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DID YOU KNOW? Ways to Increase Your Fuel Mileage.

- Drive more efficiently:
 - Aggressive driving can lower gas mileage by as much as 33% on the highway and 5% in the city.
 - Avoid excessive idling. Idling burns fuel and produces no mileage.
 - Gas mileage decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph. Each 5 mph driven over 60 will lower mileage an additional 7%. Use your cruise control.
- Keep your car in shape:
 - Damaged, loose, or missing gas caps result in vaporization of 147 million gallons of gas each year.
 - Tires that are not properly inflated can cost a mile or two per gallon.
 - Replace spark plugs regularly. A dirty spark plug will cause misfiring, which wastes fuel.
 - Replacing a clogged air filter can improve gas mileage by as much as 10%.
- Plan and combine trips. Combining multiple errands into one trip saves time, fuel, and money.
- Choose a fuel efficient car for your next purchase. The difference between a car that gets 20 mpg and one that gets 30 mpg amounts to over \$1,500 over 5 years for an average driver.

Ref.: U.S. Dept. of Energy and U.S. EPA - fueleconomy.gov



SAFETY TIP

October is Fire Prevention Month in the U.S.

When you change your clocks, change the batteries in your smoke alarms!

Changes Proposed to Risk Management Plan Reporting Requirements. On July 31, the EPA proposed several modifications to the risk management planning requirements mandated by the accidental-release prevention provisions of the Clean Air Act. Under the 1996 provisions, an owner or operator of a stationary source of regulated air pollutant emissions must submit a risk management plan (RMP) to EPA that will be made available to federal, state, and local emergency planning and response agencies, and to the public. Initial submissions were due in 1999, with updates and resubmittal due at least every 5 years. Proposed reporting modifications include:

- Requiring three new data elements
- Requiring earlier updating and resubmissions of RMP for sources that experience “significant accidents” or change their emergency contact information during the 5-year period
- Removing the requirement to summarize worst-case accidental release scenarios and alternative accidental release scenarios in the RMP’s executive summary (but it is still required in the body, with restricted public access)
- Revising reporting requirements re uncontrolled or “runaway” reactions

For details, see the proposal at www.epa.gov/fedreg/EPA-AIR/2003/July/Day-31/a19281.htm or call Kevin Calhoun at 225/292-9007.

Louisiana Litigations Involving Groundwater Impacts. Louisiana’s recently passed Act No. 1166, enacted as La. R.S. 30:2015.1, allows intervention by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) or the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) for cost recoveries involving reported impacts to usable groundwater. The Act requires that litigations, actions, or pleadings alleging cost recovery for damages to usable groundwater include notifications to both the LDNR and LDEQ. Proof of notification to the above agencies is required prior to the award of any judgment for cost recoveries. The Act requires that the allegedly responsible party, allegedly impacted party, or court-appointed expert submit to the court a plan to remediate the usable groundwater. The LDNR or LDEQ (based on jurisdiction) then reviews and approves the plan within 60 days. Upon completion of the agencies’ review of the plan, the court will award appropriate cost recoveries. Cost recoveries will be managed by the court for the sole use of mitigating the impact to the usable groundwater. For more information, contact Frank Edwards at 225/292-9007.

World Water Monitoring Day. The EPA will join America’s Clean Water Foundation (ACWF; Washington, D.C.) and the International Water Association (London) in sponsoring the first World Water Monitoring Day on October 18. The global event will be modeled on the ACWF-sponsored National Water Monitoring Day, which was held in the U.S. last year to mark the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. In 2002, over 75,000 participants engaged in water monitoring activities nationwide. On Oct. 18, volunteers worldwide will test local waterbodies to measure dissolved oxygen, pH, water temperature, and turbidity and clarity. Test results will be entered on a special Web site. For instructions on ordering a test kit and participating in the event, see www.worldwatermonitoring.org.



