

Environmental Compliance Assistance Program



Environmental Assistance Branch Staff

Manager
Kari Johnson

Environmental Scientists

Derek Bozzell
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Environmental Assistance Workshop Participants

ECAP provides opportunities for learning how to stay up to date on regulations and requirements.

ASSISTANCE

ECAP helps regulated entities from assisting with simple phone calls concerning environmental regulations to in-depth assistance requests. The program is comprised of technical assistance specialists who, on a daily basis, provide assistance on a broad range of environmental topics to the public, regulated entities, and state agencies.

During FY18, ECAP provided responded to 1,085 requests. The majority of these assistance requests, 430 responses, were related to air quality. One of ECAP's primary responsibilities is to provide assistance to small businesses. Of the requests received in FY18, 172 responses were to small businesses of 100 employees or less.



DID YOU KNOW?

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, complying with environmental regulations can cost small businesses over 3.5 times the amount it costs large businesses. The Environmental Compliance Assistance Program specializes in helping small businesses get into compliance, saving them time and money.

SOURCE: U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
[HTTPS://WWW.EPA.GOV/SITES/PRODUCTION/FILES/2015-11/DOCUMENTS/507_REPORT.PDF](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-11/documents/507_report.pdf)

ASSISTANCE (CONT.)

Despite major personnel changes, the program averaged approximately 97 assistance requests per month and continued to fulfill a vital service for the public and regulated entities across the state.

REGULATIONS

ECAP helps entities understand and comply with environmental regulations in a variety of multimedia areas. The program focuses on assisting these entities in understanding Kentucky's and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regulations and requirements.

Throughout the year, ECAP provides a number of compliance education related services to assist in creating a better understanding of regulatory requirements. A large part of this assistance focuses on air quality related topics as part of the Clean Air Act's Title V requirement to assist small businesses.

INCENTIVES

One of the many incentives of the program is the ability to work with facilities and help troubleshoot problems.

Some of the types of assistance provided include: free compliance site visits, small business air quality permit application assistance, and development of tools and resources to enhance facility operations.

Another positive aspect of the program is the ability to use enforcement discretion and work proactively with clients to identify and correct compliance issues. Often times, there can be a hesitancy by the regulated community to come forward with knowledge of environmental compliance issues. This hesitancy is brought on by the fear of civil enforcement action. However, ECAP's enforcement discretion policy allows clients to utilize the self-audit privilege to self-disclose environmental violations. The correction of these issues may assist the facility in avoiding violations and costly penalties.



Environmental Compliance Assistance Program Staff

(Left) Manager, Kari Johnson, (Middle) Environmental Scientist, Derek Bozzell, and (Above) Environmental Scientist, Jayme Csonka help assist participants during the 2018 ACC-SAMR workshop.

OUTREACH

Throughout the year, ECAP strives to develop relationships and provide opportunities and resources to address the needs of the regulated community. Outreach to the public occurs in the form of educational opportunities, development of compliance tools, compliance site visits, and attending conferences.

During FY18 ECAP has been involved in numerous activities to provide the public and regulated community with updates on changes in regulations or to further explain compliance requirements. When regulations are developed or changed, questions may arise from industries who might be confused by current or upcoming environmental issues. The potential for compliance issues is greater when there is not a clear understanding of a compliance requirement.

The key to helping them stay in compliance is through outreach. Beginning in 1994, through a partnership with the University of Kentucky, ECAP became members of the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP), which was established to assist small businesses with environmental compliance and emissions reduction. This program provides a valuable resource to the regulated community by providing free air quality permit services and assistance.

In FY18 ECAP staff conducted 10 compliance site visits for regulated entities; like the multimedia compliance site visit with Oscarware conducted in July 2017. DCA staff were able to work with the facility to develop an air quality permit application for their grill topper manufacturing business.

TOOL DEVELOPMENT

The goal of ECAP is to ensure awareness and understanding of environmental requirements, including permitting requirements. Environmental permits may be required by federal, state and sometimes local governments to minimize impacts on human health and the environment. The specific regulations and permits that could apply to a facility may vary depending on location, types of activities and the facility's potential to emit air pollutants. To help facilities better understand their compliance requirements, ECAP regularly develops and publishes fact sheets and guidance documents.

During FY18, ECAP began a series of fact sheets to assist medical facilities with environmental requirements. The first in a series of documents created were the Chemotherapy Waste Disposal fact sheet and the Dental Amalgam fact sheet. These documents cover how facilities can appropriately handle two different medical wastes.

The Chemotherapy Waste Disposal fact sheet covers the different types of waste associated with chemotherapy, how facilities can identify whether or not they are generating hazardous wastes, and recommended disposal options. The Dental Amalgam fact sheet notifies facilities of new EPA standards relating to handling mercury. It also explains what types of offices are subject to the new rules, what types of offices are affected and compliance deadlines.

ECAP also developed the Holiday Tree Disposal fact sheet, which explains how citizens can properly dispose or recycle their Christmas tree after the holidays.

TOOL DEVELOPMENT (CONT.)

