⊕EPA Environmental Results Program (ERP)
An Overview

What is ERP ?

The Environmental Results Program (ERP) is an innovative alternative to permitting for small business sectors that integrates compliance assistance, self-audit/certification, and statistically-based inspections and measurement to assess the environmental performance of facilities and overall sectors. ERP is a multimedia approach that replaces facility-specific State permits with industry-wide environmental performance standards and annual certifications of compliance, supplementing or serving as an alternative to States' traditional compliance assistance and inspection efforts.

ERP places accountability for environmental management on regulated facilities – regulators educate facilities about their environmental impacts and compliance obligations as well as best practices to alleviate potential adverse impacts. Facilities are then required to self-evaluate and certify compliance. By conducting "before and after" inspections and applying statistical analysis, regulators can verify compliance, measure and track environmental performance, determine priorities, and leverage limited inspection and enforcement resources.

What are the key elements of ERP?

The following three elements of ERP and their associated tools are directly linked.

- **Compliance assistance** by regulatory agencies through compliance assistance workshops and plain language workbooks and checklists

- **Self-certification** of compliance by businesses

- **Performance measurement** through baseline inspections and post-certification inspections at randomly selected facilities, as well as through targeted inspections and sector-specific indicators.

To which sectors is ERP being applied?

Thirteen States and the District of Columbia have initiated or are implementing ERP in one or more of the following sectors:

- Autobody/ Repair
- Dry cleaning
- Printing
- Animal feed operations
- Autosalvage yards

- Photoprocessing
- Dental facilities/ Mercury
- Underground storage tanks/ Retail gasoline sales

Which States have initiated ERPs?

- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Florida
- Georgia
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts

- Michigan
- Minnesota
- New Hampshire
- Rhode Island
- Tennessee
- Vermont
- Wisconsin

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EPA Assistance

EPA provides a range of technical and financial resources to support ERP projects. This assistance is available through seven mechanisms:

1. **State Innovation Grant Program** – www.epa.gov/innovation/stategrants;

2. **OSWER Innovation Pilots Program** – www.epa.gov/oswer/iwg/announcement.htm;

3. **Project planning through contractor assistance;**

4. **Invitational travel support for state-to-state exchange of experience and technical knowledge;**

5. **Technical document preparation** (e.g., guidance, workbooks, fact sheets, contractor support);

6. **Coordination among EPA Headquarters and Regional Offices;** and

7. **ERP website** – www.epa.gov/permits/erp.

A detailed list of State ERP projects and contacts is available on the ERP website.

Publications

The publications listed here provide more illustration and education on ERP and its applications. These and other helpful resources are available on the ERP website.

- ERP User's Guide for Government Agencies

- A Generic Guide to Statistical Aspects of Developing an Environmental Results Program

- ERP fact sheets focusing on states' progress in implementing ERP in specific sectors:

  o Underground Storage Tanks
  o Automotive Repair Shops
  o Dry Cleaners

- EPA National Model UST ERP Workbook in paper and electronic versions.

- Guide to Data Management for the Environmental Results Program.

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Environmental Results Program Website

www.epa.gov/permits/erp

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