is an innovative program in which State regulatory agencies:

- ◆ Educate regulated facilities about their environmental impact and obligations,
- ◆ Require the facilities to self-evaluate and certify compliance,
- ◆ Measure environmental performance changes, and
- ◆ More effectively manage limited resources.

The State of Massachusetts developed ERP to improve environmental performance in sectors with large numbers of smaller facilities, such as dry cleaners and printers.

ERP can be adopted by State underground storage tank (UST) regulating agencies to produce similar environmental performance improvements by UST facilities.

Better operation and maintenance by UST facilities could produce fewer releases from USTs. ERP also:

- ◆ Provides both the opportunity and the incentive for a facility to understand and meet its environmental requirements.
- ◆ Creates a powerful incentive, through its self-certification requirement, for UST owners or operators to focus on environmental responsibilities.
- ◆ Leverages scarce State inspection and other enforcement resources.
- ◆ Fosters best management practices that can help to prevent releases.

How Does ERP work?

The State agency provides compliance assistance – it puts together training workshops and plain language workbooks that clearly explain all of a facility's environmental obligations as well as proposed pollution prevention and health and safety practices.

An owner/operator annually certifies to the State agency that the facility is in compliance and will continue to be in compliance.

If the facility is not in compliance, it must file a Return to Compliance Plan with a schedule for returning to compliance.

The State agency conducts "before and after" inspections to judge the accuracy of certification and the degree of performance improvements for individual facilities and for sectors as a whole.

The State agency can also use the data to strategically target inspections and compliance assistance efforts, to track results to show success to the public, industry and legislators and, as appropriate, take enforcement action.

Ongoing ERP Projects

EPA is working with seven States (Delaware, Florida, Massachusetts, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Tennessee) and the District of Columbia to develop and maintain ERPs for several different sectors, such as auto repair, auto salvage yards, dry cleaning, printing and photoprocessing.

Because the ERP model is easily adaptable to all these sectors, States are sharing advice, work products, and experiences directly with one another.

Several States are developing UST ERPs:

Tennessee (contact: Randall Mann, 615-532-0989, Randall.Mann@state.tn.us). The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation will apply a mandatory ERP to approximately 6,000 facilities that house about 16,000 underground storage tanks.

Rhode Island (contact: Ron Gagnon, 401-222-6822, ext.7500, rgagnon@dem.state.ri.us or Kevin Gillen, 401-222-2797, ext.7116, kgillen@dem.state.ri.us). The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management is exploring the implementation of a mandatory multi-media ERP for federally regulated tanks at about 750 facilities, that will satisfy Rhode Island's recent legislative requirements for bi-annual UST facility inspections. The remaining tanks, (about 1,500) mostly heating oil, that fall under state requirements would be subject to a shorter, non-multi-media workbook.

New Jersey (contact: Knute Jensen, Outreach, Innovation and Technology, 609-292-6549). The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is exploring applying an ERP, which would include Stage I and Stage II vapor recovery requirements, for gasoline stations in five counties.