

Environmental Compliance Assistance

DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Custom Environmental Management Systems (EMS) have been prepared for dozens of facilities including metal fabrication operations, printing plants, iron and aluminum foundries, furniture manufacturers, plastic extrusion and molding companies, and many more. The most efficient system is the paperless EMS, but a three-ring binder with paper copies of documents can also be used. The system can be used as the basis for developing an ISO 14000 compliant environmental program. The key components of the EMS include the Compliance Calendar and "Project Reviews." Project reviews are analyses done in advance of an anticipated change in the operations of a plant to identify all environmental issues and costs or savings associated with the change.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENTS

Comprehensive environmental assessments have been completed at a variety of industrial facilities. Using checklists and many years of experience, the assessments were systematically completed. The assessments included records reviews, site inspections, and discussions with employees addressing all environmental media and regulations. Findings and observations were evaluated and compliance status and recommendations for correcting deficiencies were documented in a written report. These assessments served a variety of purposes including parent company inquiries, resolution of pending compliance difficulties, and preventative actions. Additional benefits to the clients have included improved waste management methods and reduced costs, reduced routine reporting requirements, and improved compliance status.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SUPPORT SERVICE

Alpha Terra has assisted many manufacturing firms with routine compliance requirements and management of environmental issues. This service includes completing routine reports (quarterly, semi-annual, and annual reports), developing required plans, and keeping clients up-to-date on all environmental matters that affect their businesses. Routine plant walkthroughs are conducted to identify weaknesses in the compliance program.

ASSISTANCE TO A MANUFACTURER WITH AN EPA INVESTIGATION

A manufacturing facility received a request for information under the Clean Air Act from EPA. Alpha Terra assisted the facility in evaluating the applicable regulation, reviewing available records, and preparing the response to the request. The records review indicated that several required reports had not been submitted. Alpha Terra prepared reports for the previous years for submittal to EPA. Alpha Terra also set up a recordkeeping system for the facility to track information required in the reports and a format and procedure to prepare the annual report, thereby eliminating this problem in the future.

A finding of violation was issued to the facility. Alpha Terra assisted in preparation of the response to EPA, which demonstrated that the FOV was a paper work violation only and did not result in any adverse effect on the environment. Alpha Terra participated in the negotiations with EPA to resolve the FOV.

ASSISTANCE WITH STATE AGENCY INSPECTIONS

On-site assistance has been provided to manufacturing companies undergoing an inspection by the WDNR. Records are jointly reviewed, questions from agency personnel are answered, and action items are identified. Follow-up includes addressing all action items and any alleged compliance discrepancies. For clients that have chosen to use the environmental management system already described, these inspections typically are completed on the day of the initial visit with no action items or discrepancies.