

# P2 Quarterly

The Newsletter of Lee  
County's Pollution  
Prevention Program

Winter 2004

## Program Staff

L.A.(Tony) Pellicer	DNRM Manager
Dale L. Nottingham	Program Manager
Sara Leggett	Sr. Environ. Specialist
Mindy Peterson	Sr. Environ. Specialist
Jayne Coles	Planning Technician

## ***Published By:***

P<sup>2</sup> Program  
1500 Monroe Street  
P.O. Box 398  
Fort Myers, FL 33902  
Phone: 941/479-8126  
Fax: 941/479-8108

**Do you need a speaker for an upcoming event? Would you like a specialized presentation for your next trade association meeting? Give us a call to schedule a time for your next educational needs. Lee County's Pollution Prevention Program has performed presentations in several parts of the country as well as Canada and Mexico. We are here to serve our business community. Just call 479-8126.**

## The water you drink

Sloppy management practices of used oil storage should be more of a concern to the business owner. Field inspections have found oil drums by waterways with so much staining around the drum and on the ground; it leaves you to wonder if any oil actually made it into the drum. One particular facility had staining from years of mismanagement that lead across the entire back lot and straight into a canal. Pollution of our waterways can be prevented; it just takes a little effort.

Used oil is full of different types of pollutants. From all the additives utilized in the process of making motor oil from crude oil and the metals it picks up within the engine.

The following facts are about used oil and how it effects the environment you live in:

- When used oil is spilled onto the ground it stresses out all the components that make up soil, from the microbes to small organisms that create a nutrient rich soil for plants. The effect of damaging the soil kills any plant life, effecting humans and animals for generations to come.
- When used oil is released into a waterway, the oil covers the bottom of the waterway suffocating any life form. Used oil can also become trapped in small organisms tissue. This will continue the contamination through the food chain.
- It takes **20 years** for a system to recover from one oil spill.
- **One pint** of used oil will cover **one acre**.
- **One drop** of oil in a bathtub full of water produces noticeable odor and taste.
- **One gallon** of oil can cause **one million gallons** of fresh water to be undrinkable; this is a **year's** supply of water for **50 people**.

To properly store your Used Oil you need to know the quantity the facility will generate. You may need an aboveground storage tank or a DOT rated drum with a closable lid. All storage should be within containment system The container must be labeled "**USED OIL**". Get all of the material into the drum, not on top of the drum. Keep the container closed at all times. Do not mix used oil with any other waste and/or products. Mixing any other waste with your used oil could cause the mixture to become hazardous waste. In this case the used oil hauler will not be able to accept it. By law the hauler must notify the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Rule 62-710.510(2) FAC).

It requires the same amount of effort to handle used oil correctly. Education of your employees on the importance of proper management can help keep your business in compliance, plus help keep our environment clean. If you have any questions or would like a site visit, please call the Pollution Prevention Program @ **479-8126**.

### **We have moved, well sort of**

The P2 Program counter has relocated on the first floor customer service area of the Community Development/Public Works Center located at 1500 Monroe Street, in downtown Fort Myers. We now have a new counter dedicated just for the P2 Program. With the larger workspace and counter we can assist more customers.

### **Renewal Season 2003**

The P2 Program signed off 3,568 Activity Certification Affidavits (ACA) during the past year with many during the renewal season. Exemptions were granted to businesses that took the time to contact us and also qualified for the ACA. We would like to wish everyone a great year!

This year renewal season was pretty smooth sailing for most businesses. The other's that had minor changes to their occupational license had to take some additional steps. Some of the steps for those could cause you to go through the zoning process again, deal with the State for registering a business name and/or corporation. We understand this can be confusing for some business owners. The P2 Program would like to take out the guesswork for changes to an occupational license. We would like to offer our assistance to help you make a smooth transaction the first time and every time. Our goal is to have you visit the necessary buildings only once, instead of being bounced from one building to another. Please make us your first call for assistance. We want to assist you with progress, not hinder you with unnecessary steps.

When you are in our building remember to stop at our counter as well, to see if you could qualify for the Activity Certification Affidavit (ACA). If you do not qualify and are required to pay the surcharge, you will receive some cost saving tips that pertain to your industry.

