

LOGAN AIRPORT TERMINAL A ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS

The new Terminal A opened at Logan Airport on March 16, 2005. Not only is the Terminal state of the art including a main and satellite Terminals, a pedestrian tunnel and moving walkways, it's design and construction also incorporated many environmentally friendly elements. These include:

- Special stormwater filtration devices to remove Total Suspended Solids and Total Phosphorous from site runoff
- Roofing membranes and paving was specified to reflect heat from the building and limit the heat island effect that can raise temperatures up to 10 degrees.
- Drip irrigation was specified instead of spray head to reduce the water required for irrigation by at least 50%.
- Low flow lavatory fixtures
- Special low-e glass to reflect heat away from the windows to minimize heat loss in the winter and gain heat gain in the summer
- Use of sustainable building materials:
 - Over 75% of the construction and demolition waste on the project was reused, recycled or otherwise diverted from landfills
 - Over 10% of the building materials were from recycled materials
 - Over 20% of the materials were manufactured locally

EPA Sets Fiscal Year 2006 Budget Priorities

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set the upcoming year's fiscal priorities. These include \$185 million for Homeland Security. Among other priorities listed were \$210 million for Brownfields, \$63 million for water quality, \$1,279 billion for Superfund programs and \$15 million for a new Clean Diesel Initiative.

Hazardous Waste Manifest Streamlined

The Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest form is being improved and modernized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The form is being standardized therefore streamlining the waste handling process, helping interstate commerce, and reducing paperwork. The EPA estimates the annual national burden reduction to be around \$15 million. *continued on page 2*

Stormwater White House Focus

President Bush endorsed a report from the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and added construction site stormwater controls to the priority list. The president created a cabinet-level committee to ensure that the ocean and coastal protections are adopted. Representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency are included on the group and will be creating guidance to help improve runoff from construction sites.

EnviroQuestion

What is ozone made up of?

Answer in the next issue.

Quarter IV Question: Approximately how much of your home's utility bill goes to heating and cooling?

Answer: 44 percent

Manifest continued from page 1

The new system will reduce or eliminate many of the variabilities in state manifest requirements. The standard Manifest will be printed to a precise specification. Each form will have a unique preprinted manifest tracking number. This will allow waste handlers with a multi-state business to use their own manifest forms everywhere they do business.

The new forms will be available from a greater number of sources. The new procedures will also include ways to track certain types of waste shipments with the manifest. These types of waste may include hazardous wastes that the destination facilities reject, wastes consisting of residues from non-empty hazardous waste containers, and wastes entering or leaving the United States.

There will be an 18-month transition to use of the new form. During this transition period, handlers and states will only use the old form. They will continue to acquire the old forms from the sources they use now. Once the new form is in place, handlers will obtain the forms from any source that has registered with the EPA to print and distribute the form. The EPA will not print the forms but will oversee the printing and distribution requirements.

For Your Information Red Tide: What Is It?

Red Tide is caused by a "population explosion" of toxic, naturally occurring microscopic plankton. "Blooms" of the poison-producing plankton are coastal phenomena caused by environmental conditions, which promote explosive growth. Factors that are especially favorable include warm surface temperatures, high nutrient content, low salinity, and calm seas. Rain followed by sunny weather in the summer months is often associated with red tide blooms.

In coastal areas can be colored red by the algae, thus the term "red tide." Toxic plankton may be numerous enough to toxify shellfish, but not sufficiently abundant to discolor water. Discolored water should always be regarded with suspicion. Shellfish, including hard-shell clams, soft-shell clams, oysters, mussels and scallops, are particularly prone to contamination as they feed by filtering microscopic food out of the water. If toxic planktonic organisms are present, they are filtered from the water along with other nontoxic foods. Whelks and moon snails can also accumulate dangerous levels of the toxin during red tide as they feed on contaminated shellfish.

During red tide blooms, hard-shell clams, soft-shell clams, oysters, mussels, whelks, and moon snails harvested from areas affected by the blooms are not safe to eat. Since toxins are stored in the digestive tract (stomach) and viscera (intestines) of these animals, scallops are safe to eat as long as only cleaned adductor muscle (the only part generally eaten) is consumed. Lobster meat, crabs, shrimp, and most finfish do not normally accumulate toxin and are safe to eat from affected waters. Lobster tomalley (the green part or liver) is not safe to eat in general, and particularly during red tide events because this part of the lobster can build up high levels of toxins and other pollutants.

All shellfish-producing states have monitoring programs that test water, sediments, and shellfish for contamination. The action level for humans is 80 micrograms per 100 grams of shellfish meat. In Massachusetts, for instance, the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is responsible for year-round testing of shellfish and shellfish growing areas. Monitoring efforts are more intensive in the spring, summer and, fall. The DMF notifies affected city and town officials of closures. When blooms subside, shellfish purify themselves of the toxin, and when testing indicates a return to safe levels, the areas are reopened. Monitoring programs may differ in other states.

Consumers should feel confident about purchasing shellfish from established markets. Harvesting regulations for shellfish are strictly enforced. Even during periods of red tide, clams, oysters, mussels and whelks in seafood markets are harvested from clean waters. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration visits state labs to observe routine testing procedures, and public health officials regularly monitor shellfish markets to ensure that only safe, nontoxic shellfish are available to consumers.

For more information contact:

- Your local board of health (listed in the phone book under local government)
- Your local Shellfish Constable or Warden
- Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (617) 626-1520 or (508) 563-1779; you may also visit the DMF web site at www.mass.gov/dfwele/dmf/

Excerpted from the Massachusetts government webpage.