

North Carolina
Department of Environment & Natural Resources
Division of Air Quality
112(r) Report for EPA Fiscal Year 2000
(October 1999 - November 2000)

Submitted to EPA Region I V

This End-Of-Year report summarizes the 112(r) activities for the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Air Quality. Chemical Accident Prevention Program. In a letter dated, July 27, 2000, EPA Region 4 delegated Section 112(r) Chemical Accidental Release Prevention Program, Risk Management Program to the State of North Carolina, Division of Air Quality (NCDAQ), and Chemical Accident Prevention Program. The North Carolina 112(r) rules effective date was July 1, 2000 with citation to be found at NCAC-2D.2100.

EPA Grant(s)

The State of North Carolina received an EPA Equipment Grant in 1999 for use during accident investigations. The equipment awarded has been an invaluable tool for routine inspections and accident investigations. In fiscal year 2000, North Carolina was awarded a Chemical Preparedness and Prevention Grant from the EPA. The grant funding will be used to enhance statewide preparedness of emergency response to chemical releases at 112(r) covered stationary sources. The grant will additionally be used to support a newsletter for outreach and information sharing between industries and the emergency response community.

Training and Agreements

Training of compliance inspectors and other key individuals is ongoing by individuals attending the Accident Investigator and Chemical Process Safety Training classes. The NCDAQ is in the final drafting stages for the Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) with the Division of Water Quality, Division of Environmental Health, and the Department of Agriculture for their participation with the program. The Division of Water Quality will be inspecting the wastewater treatment facilities, while the Division of Environmental Health inspects drinking water treatment plants. The Department of Agriculture will inspect facilities still covered under the propane rule and eventually may visit facilities utilizing anhydrous ammonia. Once the MOAs are signed, facilities will fall into five-year cycle for audits and inspections.

RMP* Review Beta Test

NCDAQ participated in the Beta test in 1999/2000. The database is currently under evaluation and comparison of known regulated facilities in North Carolina.

Personnel

The NCDAQ funded a full-time staff position with the North Carolina Department of Crime Control and Public Safety (DCCPS), Division of Emergency Management. The purpose of the position is to coordinate with Local Emergency Planning Committees, Regional Response Hazardous Materials Teams and Local Emergency Management to conduct fixed facility exercises in order to evaluate and enhance community emergency preparedness. The exercises coordinated by DCCPS will better prepare local emergency responders to the hazardous they might encounter and to mitigate situations as they arise.

RMP Reviews, Inspections, and Audits

Eighteen inspections have been performed this fiscal year. These inspections have primarily been performed as training for the regional office staff. With the State now having an enforceable program effective, July 1, 2000, the regional 112(r) Task Force representatives asked that the initial violations recognized during an inspection be followed up using official Notice of Violations rather than warning letters.

Projected Activities for Fiscal Year 2001

Inspections will continue on a rotation base throughout by the state by the regions. There will be a continuous joint effort by the North Carolina Emergency Management and Division of Air Quality in conducting audits of facilities following accidental releases and inspections of facilities for compliance issues. Additionally, several exercises will be conducted at regulated facilities for training purposes for the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) and industrial facilities.

Non-Filer Initiative

The identification of non-compliant facilities will continue in fiscal year 2000/2001. The DAQ utilizes the comparison of the EPA Beta database and the database that was developed in-house by the use of the 1999 brochure mailing and enlisting support of the LEPCs, county emergency management agencies and emergency responders.

Newsletter

A newsletter for the use of public outreach and informational sharing between industries and the emergency response community will be created. The newsletter will be used to inform facilities and emergency responders of best management practices, legislative updates, lessons learned, case studies and other events that would be beneficial.

Website

The North Carolina 112(r) website is regularly updated to include EPA links and other relevant program information. The site can be found at:

<http://daq.state.nc.us/112r>