



United States Department of Agriculture
Research, Education and Economy
Agricultural Research Service

September 28, 2009

SUBJECT: Environmental Management System Policy

TO: Location Scientists, Staff and Students

FROM: Dr. Carroll Vance, St. Paul Location Coordinator

Carroll Vance
09/27/09

In accordance with Executive Order 13423, Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management, and per the USDA, REE, ARS, Environmental Management System Policy Statement dated June 28, 2004, and the Midwest Area Environmental Management System Policy dated December 18, 2008, the St. Paul location has established and implemented an Environmental Management System.

Research Mission of the Three Units of the St. Paul Location

The mission of the Cereal Disease Laboratory is to reduce losses in wheat, oat, and barley to major diseases including leaf rust, stem rust, and Fusarium head blight.

The mission of the Plant Science Research Unit at St. Paul, MN, is to develop new knowledge that expands our understanding of the fundamental processes controlling increased production, improved quality, and enhanced use of alfalfa, oat, and wheat and to utilize this knowledge to develop germplasm and crop management schemes that lead to increased farm profitability and sustainability of the nation's resource base.

The mission of the Soil and Water Management Research Unit is to understand the impact of agricultural management practices, including tillage and residue management, on ground and surface water quality and on crucial soil properties, particularly soil carbon content.

EMS Goals and Objectives

Our EMS goal is to systematically identify and actively manage environmental aspects that are present at the St. Paul Location. It is our objective, at a minimum, to fully comply with related Federal, State and local regulations applying to these aspects, as well as policies and programs specific to the University of Minnesota, our host and partner in this location.



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Specific objectives are to:

- protect the environment;
- reduce, reuse and recycle solid waste;
- reduce hazardous waste disposal quantities and costs;
- minimize releases to the environment;
- improve interaction with environmental regulators; and
- improve community relations.

Activities:

- follow policies outlined in the St. Paul Location Safety, Health and Environmental Management Program as endorsed by top management, stating the Location's commitments;
- support the Location Safety Committee, members of which represent the widely varied research areas in the three Location Units;
- refine existing research goals and objectives by identifying impacts, legal requirements, objectives, and improvements;
- implement activities and operations as outlined in the Safety Program (i.e., training, recycling, proactive procurement, and activities documentation) including conservation and pollution prevention practices. Due to our location on a major research university campus, the St. Paul Location is monitored for safety, hazardous waste removal and recycling by University Environmental Health and Safety staff.
- monitor and measure the status of Safety Program objectives, the system, and procedures; and
- management review of EMS performance by senior management.

The Environmental Management System will be reviewed by September 30, 2009, and annually thereafter in a coordinated effort by the Location Safety Committee and Location Research Leaders to ensure continual improvement.

Enclosures

cc:

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