Gales, Grimes to Retire

Larry Gales, DEQ Division Director and longtime OHMERC chair, and Major Mike Grimes, Oklahoma Highway Patrol, will attend their final meeting as OHMERC representatives **Tuesday, May 9th**. Gales retires from DEQ July 31st after nearly 30 years of service, having served on the OHMERC since 1993. Major Grimes retires May 31st after over 33 years with the OHP and began his service on the OHMERC in February 2004.

Under the Oklahoma Emergency Response Act, the Executive Director of DEQ or designated representative is a member of the Commission as is the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee. DEQ Executive Director, Steve Thompson, appointed Monty Elder, DEQ Environmental Programs Manager, to replace Gales on the OHMERC as the DEQ representative, effective May 9th. Elder has worked with the Commission since coming to SARA Title III Programs in 1991. The Department of Public Safety has yet to appoint a replacement for Major Grimes.

All OHMERC meetings are open to the public. The **May 9th, 2006** meeting convenes at 1:30 pm in the First Floor Multi-Purpose Room, DEQ, 707 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City. For more information on the OHMERC, contact **Jami Murphy, DEQ, 405-702-1011**.

DEQ Releases 2004 TRI Figures

Preliminary numbers for the 2004 Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) were released by the DEQ earlier this month to coincide with EPA’s Public Data Release. TRI reports provide information on legal emissions, transfers, treatment and reuse of over 600 toxic chemicals used in the manufacture or processing of a wide variety of products. According to the figures, releases of toxic chemicals to the environment and total toxic wastes in Oklahoma continue to trend downward. For 2004, reported releases were:
- 15.6 million pounds released to air
- 4.3 million pounds released to land
- 3.9 million pounds released to surface waters
- 1.2 million pounds released to deep underground injection wells
- 25 million pounds total released

The sum of the total releases and waste management activities yields a figure for the total production related wastes for the year. For 2004, the numbers were:
- 52.1 million pounds treated
- 71.7 million pounds recycled
- 5.3 million pounds combusted for energy recovery
- 4.1 million pounds transferred off-site for disposal
- 158.2 million pounds total production related wastes

TRI reports show total releases to the environment decreased over thirteen percent in the past five years. Air releases decreased by almost 20 percent since 2000, and releases to land declined by thirteen and a half percent over the same time period. Releases to underground injection wells dropped by more than 50 percent in the past five years. As releases decreased, waste management techniques such as recycling increased. For example, re-use, primarily recycling, increased from 2000 to 2004 by 13.6 million pounds.

Enacted five years ago, the Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic (PBT’s) rule greatly lowered reporting thresholds for TRI chemicals with these characteristics. Chemicals classified as PBT’s possess the potential to seriously impact the environment and are tracked at significantly lower levels under the new requirements. The total for all releases of PBT chemicals was less than 510,000 pounds in 2004 or only two percent of total releases Statewide.

Covered industries engage in manufacturing, coal-fired electric power generation, commercial hazardous waste disposal, solvent recovery or serve as bulk petroleum terminals. Facilities in these categories also must have the equivalent of at least 10 full time employees and use one or more...

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listed toxic chemicals. For 2004, DEQ received 1,213 reports from 334 Oklahoma facilities. Twenty-four of these facilities reported for the first time for 2004 with the total number of reports processed by the agency increasing by over three percent. This is the sixteenth year the DEQ has compiled this information. A more detailed TRI report with analysis of these trends will be available from the DEQ in July. EPA collects TRI information on a national basis and prepares a report that is due to be released later in the year. For more information on the Toxics Release Inventory program in Oklahoma, contact Jami Murphy, DEQ, 405-702-1011.

**Free Seminars Aim to Prepare Facilities for RMP Inspections**

Monday, May 8th at the Tulsa Technology Center, Riverside Campus and Tuesday, May 9th at the Midwest City Community Center, EPA workshops are planned on the implementation of Risk Management Plan (RMP). RMP is section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act Amendments. Facilities that have submitted an RMP or identified as an RMP facility or other potentially regulated facilities are encouraged to attend. These workshops will provide an opportunity to discuss the requirements of the regulations, the tools available for implementing RMP, case studies and how to be better prepared for EPA RMP inspections. Topics include:

- EPA’s current compliance activities
- The progress of the RMP program and tools available for implementation
- How to handle RMP chemicals, through case studies
- What EPA looks for in an RMP inspection
- How to prepare for an inspection

There is no charge for either session, and the same material will be covered at the Tulsa session as at the one in Oklahoma City. Both sessions run from 8:30-1:00 pm. The exact locations are:

- May 8, 2006, Tulsa Technology Center-Riverside Campus, 801 East 91st St., Tulsa
- May 9, 2006, Midwest City Community Center, 100 N. Midwest Blvd., Midwest City

For additional information, contact Tom Bergman, DEQ, 405-702-1013.

**DEQ Working with Responders to Improve Contractor List**

At the request of first responders DEQ initiated a series of work group meetings to examine the information provided on the Chemical Emergency Contractor List presently maintained and updated annually by the agency. The intent is to make the Contractor List better serve the needs of first responders and the local governments who use it. Initially discussions centered on two questions: one, what constitutes a “qualified” contractor; and two, what documentation is necessary to demonstrate “qualifications”. The work is ongoing and eventually will include all stakeholders in the Contractor List. The List will be updated for 2006 when revisions are completed and approved.