



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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MEDIA Advisory

STATE ADOPTS NEW POLICY, RECOGNIZES COMPANIES FOR PARTNERSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROGRAM

RALEIGH—The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will announce the adoption of a new policy on Environmental Management Systems (EMS) as well as recognize four facilities for their cooperation and partnership in a unique program to improve North Carolina's environment. Announcements will be made by DENR's Deputy Secretary Michael Williamson in a workshop at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24, at the Adams Mark Hotel, Charlotte, N.C. All media are invited to attend.

The adoption of the new EMS policy by North Carolina facilities furthers DENR's vision of working toward a healthier environment and a more vibrant economy. The policy supports DENR's work with facilities on regulatory compliance and monitoring, encouraging them to go beyond compliance to implement more environmentally sustainable practices.

"DENR strongly supports environmental management systems," Williamson said. "The benefits of implementing an EMS can be advantageous for North Carolina's economic competitiveness, both nationally and internationally."

As part of DENR's announcement of this new policy, four facilities will be recognized for their participation in the DENR EMS Pilot Program. These facilities are the cities of Gastonia and Burlington, Novo Nordisk Biochem North America, Franklinton; and Duke Power, Salisbury. The cities of Gastonia and Burlington are the first public agencies in North Carolina to implement an EMS and are two of only a few nationwide.

The EMS program provides a structure to protect the environment through a systems management approach and continuous improvement principles. It also makes environmental management an organization's priority, increases an organization's ability to anticipate and meet its environmental objectives and ensures ongoing compliance with environmental regulations.

State adopts new policy, recognizes companies for partnership in environmental protection program

By using the structure provided by an EMS, facilities are implementing practices that could result in energy and water conservation, as well as other environmental and economic benefits. Data is being collected to measure each facility's environmental performance.

Other North Carolina EMS participants are Honda Power Equipment, Swepsonville; Powerware Corp., formerly Exide Electronics, Raleigh; Lufkin/Cooper Tools, Apex; Konica Manufacturing USA Inc., Whitsett; and Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Jacksonville.

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