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VPP Porcelain Press

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ISO 14001 Q & A – What You Need to Know

In September, a third-party registrar will be onsite to perform an audit of PNNL's environment management system. During this time, independent auditors will interview staff throughout the Laboratory. The following are some sample questions and answers related to the five PNNL environmental stewardship policy commitments.

PNNL is committed to identify and manage hazards and environmental impacts.

Q. What are your responsibilities for making sure that PNNL and regulatory environmental requirements are satisfied? (3K930)

A. I store waste properly in a satellite accumulation area, segregate it as needed, label the containers, and contact my Field Services Representative (FSR) when the material is ready for disposal. If I have questions regarding these issues, I contact my FSR or Environmental Compliance Representative (ECR) for assistance.

PNNL is committed to preventing pollution.

Q. If you had an idea on how to prevent pollution, what would you do?

A. If it were a simple idea, I would implement it myself. If it required planning assistance or funding, I would contact my ECR and Pollution Prevention (P2) Coordinator for assistance. If the idea were significant or complex, then with the assistance of my ECR and the Coordinator, we could look at performing a P2 Opportunity Assessment and obtaining P2 funding. (3J694)

PNNL will abide by applicable requirements.

Q. How do you identify and abide by applicable requirements?

A. By following external requirements applicable to PNNL captured in SBMS and delivered to users through SBMS subject areas. Also, IOPS provides tailored, facility-specific requirements at the working ("bench") level by interpreting and summarizing the most important SBMS requirements and adding facility-specific information, such as local support contacts and how to use facility-specific processes.

This newsletter is a communication of the PNNL Voluntary Protection Program. VPP is assisting PNNL's ISO 14001 Program effort in support of integrated worker safety, health, and environment.

PNNL is committed to monitoring and continually improving work practices.

Q. How do you support environmental protection at the Laboratory?

A. One way is by maintaining ownership of chemicals and radioactive materials from the time of purchase until final disposition, through exchange via the Chemical Management System, proper disposal practices, the Chemical Redistribution Program, PNNL's recycling program, or waste minimization practices through my ECR or FSR.

PNNL will communicate environmental concerns.

Q. How does PNNL communicate environmental concerns to its staff (internally) and the public (externally)?

A. Internally, through lessons learned publications, newsletters published on PNNL's Web server, critiques, and environmental support services (FSRs, ECRs, etc.). Externally, through periodic reports to DOE and environmental regulators.

VPP Purchases Blood Pressure Monitors



Lynne Roeder-Smith tries out one of the new blood pressure monitors purchased by the Voluntary Protection Program Steering Committee. The two units are located in the ETB lobby and in 337, near the cafeteria. Staff are encouraged to regularly monitor their blood pressure in an effort to help avoid health problems such as stroke and heart disease. (3C028)

The Porcelain Press is distributed both electronically and in PNNL building restrooms. If your restrooms' newsletters are out of date, please contact Vern Madson (376-0792) or Russ Meichenheimer (373-6165). This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.