

Petroleum Cleanup Program Update

By Stephen F. Hilfiker, MS, CFEA, REPA

Score Drops to 40

Effective April 28, 2000, the Florida Petroleum Cleanup Program score for initiating the remediation process for contaminated sites has been lowered from 50 to 40. FDEP records indicate that 465 sites are scored between 40 and 49.

This reduction in the funding cutoff is the result of FDEP's anticipation of a significant increase in program funding for FY 2000-2001, which begins July 1, 2000.

Anticipated Drip to 30

If the governor approves the legislature's proposed budget, the FDEP anticipates a subsequent score drop to 30 during the second quarter of FY 2000-2001. FDEP records indicate that there are 1135 sites scored between 30 and 39, and 13,135 sites scored in the PCTRank database of eligible facilities.

New CDF

The FDEP has created a new Contractor Designation Form (CDF) that will be mandatory after July 3, 2000, when the old form will no longer be accepted.

Business Plan Meeting

The Bureau of Petroleum Storage Systems has established a business plan to manage and administer the significant increase in preapproval operations. The business plan defines the anticipated impacts of the increased workload to the FDEP and to contractors, and includes initiatives to manage the impacts.

A preapproval industry meeting in Orlando on June 1, 2000 was organized by the Bureau of Petroleum Storage Systems to provide the details of the Bureau's business plan.

Advanced Cleanups

The FDEP has announced that it is receiving applications for the Preapproved Advanced Cleanup Program in accordance with Section 376.30713, F.S., until 5:00 p.m. June 30, 2000.

Draft SOP's

The FDEP is updating the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) for Preapproval Petroleum Cleanup operations. A draft copy of the SOP dated April 20, 2000 is posted on the FDEP web site.

Additional information on all of these issues is provided by the FDEP on the Bureau of Petroleum Storage Systems Web Site <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/dwm/bureaus/bpss.htm>

About The Author

Steve Hilfiker is president of Environmental Risk Management, Inc. (ERMI), a DEP petroleum cleanup contractor, Florida-licensed engineering firm and geology business, and environmental forensic consulting firm. Steve is a former two-term president of the Florida Environmental Assessors Association, and can be reached through www.ermi.net or by calling 1-888-ENV-MGMT (1-888-368-6468). He is available for public speaking engagements to groups, organizations and conferences.