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Mesquite May Clean Up Desert. According to recent studies, there may be application for the mesquite tree in the remediation of toxic chromium in desert ecosystems. Scientists at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) have documented the mesquite's capacity to absorb enough of the metal to be considered a hyperaccumulator and transform the highly toxic Cr(VI) form of the element to nontoxic Cr(III), providing a potential remedy for metal problems in soils at former desert mining operation sites. Potential use of mesquite is important because, unlike most of the species used in phytoremediation efforts, the mesquite can survive in desert conditions. The UTEP scientists grew mesquite sprouts in an agar-based culture medium that contained either 75 or 125 ppm of Cr(VI). The sprouts were able to take up approximately 1% of their weight in chromium, twice the amount needed for the plant to be considered a hyperaccumulator. Subsequent research will test the use of mature plants in the field. Call Paul Clifton at 225/292-9007 for more information.

Applicability of Texas Risk Reduction Program Rule. For corrective action related to a release from a Leaking Petroleum Storage Tank (LPST) site reported to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) on or after September 1, 2003, the corrective action must comply with the requirements of 30 TAC 350 (the Texas Risk Reduction Program rule) in order to have closure approved by the TCEQ. For a release reported prior to September 1, 2003, the corrective action must instead comply with the 30 TAC 334 rule. Call Naresh Shah at 281/492-8311 for more information.

Revised Tennessee Department Structure. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation recently modified its management structure. Instead of a Commissioner, an overall Deputy Commissioner, and three Assistant Commissioners (for Environment, Parks, and Conservation), the structure now includes the Commissioner, two Deputy Commissioners (one for Environment and one for Parks and Conservation), and one Assistance Commissioner (for Finance and Business Systems). For more information, contact Brian Webster at 615/778-2535.

Agricultural Environmental Programs.

On December 15, 2002, the U.S. EPA Administrator signed the revised National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and Effluent Limitation Guidelines (ELG) Rule affecting concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO). The revised rule contains changes that will affect as many as 15,000 (mostly large) livestock and poultry operations nationwide. The rule now requires CAFO operators to develop and implement a nutrient management plan as a permit requirement.

Major changes made by EPA in its revised CAFO Rule include:

- All large CAFOs must apply for an NPDES permit, or demonstrate that they have no potential to discharge into waters of the United States.
- Large poultry operations using dry waste management systems are now covered by the CAFO Rule.
- New source poultry, swine, and veal operations must meet a "no discharge" standard. That allows for discharge from the production area only in the event of a 100-year, 24-hour storm or greater.

CAFOs covered by an NPDES permit are required to develop and implement a site-specific nutrient management plan.

Funding and technical assistance is available to livestock and poultry producers to help them comply with the revised CAFO Rule. CRA, as an approved Technical Service Provider (TSP) in all 50 states, is currently assisting with nutrient management planning; manure storage & treatment design; agricultural facility design; and NPDES permitting compliance & reporting. For more information, contact Sean Grady at 317/381-0677.

FREE STUFF

Guide for Industrial Waste Management. The EPA has made available, both online and on CD ROM, several tools for guidance on industrial waste management. The new Guide for Industrial Waste Management provides recommendations and tools to better address the management of land-disposed, nonhazardous industrial wastes.

In the Guide are siting tools; waste characterization methods; fact sheets about individual waste constituents; tools to assess possible risks; opportunities for waste minimization; guidelines for safe unit design; and monitoring procedures.

The Guide can be ordered free of charge from EPA's National Service Center for Environmental Publications. For order information, see www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/industd/order.htm, or call Linda McConnell at 225/292-9007.

Watershed Academy Training Course. A CD-ROM version of the EPA's Watershed Academy Web, the self-paced online watershed management training program, is now available. The CD includes 44 training modules covering the primary elements of watershed management. Single copies are available for free. For order information, see www.epa.gov/watertrain/getCD.html or call Linda McConnell at 225/292-9007.

CRA JOURNAL INFORMATION

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