

Lessons Learned Implementing an ISO 14001 Certified Environmental Management System

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Value of Implementing an Environmental Management System

- **Contributes to continuous improvement and innovative ideas**
- **Increases worker awareness of environmental impacts and requirements**
- **Benefits from worker participation, everyone owns the system**





Why ISO 14001 Certification?

- **ISO Certification is an international recognition of excellent performance**
 - ISO Certification means Environmental Excellence
- **Consistent with our mission**
 - Processing legacy high hazard waste from Oak Ridge and shipping for disposal at approved facility-Cleaning up Oak Ridge
 - Protecting public health and the environment
 - Do the right things for the environment and community
- **Consistent with organizational culture that values improvement and excellence**
 - We want to be “best in class”
- **Promotes innovation in the organization and builds ownership for project success**



Implementing the Environmental Management System and Achieving ISO Certification

- The organizational culture was in place to support an Environmental Management System that focuses on continual improvement and minimizing environmental impact
- Introduce workers to the components of the Environmental Management System and how they would be involved
- Promote the value of ISO 14001 Certification



Lessons Learned Implementing the Environmental Management System and Achieving ISO Certification

- **Build Management Leadership equal to that shown for safety performance**
- **Build Worker Ownership of EMS program**
- **Dedicated EMS Representative to champion program and maintain certification focus**
- **Conduct Gap Analysis early in the process to determine weakness and opportunities for improvement**



Build Management Leadership

- **Change Management's Perspective**
 - Build awareness (new view of environmental performance)
 - Client expectations and requirements – environmental excellence is valued
 - Promotes innovation and improves overall environmental performance
 - Educate Senior Management on the benefits and provide frequent training and status updates



Building Worker Ownership

- **Ensure employees are involved in decisions**
- **Committees involve all site organizations to evaluate and recommend improvements**
- **Training sessions encourage participation and feedback**
- **Events (Earth Day and contests) to strengthen commitment, build ownership, and surface new ideas**



EMS Information

- **Developed a brochure for all individuals coming onto the site, which provides information on the EMS program, each person's roles and responsibilities, and who to contact with questions or concerns**
- **Newsletters detailing progress toward meeting objectives and target goals**
- **Contests to surface new ideas**



Conduct Gap Analysis

- **Gap analysis showed several areas of the EMS program that needed to be strengthened**
- **Additional audits verify conformance and find opportunities for improvement**
- **Allowed opportunities for improvement to EMS program prior to certification process**





RESULTS



***ISO 14001 Certification
in only five months,
with no non-conformances!***

