Environmental Partners: Fill the Regulatory Gap and Avoid the Cleanup Trap

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Recent Changes on Two Fronts

• Compliance/Inspections

• Voluntary Action/
  Non-Regulatory Assistance
Compliance Survey

• Bulk Storage inspections.
• Look in-season.
• Findings in 2002.
Common Problems

- Unsafe sumps.
- Poor waste disposal.
- Dirty equipment.
- Dry fertilizer escape.
Poor Waste Fertilizer Handling
It may be just dust, but it is still fertilizer...
Caked on Dirt and Chemical
The Regulatory Gap

• Containment Rules aren’t perfect.
• Inspections can’t catch all.
• Much left up to management.
Why fill the Gap?

• Groundwater Protection/Remediation

• Cleanup Program often catches problems overlooked.

• Inaction leads to the trap.
Inspections 2003

• Special project, EPA funded.
• More done in-season.
• Focus on management areas.
Environmental Partners Program

- Non-regulatory assistance to volunteers.
- Help identify environmental problem areas and find practical solutions.
- Reward participants through public recognition and better odds avoiding cleanup.
LEVEL 1 - Self Implementation

• Have a pollution prevention policy.
• Conduct facility evaluations.
• Establish a planning and implementation process for improvements.
• Train staff on policy and procedures.

Join by simply affirming these steps.
LEVEL 2 - Show Us

• Improvements verified by assessment team.
• Document planning and training process.
• Demonstrate performance.
• Continue biannual assessments.

Rewards an active improvement process, not perfection.
LEVEL 3 - Spread the Word

• Demonstrate stewardship beyond facility.

• Promote the program to others.

Entry by application to industry oversight committee.
Recognition

• Targets community, customers, peers.
• Level 1 - small door signs, hats, statewide publication.
• Level 2 - Large sign at roadside. Article in local paper.
• Level 3 - Visit by dignitary, higher profile article.
Benefits

• Take more control of outcome, reduce risk.
• Improve stewardship credibility.
• Strong Industry response could hold off more rules.
REMINdERS

• SIGN-UP for Environmental Partners

• Take Advantage of Sludge Program