



Protect and Enhance the Environment

Operations Facilities in Compliance with Environmental Regulations

Purpose:

In 2007, the NHDOT hired an independent multi-media environmental audit firm (MECA) to determine the level of compliance at NHDOT Operations facilities. The audits were completed in 2010 and provided a baseline measurement of environmental compliance at 67%.

The goal of the Operations Division is 100% environmental compliance with all local, state and federal environmental regulations at all facilities. Setting the goal at 100% compliance will demonstrate to regulatory agencies that the Department is committed to environmental compliance and help increase employee awareness of compliance and stewardship values. It will also ensure that NHDOT does not incur regulatory fines or penalties.

Data:

Between May of 2008 and March of 2010, Aries Engineering conducted a total of 151 MECA audits to determine environmental compliance at NHDOT Operations' facilities. In 2011, NHDOT conducted environmental training for all Operations' facilities. The training was followed in 2012 by the implementation of an internal auditing program focused on continuous improvement and compliance tracking. The results from the MECA audits are used as the starting point for evaluating environmental performance and internal audits will track compliance over time.

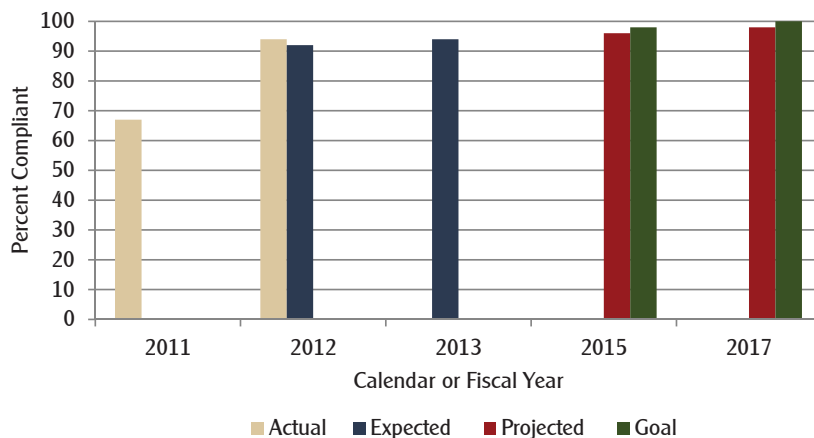
The internal auditing program consists of monthly audits of selected Operations' facilities. The audits are conducted by

Improvement Status

In 2008, 16% of the Department's audited operational facilities were in compliance with environmental regulations. In 2009, 44% of audited facilities were in compliance, and in 2010 67% were compliant. During this period, NHDOT also implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS). 2011 was devoted to training and 2012 was the first year of the internal auditing program. The 2012 audit results show 94% of all audited Operations facilities are in compliance with environmental regulations—nearly six times the 2008 results and exceeding the 2012 Balanced Scorecard target of 92%.

How did NHDOT progress from 16% compliance in 2008 to 94% compliance in 2012? A look back over the last 5 years shows that NHDOT implemented EMS, provided comprehensive environmental training for Operations' personnel, and implemented an internal auditing program, creating a structure for continuous improvement. Most importantly, the commitment of NHDOT employees to conduct their daily activities in compliance with the rules and to follow stewardship practices represents a new "culture of compliance". It demonstrates fundamental change and is the engine that will sustain the drive toward 100% compliance.

Percent of Compliance at Operations' Facilities



employees in the NHDOT's Environmental Section of the Office of Stewardship & Compliance to determine compliance with environmental regulations. A representative sample of 10% of all Operations facilities is the target rate for monthly audits. Audit checklists are used for consistency and to document results. Results are entered into a tracking database and summarized for management review and response, if needed. By sampling facilities on a monthly basis, NHDOT will be able to assess its overall performance, identify any systemic problems early on and ensure corrective actions are implemented in a timely manner.