### **Check us out**

Need to relax and have some family fun? Then come on out to the Lee County Southwest Florida Fair which runs from February 27, 2003 through March 3, 2004 at the Lee Civic Center located on Bayshore Road and Highway 31. While you're there, stop by the P2 Programs new display and educational booth. We will be located inside the main building. We will have some free stuff to give away. Need more information about the Fair's events, check out [www.leeciviccenter.com](http://www.leeciviccenter.com)

### **Educational Compliance Class for Mechanical Repair Shops**

We are offering training in March on automotive repair. The facilitator will cover the Code of Federal Regulation's (CFR) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). You will learn what types of hazardous waste are generated in this industry, how to store the waste properly, and what disposal options are available in Lee County. Businesses in this industry will be selected from our data base and sent a direct invitation announcing the date/time/location. Pre-registration will be required and there is a small fee involved to cover classroom handouts and certificates of attendance. There will be a series of these trainings offered by the P2 Program for different industries. If you are interested, please contact us and let us know what you would like to see offered for the future training sessions.

### **Employee Safety**

Do you perform new employee safety training with periodic updates? Did you know its' the law for employers to document this type of training and place it within the personnel file of the employee? Did you know that once you quit using a product, you must maintain information about the product and its use for thirty years!! Do you have an evacuation/emergency response plan, and/or facility awareness orientation for employees? There are specific regulations that employers must follow in order to reduce their liability. In some situations accidents can be prevented with a little time and effort for training new employees as well as update seasoned employees.. No one wants an accident or death to occur at work due to the lack of a safety education plan. If so, you may want to let us help you with your next safety meeting. Just give us a call!

## **THE PROBLEM**

One of the largest environmental challenges facing Lee County residents is the insurgence of mercury into our environment through improper disposal of mercury containing devices also known as hazardous waste. One would think that there are sufficient laws to prevent the degradation of our drinking water and wildlife by mercury intrusion, and there are, but these laws are not strictly enforced and the contractors are not monitored properly. The unfortunate truth is that hazardous wastes from construction demolition are making their way into our environment, our wildlife, and ultimately our bodies. Construction and demolition debris is the largest contributing source of mercury in our environment (with the exception of coal burning power plants). Recently the Florida Power and Light (FP&L) facility in East Lee County has upgraded their facility by switching from fuel oil to natural gas, which has eliminated mercury emissions and increased the efficiency and output of the plant. However, construction and demolition debris containing mercury devices/lamps, lead paint, PCB containing ballasts, and other hazardous wastes continue to be disposed of at construction landfills, and Waste to Energy (WTE) facilities. These wastes are not knowingly accepted at construction and demolition landfills or WTE. Construction and Demolition landfills often are not staffed at all, and the WTE do not have sufficient staffing to inspect every load that is delivered. Thus landfills and WTE's are receiving unknown quantities of hazardous and toxic wastes into their systems. The following excerpt is from a report published by The Environmental Protection Agency's Region 4 office ([www.epa.gov/region04/sesd/sflea/sfleair.html](http://www.epa.gov/region04/sesd/sflea/sfleair.html))

The highest mercury concentrations in algae, fish, and great egrets have been found to occur in Water Conservation Area 3 between Alligator Alley and Tamiami Trail.

No single point source has been identified that contributes directly to these high mercury levels. Atmospheric mercury loading from precipitation is between 35 to 70 times greater in the publicly owned Everglades than mercury loading in canal water coming from the Everglades Agricultural Area. Incineration in the urban areas is likely the primary source of atmospheric mercury." Some experts believe disposal and/or incineration of improperly screened loads in urban areas is likely the primary source of atmospheric mercury.

## **THE SOLUTION?!**

What is needed is a pro active local regulatory agency empowered to ensure any process that generates regulated waste is properly managed through scientifically proven methods. Legislators create regulations with no funding or visible means of manpower to ensure compliance is achieved. Until this problem is rectified mercury in our environment will continue to increase, and be magnified up through the food chain.

Regulations just for the sake of appearing to accomplish campaign promises are not the answer. Compliance through proven technology works and ensures that the environment, communities, and the people who live in them are protected and secure!

