PENNDOT’s Strategic Environmental Management Program (SEMP)

Presentation to:

AASHTO EMS Workshop
August 2003
PENNDOT’s SEMP

- **Overview provided by** –
  - Gary Hoffman, P.E. – Deputy Secretary, Highway Administration

- **Implementation discussed by** –
  - Jim Slaugenhoup – Engineering District
    - 10 Assistant District Executive/Maintenance
SEMP – Our commitment

- PENNDOT’s program for environmental stewardship –
  - ALL employees have a responsibility for and ownership of PENNDOT’s actions, decisions, facilities, and equipment that interact with the environment.
Basis of SEMP

- SEMP began with a commitment to environmental stewardship –
  - Governor Tom Ridge’s March 1998 Green Government Executive Order.

**Key elements –**

- Incorporate “environmentally sustainable practices”
- “strive for continuous improvement in environmental performance”
- “State government to lead by example.”
- “We cannot expect more from Pennsylvania residents than we are willing to do ourselves.”
Governor Ed Rendell, who took office this past January, recommitted to the Green Government Order.

Keys –
Continued commitment demonstrates importance of program to employees and citizens. The focus on environmental stewardship, performance, and improvement facilitates continuity.
SEMP Commitment

- Green Plan Policy – 6 principles to
  - Protect the environment,
  - Prevent pollution and use resources efficiently,
  - Follow sound environmental practices in all activities,
  - Comply with requirements,
  - Continually improve, and
  - Provide measurable benefits.
SEMP Commitment (cont’d)

- Green Plan Policy –
  - Originally signed by Secretary Mallory in 2001,
  - Recently signed anew by Secretary Biehler.

Keys –
Re-signing the Green Plan Policy:
- reinforces continued management commitment to stewardship,
  - provides an event that draws attention to PENNDOT’s environmental stewardship efforts.
SEMP – What is it?

- A management and operational framework for ALL – it’s intended to:
  - Empower all employees,
  - Eventually encompass each of PENNDOT’s basic functions,
  - Provide procedures, processes, and tools that enable all employees to practice stewardship.
    - Keys are simplicity and building on best practices.
    - Challenge is to simplify the complex.
SEMP Supports other Initiatives

- Annual Business Plans – address 7 Strategic Focus Areas (SFAs)
  - Maintenance First
  - Quality of Life
  - Mobility and Access
  - Customer Focus
  - Innovation and Technology
  - Safety and Security
  - Maximize Organizational Performance

The Quality of Life SFA addresses environmental performance and issues and provides a basis for SEMP.
Other Initiatives (cont’d)

- Strategic Objectives within the Quality of Life SFA
  - Implement a strategic environmental management program (SEMP) that adopts best practices as our way of doing business.
  - Develop timely transportation plans, programs and projects that balance social, economic, and environmental concerns.
  - Implement primary initiatives of the Sound Land Use Implementation Plan.
Other Initiatives (cont’d)

- Annual Business Plans contain –
  - Actions,
  - Objectives,
  - Measures, and
  - Targets.

- Performance is set forth in and measured with Dashboards and Scorecards.

SEMP provides the structure to implement actions, objectives, and targets at all levels – not just upper management.
Other Initiatives (cont’d)

- SEMP supports and provides a means to coordinate PENNDOT Green Plan efforts –
  - Pollution Prevention/Energy Efficiency
    - Waste Elimination
  - Recycling
  - Environmental Management Information System
Other Initiatives (cont’d)

- Continual improvement –
  - Assessment of progress,
  - Identification of new opportunities,
  - Solicit environmental improvements from work force.

SEMP is based on the PLAN, DO, CHECK, ACT structure highlighted in the AASHTO EMS Process Roadmap.
Other Initiatives (cont’d)

- SEMP continual improvement cycle
Other Initiatives (cont’d)

- **Environmental streamlining**
  - Regulatory agency coordination on a routine basis.
  - Self evaluation and monitoring.
  - Stakeholder integration and communication.
  - Shorten review and approval cycles.

SEMP’s demonstrates commitment to and means to ensure environmental excellence. This shows “proof” to regulators.
Other Initiatives (cont’d)

- Environmental streamlining (cont’d)
  
  Goals –
  Stewardship and Streamlining

  Certification –
  Proof of our actions/systems

  SEMP –
  The means to meet the goal
SEMP Status

- **ISO 14001 certification** of District 10 maintenance unit SEMP.
  - Recent surveillance audit by registrar confirms that SEMP is being sustained.
- Maintenance unit SEMP implementation underway in Districts 4, 5, 11, and 12.
SEMP Status (cont’d)

- Maintenance unit SEMP focuses (initially) on –
  - Winter services,
  - Stockpile and garage operations,
  - Highway maintenance – control/prevent erosion and sediment runoff.

SEMP has provided demonstrated, measurable environmental and economic benefits.
SEMP Plans

- Plan for ISO registration of maintenance units in Districts 4, 5, 11, and 12 in 2003.
- Beginning maintenance unit SEMP implementation in 6 remaining Districts.
- Expand to Design, Construction and other Deputates as resources permit.
The Ultimate Goal and Benefit of SEMP

Change the culture of our workforce!