

TECHNICAL BULLETIN NO. 94-04

SUBJECT(S): COMPLIANCE THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLLUTION PREVENTION INITIATIVES AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR MARINE FACILITIES (P2-BMP) IN BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Historically, boat repair and maintenance activities at marine facilities located in Broward County have been conducted outdoors on the waterfront. In many cases, these practices have contributed to the discharge of wastes and contaminants to the air, surface, and ground waters of Broward County and have resulted in subsequent environmental impacts. Wastes generated by boatyard activities typically include such items as: abrasive grits, spent solvents, waste oils, wash water, paint overspray, cleaning fluids, anticorrosive compounds, paint chips and scrap metal.

Broward County recently initiated a joint party cooperative compliance program with an overall objective of preventing pollutants generated at marine facilities from entering the waterways. Another prime goal was to streamline the environmental permitting or licensing process for the industry and to consolidate local environmental regulations into an understandable and workable document.

These everyday practices which generate pollutants include activities such as painting, pressure washing, hydro-blasting, mechanical work on engines, hazardous material use and storage, bilge cleaning, welding, grinding, waxing and cleaning. Specific guidelines were developed and incorporated within the P2-BMP to encourage the elimination of hazardous material and waste water discharges into the waterways and air of Broward County.

Working with industry representatives, Broward County incorporated their input and concerns into a final document and also agreed on an implementation schedule to enhance compliance with all relevant provisions of Chapter 27. This process was facilitated by conducting open workshops and by initiating open discussion and communication regarding the concerns of all parties affected by the P2-BMP.

As a result of this initiative, the P2-BMP has enabled Broward County and the marine industry to expedite environmental regulation compliance, enhance waste minimization practices, and encourage a "Pollution Prevention" attitude throughout the marine the industry of Broward County.

Boatyard employees, independent contractors, and customers now have a better understanding of the critical role pollution prevention practices and the P2-BMP plays in protecting the natural resources of Broward County. All marinas that meet the criteria for

participation in the P2-BMP are required by Broward County to operate in accordance with these practices.

Examples of process modifications that were implemented by the marine industry to achieve compliance with the P2-BMP include:

- Catch basins or pre-treatment systems to collect and properly treat hull pressure cleaning discharges were installed to significantly reduce the amounts of heavy metals, oil and grease and other contaminants from reaching the surface waters.
- All spray painting is now conducted over an impermeable surface and a boom is available to contain any overspray on surface waters. Overspray on water is removed immediately to help reduce contaminants from reaching ground and surface waters.
- Enclosures were installed to contain sandblasting or sanding residues during bottom paint removal activities. Overspray and sanding dust have been a concern from neighboring residents and businesses. This effort has helped to reduce the number of complaints received by Broward County and has allowed boatyards to become better neighbors.
- A written hurricane plan was prepared by each facility and copies were provided to all vessel owners.
- Manatee protection signs were posted within the marinas.
- All hazardous material transfer, dispensing and mixing activities are performed in a manner which prevents any release to the environment. Such activities are now performed within a containment area.
- Petroleum and related products are stored in secure containers and within a secondary containment area.

Overall these and other innovative improvements in the operational practices at marine facilities have significantly reduced the quantity of pollutants that had previously been discharged to Broward County's waterways.

The P2-BMP has addressed and helped to resolve many environmental issues at Broward County marinas. It is also expected to have a positive impact on the economic health of the community which is supported through tourism, water sports, commercial and recreational fishing and diving.

Clean air, water and a healthy ecosystem are the fundamental components for continued economic viability of Broward County.

FURTHER INFORMATION: For further information on this topic, contact Broward County at (954)519-1260.