ECAP updates documents throughout the fiscal year to ensure that industries have access to the most up-to-date information possible. The Household Sharps Disposal Factsheet was updated in April of 2018 to include additional information for needle collection and disposal programs.

TRAINING EVENTS

INTRODUCTORY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE SERIES

In FY18 ECAP partnered with the other divisions in the Energy and Environment Cabinet to develop a series of introductory workshops designed to educate attendees on environmental regulations, common permits and responsibilities and the inspection process. These workshops were divided into three days, each focusing on a different environmental media: air quality, water quality and waste management. One of the goals of this workshop series is to bring the services of the DCA to new areas in the Commonwealth.

During the spring of 2018, the workshops were held in Prestonsburg, KY. In summer 2018, the workshops moved to Frankfort, KY. The series will continue in the fall of 2018 in Owensboro, KY. During fiscal year 2018, these workshops reached over 80 facilities.



One on One Assistance

(Above) Division of Air Quality Field Inspector, David Wolfe, and DCA Environmental Scientist, Chelsea Durbin, help out with permit questions at the ACC/SAMR Open House.

ACC/SAMR OPEN HOUSE

Throughout the course of a year, entities with air permits are required to submit Annual Compliance Certifications (ACC) and Semi-Annual Monitoring reports (SAMR). In an effort to help those who were unfamiliar with the process, ECAP specialists teamed up with the Division for Air Quality Field Operations Branch to host the ninth annual ACC-SAMR workshop and open house. Over 25 facilities made their way to Frankfort to attend the workshop and receive one-on-one assistance for these reports during the afternoon open house.



ACC/SAMR Open House

(Above) Air Quality Frankfort Regional Office Supervisor, Natasha Parker, listens to a participant's air permit questions.



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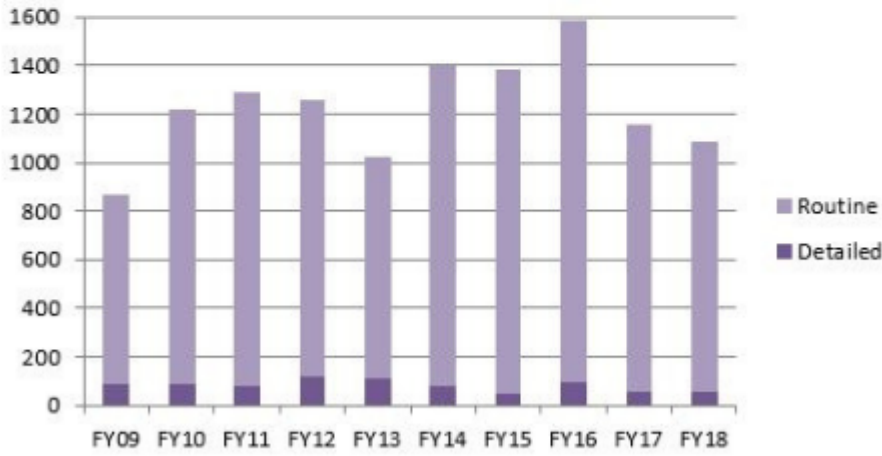
environmental compliance assistance program

ATTENDEES TRAINED

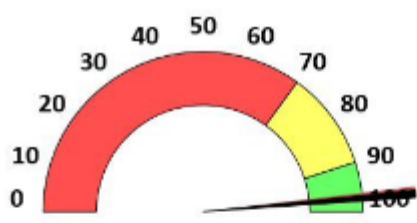


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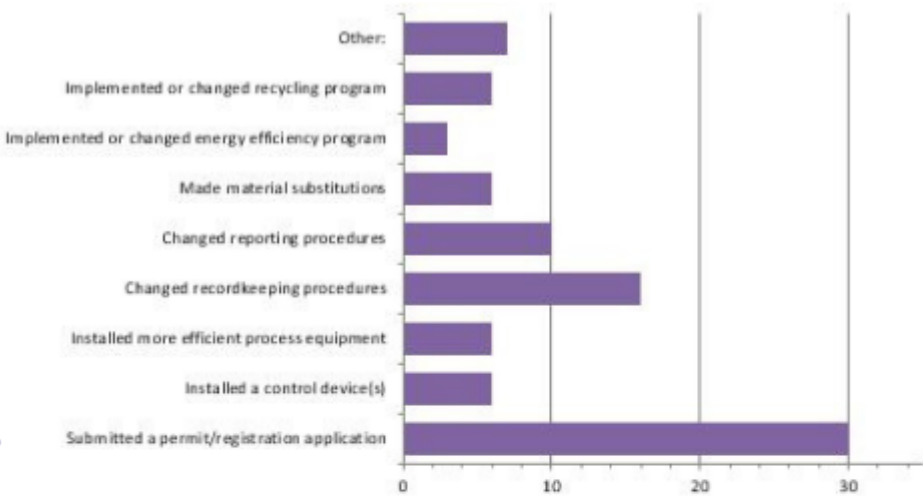
DETAILED VS ROUTINE REQUESTS



ATTENDEE SATISFACTION



CLIENT BEHAVIOR CHANGES



TYPE OF ASSISTANCE REQUESTS



ASSISTANCE BY MEDIA

