



News Release

1110 West Washington Street • Phoenix, Arizona 85007 • <http://azdeq.gov>

Date: March 21, 2005

Contacts: Cortland Coleman, Communications Director: (602) 771-2215

ADEQ Director Owens Announces “Performance Track” Program to Encourage Environmental Stewardship by Companies

PHOENIX – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director Steve Owens announced today that ADEQ is launching the Arizona Performance Track, a program to encourage and reward businesses that are good environmental stewards.

“The Performance Track program is a voluntary partnership between ADEQ, the air quality departments of Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal counties and businesses that recognizes and rewards environmental leadership,” Owens said. “The Performance Track Program is designed to encourage companies to go above and beyond the minimum requirements of the law.”

Owens said that to be eligible to participate in the program, a company must, among other things:

- Have a history of compliance, including no criminal violations in the previous five years and no significant civil violations in the past three years.
- Have a comprehensive environmental management system and conduct inspections according to an ADEQ-approved checklist.
- Have a pollution prevention program, engage in community outreach, commit to purchase products and services with low environmental impacts and provide preferred-vendor status to other Performance Track members.

Owens said that companies participating in the Arizona Performance Track program will receive benefits in recognition of their commitment to environmental protection. Among the incentives for participation: reduced inspection frequency, advance notice before an NOC (Notice of Opportunity to Correct) or NOV (Notice of Violation) is issued, flexibility of permit conditions, consolidation and reduction of reporting requirements, multi-media inspections and permitting, annual meetings with ADEQ executives, participation in pilot projects and the development of future incentives and recognition on ADEQ’s Web site.

Performance Track 2-2-2

“The program is a win-win for ADEQ, the regulated community, and the people of Arizona,” Owens stated. “It is based on the premise that government should complement existing regulatory programs with new tools and strategies that not only protect our families and the environment, but also provide incentives for companies that want to do the right thing.”

"We especially encourage small businesses to take advantage of this innovative program, as it can be of significant benefit to them," said Bob Kard, the newly appointed Director of the Maricopa County Air Quality Department.

Arizona's Performance Track is based on the federal Environmental Protection Agency's National Environmental Performance Track, which started in June 2000 and includes more than 350 companies in 46 states and Puerto Rico. Five Arizona companies are current members of EPA's version of Performance Track: the Grand Canyon National Park, Honeywell, Motorola, Xanterra Parks & Resorts at Grand Canyon National Park and Xanterra South Rim, and Verkamps, Inc.

Arizona's program was shaped with input from the Arizona Environmental Strategic Alliance, which includes several of Arizona's major corporations and other members of the regulated community.