



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

January 28, 2010

Subject: Minutes of the Environmental Management System Committee Meeting on January 27, 2010

To: ARS Tifton Location Employees

From: Tamara Snipes, Chemist/EMS Coordinator

The EMS Committee met on January 27, 2010, at 11:00 AM in the CPMRU conference room. T. Snipes, T. Strickland, T. Hendricks, K. Marchant, J. Merriman, T. Maze, R. Hornbuckle, R. Scarborough, P. Timper, and J. Yelton were the committee members in attendance.

The meeting began by discussing goals for FY2010. The possible goals discussed were to set location heating and cooling limits for all buildings, inventory buildings for possible replacement of incandescent exit signs with LED signs, collect data on all buildings for an energy usage evaluation using 2003 as a baseline year, and to do a fleet evaluation incorporating the new vehicles recently purchased by calculating MPG improvement across the fleet. Green training for purchase card holders and review/revision of current EMS policies were also discussed.

For the past few years, Beth Anderson has come down from the Area Office to provide the required annual EMS training. This year the committee has decided to produce its' own training presentation. By producing our own presentation, the training can specifically target issues and topics that are specific to our location. This will provide employees with a clear picture of their role in EMS, review policies, as well as inform them of the projects that are currently being completed. Training will be scheduled as soon as the presentation is complete.

The SAA has obtained approval to host an area wide Safety, Health, and Environmental Training Conference in response to numerous requests for training. The training will be held sometime in April 2010. The targeted audience is the Safety Officer, EMS Coordinator, Radiation Protection Specialist, and Biological Safety Officer. The last Area sponsored EMS training was in May 2005. We will be making arrangements to send several representatives from Tifton to attend this training.

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 completed and ready for distribution in the next few weeks.

The next meeting of the Location EMS Committee will be tentatively scheduled for late March 2010.



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