

Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

TECHNICAL & PERMIT ASSISTANCE

The SBEAP responded to 1,935 assistance requests. Nine hundred and two of these requests were for technical assistance. An additional 395 requests were for direct permitting assistance. SBEAP provided information for general permitting requirements, as well as, in-depth information on specific permitting issues. Assistance was provided to help businesses understand and complete permit application forms, calculate potential emission releases, and review completed application packages prior to submitting those applications to the Air Branch. SBEAP personnel conducted 30 site visits. The DNR District offices are now referring businesses with environmental violations to the SBEAP for assistance, since in most cases, compliance can be achieved more effectively.

Industry groups assisted included: asphalt plants, auto repair shops, auto salvage facilities, batch concrete plant, battery recyclers, boat builders, cabinet shops, chemical manufacturers, chrome plating facilities, cotton ginners, dry cleaners, bio-fuel producers, metal recycling, molded fiberglass facilities, rock crushing, rug matting manufacturing, scrap tire facilities, sheet metal shops, trailer manufacturing, wood pallet makers, and other industry sectors, as well as, state and local governments.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

This year the SBEAP has worked closely with trade associations and has had several outreach articles published in industry trade journals. Additionally, the program distributed 18,140 compliance assistance documents including brochures, newsletters, compliance calendars, magazine articles, and information on new rules and standards affecting small businesses in Georgia. SBEAP presented six seminars and workshops attended by 665 people. It also had display booths at technical trade shows attended by over 1,300 people. The SBEAP web site received 43,103 hits. The SBEAP is working on a project proposed by the Association of General Contractor-Georgia Chapter involving the creation of a web page with federal, state and local environmental requirements highlighted for contractors. The web page would complement a national based web page for contractors found at <http://www.cicacenter.org>. Georgia will be the first state to provide these environmental requirements on a county or local level

RECOGNITIONS

1. The Georgia SBEAP was named as recipient of the EPA Administrator's Outstanding State Performance Achievement Award for Recognition of Outstanding Accomplishments in "Furthering EPA's Small and Disadvantaged Business Program Fiscal Year 2005" in an award ceremony on November 1 at EPA headquarters in Washington, DC.
2. The Small Business Assistance Program was featured at the Governors Customer Service Summit. The Summit launched a statewide customer service initiative, based on Governor Perdue's agenda for Georgia to be the Best-Managed State in the nation; the summit is part of a larger plan and process recommended by the Commission for a New Georgia's Task Force on Customer Service. Subsequently, the Ombudsman was named as the DNR liaison representative to the Governor's Small Business Initiative.
3. Jim Simpson, one of the Georgia SBEAP Compliance Advisory Panel members was recognized by EPA with the *Small Business Environmental Assistance Program Award for exemplary performance in providing assistance to small businesses*. Mr. Simpson performs volunteer work with state regulatory agencies to help the Georgia's concrete product industry understand environmental rules and safety regulations.
4. The Interim Program Manager, Mr. Lee Tate, was selected as the Region IV SBEAP liaison representative to EPA's National Steering Committee. He is also a member of EPA's SBEAP Technical Advisory Committee.

5. Mr. Dusty Findley, who serves as a Vice-Chairman of the Georgia SBEAP Compliance Advisory Panel, was selected as the Region IV liaison to EPA's National Compliance Advisory Panel.