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

If you generate hazardous waste you are responsible for it until the waste is disposed of at a Treatment Storage and Disposal (TSD) or recycling facility. This means that if your hauler hauls your hazardous wastes to a TSD facility, and has an accident that results in a hazardous waste spill, you may be responsible for cleanup costs. Also, if you have an electrician replace your fluorescent tubes and they end up in a dumpster somewhere you are still responsible for them! This can lead to expensive legal proceedings.

These regulations may not always seem fair so be very careful how you handle hazardous wastes. And make sure that you keep all disposal/recycling records for all waste streams generated at the facility.

## **CATHODE RAY TUBES**

Cathode Ray Tubes, which are your standard TV and computer monitor tubes, have approximately three pounds of lead, which usually ends up in landfills or at our incinerator and can cause high lead emissions from some of these facilities. These wastes are hazardous wastes as defined by RCRA. If you are a TV repairman, or computer repairman, and you generate circuit boards, cathode ray tubes or other wastes that contain heavy metals such as lead you now have an option to recycle. The state of Florida has given grants to recycling businesses in an effort to lower lead emissions at incinerators as well as at landfills. You can contact these businesses at the phone numbers below. With this new recycling option comes stepped up enforcement for improper disposal.

If you are currently sending these tubes and circuit boards to the incinerator or landfill you are not in compliance with RCRA. Recycling these wastes will increase the cost of your services, but from now on it will simply be the cost of being in this type of business. Recycling records need to be kept for a minimum of three years. If you have any questions, or need information on companies, which provide this service, please call the Pollution Prevention Program at 479-8126.

## **Fee Charge For ACA's**

There will be a fee charge for the Activity Certification Affidavit (ACA) process, which exempts qualified businesses from paying the surcharge attached to their occupational license. This is to cover associated cost for the process to the P2 Program. The fee of \$10.00 will begin on April 1, 2004. There will also be a charge of \$5.00 to make changes to any previously approved ACA.

**Rechargeable Batteries Overview**

Public Law 104-142, known as the “Mercury Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act,” requires specific management of spent recyclable batteries. Some of these batteries contain nickel, cadmium and iron. These three metals can be extracted and recycled and re-used in all types of manufacturing. The common abbreviation for this type of battery is *Ni-Cd*. The nickel in the battery is not regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), however, the cadmium within the battery is regulated. Cadmium is one of eight metals covered under the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) in 40 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR), Part 261.24. This law regulates this type of metal waste as a hazardous waste.

To lessen the burden of disposal on “generators” of spent Ni-Cd’s, Congress passed a law 40 CFR Part 273, known as the Universal Waste Rule (UWR).

Under this rule, specific types of waste which can be recycled is allowed and promoted as a method of disposal. This reduces the cost of disposal and additional regulatory requirements and conditions for facilities previously required under RCRA.

There are some options in complying with the requirements of the UWR. Those options are as follows:

1. Become a member of a program sponsored by the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation.
2. Contract with a hauler to pick up from your facility/facilities and transport the waste under the UWR to a recycling facility.
3. Transport the batteries to a privately owned facility in Lee County for consolidation and transportation to a recycling facility.
4. Phase out the use of all equipment that utilize Ni-Cd batteries.

Need some help? Give us a call to set up an assessment of your facility.

**The CESQG Business  
Collection Day Schedule  
Sponsored by :  
Lee County’s  
Department of Solid Waste  
(Disposal Fee Involved)**

**April 22, 2004  
July 22, 2004  
October 21, 2004**

**Collection times for the CESQG  
scheduled events are from  
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Location  
of the CESQG collection day is  
North Airport Road at Page Field.  
Scheduled collection days and  
times are subject to change  
and/or cancelations, depending  
on inclement weather. *There is a  
fee involved for disposal.* If you  
have any questions regarding the  
associated fees, please contact  
US Liquids of Florida directly at  
1-800-624-5302.**

Presort Standard  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Ft. Myers, FL  
Permit No. 756

*P<sup>2</sup> Program  
1500 Monroe Street  
P.O. Box 398  
Ft. Myers, FL 33902*