Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Pollution Prevention Champion

CH2M-WG

Idaho Falls, Idaho

2013

Environmental Commitment

CH2M-WG manages the removal and proper disposal of radioactive and radiation-contaminated waste at the Department of Energy's site near Arco, Idaho. The company is committed to reducing its environmental impact through implementing a formal Environmental Management System (EMS). This system has allowed CH2M-WG to identify opportunities for reducing pollution on a continuous basis, leading to numerous projects that have significantly reduced pollution and water and energy use in its operations.

Pollution Prevention Success

Since 2005, CH2M-WG's EMS and commitment to reducing pollution has allowed the company to implement projects that have reduced gasoline use in fleet vehicles, water use in treatment processes, waste generation from operations, electricity use in facilities, and numerous other savings detailed below.

Reducing Fuel Consumption

CH2M-WG has an active fleet management program that has significantly reduced fuel consumption and continues to implement pollution prevention opportunities. Since 2005, the company has reduced overall gasoline consumption by 22% while increasing the amount of E-85 fuel used for current fuel needs by including flex fuel vehicles that now make up 45% of its vehicle fleet. Active fleet management has also reduced the overall number of fleet vehicles used by the company—from 263 vehicles down to 167—based on the actual need for vehicles to maintain operations at the Department of Energy site.

Since 2008, CH2M-WG has also reduced the amount of diesel purchased for its operations by 214,000 gallons, a 20% reduction in five years that has prevented the release of 1,900 metric tons of carbon dioxide as well as other pollutants to the atmosphere.[1]

Reducing Water Use

Water use is a critical issue in arid eastern Idaho, and CH2M-WG has modified its water distribution system and minimized losses that total over 235 million gallons of water per year, or the equivalent of over 700 acre-feet of water. This reduction is a 61% decrease in water consumption since 2007.

Diverting Waste

By providing recycling options and identifying waste reduction opportunities at its operations, CH2M-WG has successfully managed to divert over 41 metric tons of waste from the landfill in 2012. This diversion rate is equal to 29% of the municipal solid waste that is generated by operations and is a 500% increase in diversion from the previous 3.4% diversion rate achieved in 2011. This diversion rate was facilitated in part by implementing a co-mingled office recycling program at staff office facilities in Idaho Falls and at Idaho National Laboratory sites.

Individual projects are also evaluated for optimal waste disposal options. During demolition planning of a steam-generating plant, the company analyzed waste disposal options that could recover any remaining value in the components of the plant and reduce the amount of waste trucked off for disposal. Ultimately, more than 120,000 cubic feet of scrap metal were recovered from the demolition and recycled.

End-of-life disposal alternatives are not the only opportunities that CH2M-WG has identified. Pollution prevention opportunity assessments have allowed the company to reuse 3 tons of zirconium alloy parts that were slated for disposal and 99% of chemicals leftover from constructing the integrated waste treatment unit.

Saving Electricity

By using a pollution prevention opportunity assessment, CH2M-WG staff identified energy savings through equipment modifications and changes. In 2009, the company replaced water pumps in one of its wastewater treatment processes and also eliminated a reverse osmosis filter used for treatment. These changes decreased energy consumption by 1.68 million kilowatt-hours per year, equivalent to the electricity needs of 125 average homes for one year.[2]

For More Information

To learn more about CH2M-WG's pollution prevention efforts, visit the company's website at *https://idahocleanupproject.com/.*

Information on this fact sheet represents an example of pollution prevention projects undertaken by Idaho organizations and does not constitute Departmental certification or approval of compliance at this or any other time with federal, state and/or local regulations.

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[1] *http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-resources/calculator.html*

[2] *https://idahocleanupproject.com/Portals/0/Documents/Press%20Releases/2010/122310_IdahoPower.pdf*