



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

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Subject: Minutes of the Environmental Management System Committee Meeting on September 16, 2009

To: ARS Tifton Location Employees

From: Tamara Snipes, Chemist/EMS Coordinator

The EMS Committee met on September 16, 2009, at 11:00 AM in the CPMRU conference room. T. Snipes, T. Strickland, T. Hendricks, K. Marchant, and J. Merriman were the committee members in attendance.

The meeting began by reviewing the status of the FY09 goals that were set in the beginning of the fiscal year. The goals were as follows: Replace mercury thermostats in federal buildings, revise the end-of-life policy for electronics, and determine diesel usage at Tifton for feasibility of biodiesel production on-site. Each goal was achieved during the year and the status will be reported to the Area Office and OMB in the end of year reports.

Earl Griffin and Beth Anderson conducted an EMS/Safety Audit during their visit in March 2009. The audit listed three minor non-conformities in the EMS section of the report. The committee reviewed the findings and found that all were closely related to or were the same as the items cited in the safety section of the audit. These items have already been addressed by the CDSO/Safety committee and required no further action by the EMS committee.

The committee members in attendance were given a list of possible goals as related to the significant aspects found in Tifton. Each was asked to review the list and come up with suggestions for possible goals for FY10. The committee will meet to discuss goal selection sometime in October as the new fiscal year gets underway. Location goals are usually due to the Area Office in late November.

It is time again for the next edition of the EMS newsletter, "The Green Gazette." Suggestions for newsletter topics can be sent to Tamara Snipes or Patty Timper. The newsletter should be complete in the next few weeks.

The next meeting of the Location EMS Committee will be tentatively scheduled for late October 2009.



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