

EnviroNews

Regulatory Update

Proposed SPCC Amendments

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed revisions to the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) rule. The EPA says that these amendments will increase clarity and tailor certain requirements for easier and increased compliance. For more on the SPCC go to www.epa.gov/emergencies.

In The News



The EPA's program to enforce environmental laws in the six New England states resulted in significant pollution reduction and compliance assurance last year. In FY 2007, the criminal enforcement program opened 10 percent more environmental crimes cases than in 2006. Criminal fines and restitution also increased from the previous year by 46 percent. Between October 2006 and September 2007, these enforcement actions have realized pollution reductions by 13.7 million pounds, the second highest reduction in the past five years.

As a result of the increased enforcement, violators will pay more than \$148 million in combined penalties and actions to correct violations. An additional \$1.1 million is being committed to "supplemental environmental projects" which will yield environmental benefits to the community at large.

Under the Superfund enforcement program, nearly 14 billion gallons of water will be cleaned in Massachusetts. This is enough water to fill approximately 21,400 Olympic-sized swimming pools!

In New England, the EPA has put emphasis on reducing environmental crimes, preventing release of hazardous substances, promoting recycling of electronic wastes, reducing emissions of hazardous chemicals, superfund enforcement and sustainable water infrastructure. For the first time EPA has also compiled detailed Web-based data on enforcements available at EPA's region 1 site.

For more news go to page 2

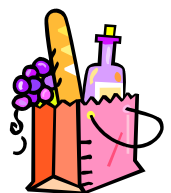
Recycling Facts

The average person in Massachusetts recycles seven pounds of paper and eight pounds of containers per week. Annual carbon dioxide savings from recycling: 700 pounds. Increasing recycling by one more pound of paper and one more pound of containers per week, contributes to an additional 50 pounds of carbon dioxide savings per year. Did you know that recycling also conserves energy? Each year recycling efforts save enough energy to power over 800,000 homes!

Go Green for the Holidays

Here are some tips to have a "greener" holiday season:

- ❖ Switch to energy efficient LED lights, instead of conventional incandescent lights. These lights will last up to 100,000 hours.
- ❖ Buy a live tree instead of an artificial one, Christmas tree crops are allowed to grow for ten years and that's good for the environment. The process used to make an artificial tree is not good for the environment. When you are done look into recycling your tree some towns take old trees and make them into mulch.
- ❖ Use your fireplace wisely. A fire in your fireplace can actually increase home heating costs. While the fire is going, warm air from the rest of the house is pulled up the chimney through the fireplace causing the furnace to kick on before it needs to, increasing fuel consumption and costs. To save money and use your fireplace more efficiently, try keeping the doors closed to the room where the fireplace is located.
- ❖ Try environmentally friendly wrapping, such as:
 - brown paper bags
 - your child's artwork
 - newspapers
 - a fabric gift bag or basket



News continued

United Airlines fined \$85,000 for Hazardous Waste Violations

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), while performing a routine inspection in October 2006 at the airline's San Francisco International Airport Maintenance Operations Center, reported these violations:

- Hazardous waste storage longer than 90 days without a hazardous waste facility permit;
- Failure to fully inspect the structural integrity of several major tanks containing hazardous waste; and
- Failure to properly label hazardous waste storage tanks and container.

Bakery Fined for CFC Violations

The Piantedosi Baking Company a manufacturer of bread products in Malden, has agreed to pay a fine of \$50,000 for Clean Air Act violations. In addition, the company will pay \$25,000 to purchase renewable energy credits.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) inspected the facilities to evaluate the company's compliance with federal stratospheric ozone-protection regulations and found that Piantedosi failed to document the type of repairs that were conducted on its refrigeration equipment, including leak-repair verification tests that had been performed. As part of the settlement the bakery will purchase renewable energy credits representing 27% of its electric power over two years.

EnviroQuestion

Question: How many pounds of CO₂ are generated by the production of Patagonia's Synchronia Vest made of 85% recycled fleece?

Answer in the next issue.

Quarter 3 Question: How much fuel is wasted annually in the United States due to traffic congestion?

- 9.5 million gallons
- 2.9 billion gallons
- 1.5 trillion gallons
- 5.1 trillion gallons

Answer: 2.9 billion gallons of wasted fuel

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Understanding Air Quality

The same technology that you can use to zoom through the mountains or look at a satellite picture of your house can now be used to learn more about air emissions where you live.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed two tools that let computer users "see" air quality information on a virtual globe.



The first tool is part of the Air Emissions Sources website. This web site was designed to make emissions data for six common pollutants easy to find and easy to understand. User's can look at overall emissions, emissions by type of industry, or emissions by largest polluter.

Within this site you can also find out who emits the largest amount of certain emissions.

Additionally the EPA is providing Air Quality Index (AQI) information in a mapping format. You can click on a specific location to see the AQI forecast and current levels of ozone or particle pollution. Goto ww.epa.gov/air/emissions