Rhode Island’s Lean Efforts to Streamline Stormwater Enforcement

Joseph B. Haberek, P.E.
Supervising Sanitary Engineer
RI Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Resources
Introduction to the RIPDES Program

- Program Universe Overview
  - Individual and Non-Stormwater – 23 Major and 68 Minor (includes 10 NCCW & 11 RGP Permits)
  - Stormwater – 41 MS4, 172 MSGP, ~100 CGP

- Staffing
  - 7 Engineers
  - 2 Administrative
What is Lean?

• Lean principles were derived from the Japanese manufacturing industry.
• A set of tools to streamline processes, improve outcomes, and reduce waste.
• DEM undertook a Department-wide lean initiative in 2012 to streamline permitting processes and improve the level of service we provide to the public.
• The DEM Lean Team has facilitated lean events in many of DEM’s programs and is implementing a Permit Application Center to receive permit applications.
• Process Documentation
  ➢ Master Documents
  ➢ Standardized Spreadsheet
  ➢ SOPs and Checklists
• Workplace Organization
  ➢ Standardized Meeting Schedules Based on QNCR
  ➢ Documentation of Enforcement Decisions
• Due to increasing inspection requirements to meet CMS goals, we need to “do more with less”
• Streamline the stormwater enforcement process
“Fast Track” Process

Traditional NOV

- OWR Referral to OCI
- OCI prepare draft NOV
- Draft NOV sent to OLS
- OLS consult with Director’s Office
- Approval given to OCI
- OCI issue NOV

“Fast Track” NOV (Standard NOV approved)

- OWR Referral to OCI
- OCI prepare standard NOV
- OCI issue NOV
Benefits of the “Fast Track” Enforcement Process

• Consistency
  • Standard inspection/referral forms

• Clarity
  • Enforcement Decision Flow Chart

• Speed
  • “Pre-approved” NOV language and penalties
  • A system to do more with less, reduce waste and non-value added work
Next Steps?

- Apply to other types of permits
- Expand to other types of violations
My Contact Information:

Joseph B. Haberek, PE
Supervising Sanitary Engineer
RIDEM – Office of Water Resources
RIPDES Permitting Program
Tel. (401) 222-4700 ext. 7715
Email: joseph.haberek@dem.ri.gov
Questions?