

Dept. of Facilities and Environmental Services	Albemarle County
Environmental Quarterly Report	Q1-FY20

This report includes environmental program updates for July, August, and September 2019.

Local Climate Action Planning:

- Staff continue to work with partners and stakeholders to develop a Phase I Climate Action Plan. The weekly public meetings called Climate Mondays, which began in May, culminated in two wrap-up sessions on July 22nd and 29th with draft strategies and actions being presented to the public.
- An online response form was made available to the public from August 14th to August 25th to allow for an additional opportunity for the public to comment on the draft strategies and actions.
- On September 18th, FES staff presented an update to the Board on the climate action planning process, including suggested strategies and sections generated by the greenhouse gas emission sector work teams and the general public
- The County’s agreement with the Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP) for FY20 was renewed for the continued financial support of LEAP’s home energy audit program.
- The County – and other local partners – also began financially supporting a new program initiated by LEAP. \$40,000 is being provided to support hiring and training a crew to perform weatherization improvements to mobile homes and to support the costs of necessary equipment. This program will be piloted in the Southwood Mobile Home Park. In the future, LEAP anticipates providing this weatherization service for low-income communities throughout the County.
- Staff anticipate returning to the Board with a draft Climate Action Plan in the coming months.

Drainage Infrastructure Management:

- H2O Pipe Works, our video assessment contractor, assessed approximately 32,000 feet of stormwater pipes and culverts. We anticipate that they will complete this second bundle of assessment work – for a total of approximately 50,000 feet – by the middle of November.
- We are poised to have Frazier Engineering – a North Carolina firm specializing in infrastructure repair – review this latest bundle of video assessment data. They will evaluate all infrastructure issues, prioritize needed work, provide scope of work summaries, and develop cost estimates. They will also work with staff to identify the most critical issues from the first and second assessment bundles to be addressed through a capital repair project using funds appropriated for this purpose.
- Staff conducted new inspections of 176 private and public stormwater management facilities to ensure proper operation and maintenance by the owners.

Water Quality Protection:

- Staff from the Environmental Services Division and the Parks and Recreation Department selected Solitude – a lake management consultant – to assist the County in determining whether we should alter the current strategies at the Chris Greene Lake to manage harmful algae blooms. Work with this consultant will begin during the second quarter.
- Staff prepared and submitted the County’s MS4 Program Annual Report to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). This plan summarizes activities performed by the County during the 2019 fiscal year to comply with requirements of this State mandate.
- Staff closed a \$191,000 matching grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) by successfully completing various project elements, including an assessment of retrofit opportunities, the design and construction of the River Run stream restoration project, and the development and dissemination of lessons learned.

Environmental Compliance:

- Staff from local government and public schools revised the Safer Chemical procedure to clarify expiration dates, signage, and reporting. The revised standard operating procedure (SOP) is included as an attachment to this report.
- No Safer Chemical Waivers were submitted in this quarter.
- The following Parks and Recreation well water systems successfully met Department of Health (DOH) water quality testing standards for bacteria:
 - Ivy Creek Nature Area, Chris Green Lake Park, Greenwood Community Center, Beaver Creek Park, and Walnut Creek Park
- Mint Springs Park and Simpson Park had reports of unacceptable bacteriological results. These issues were resolved through standard DOH protocols and re-testing for compliance.
- The Regional Firearms Training Facility waterworks system received a Notice of Violation (NOV) for construction without a permit (installation of water filtration system). The construction as-builts, stamped by Professional Engineer, were submitted to DOH to comply with the NOV.
- Yancey School Community Center waterworks systems successfully met DOH water quality testing standards.

Solid Waste and Recycling:

- The Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee has been meeting monthly as scheduled. At the July meeting, Anne Johnson was elected as the new Chairperson of the committee.

Abbreviations

DEQ – Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

DOH – Virginia Department of Health

LEAP - Local Energy Alliance Program

MS4 – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

NFWF – National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

NOV – Notice of Violations

SOP – Standard Operating Procedures

Attachments:

Attachment A - Safer Chemicals Standard Operating Procedures

County of Albemarle – Local Government			Subject: Safer Chemical Management Procedure		
Document No.: SOP-CHEM-01	Issue Date: 07-28-2008	Last Revised: 10/14/2019	Page: 1 of 5	Prepared By: SET/LAC	Approved By: L. Stewart/B. Crickenberger

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure a safer approach to the selection and application of custodial, grounds and pest control operations within the County of Albemarle, as the County aims to minimize chemical usage to the greatest extent practicable in its day-to-day operations and activities. This procedure is intended to be implemented as part of the County's and Schools' respective Environmental Management Policies.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

- A. *Carcinogens* refer to any substance or agent that can cause cancer. Compound listed in the latest edition of the Annual Report on Carcinogens, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Toxicology Program as known or reasonably anticipated to be carcinogenic.
- B. A *disinfectant* is used on hard inanimate surfaces and its objective is to destroy or irreversibly inactivate infectious fungi and bacteria but not necessarily their spores. Disinfectant products are divided into two major types: hospital and general use. Hospital type disinfectants are the most critical to infection control and are used on medical and dental instruments, floors, walls, bed linens, toilet seats, and other surfaces. General disinfectants are the major source of products used in households, swimming pools, and water purifiers. (EPA: Pesticides – Antimicrobial Pesticide Products Factsheet; <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/antimic.htm>)
- C. *Endocrine disruptors* are exogenous substances that act like hormones in the endocrine system and disrupt the physiologic function of endogenous hormones.
- D. *Integrated Pest Management (IPM)* is a pest control strategy that promotes the use of a variety of tactics including pest-resistant cultivars and biological, cultural, and physical controls. Pesticides are a control tactic employed in IPM but are only used when needed. When a pest problem is identified and non-chemical means are exhausted, only the least toxic and most effective pesticide is used.
- E. A *mutagen* is a physical or chemical agent that changes the genetic information (usually DNA) of an organism and thus increases the frequency of mutations above the natural background level.
- F. A *neurotoxin* is a substance that is poisonous to nerve tissue (i.e., lead, mercury).
- G. A *teratogen* is any medication, chemical, infectious disease, or environmental agent that might interfere with the normal development of a fetus and result in the loss of a pregnancy, a birth defect, or a pregnancy complication.
- H. A *sanitizer* is used to reduce, but not necessarily eliminate, microorganisms from the inanimate environment to levels considered safe as determined by public health codes or regulations. Sanitizers include food contact and non-food contact products. Sanitizing rinses for surfaces such as dishes and cooking utensils, as well as equipment and utensils found in dairies, food-processing plants, and eating and drinking establishments comprise the food contact Sanitizers. These products are important because they are used on sites where consumable food products are placed and stored. Non-food contact surface sanitizers include carpet sanitizers, air sanitizers, laundry additives, and in-tank toilet bowl sanitizers. (EPA: Pesticides – Antimicrobial Pesticide Products Factsheet; <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/antimic.htm>)
- I. *Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)* are gases emitted from certain solids or liquids, which may have adverse health effects (i.e., paints, varnishes, pesticides, cleaning supplies). (<http://www.epa.gov/iaq/voc.html>)

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3.0 PROCEDURES

A. Custodial Operations

Custodial categories include multipurpose cleaners (e.g. surface cleaners, floor cleaners), specialty cleaners (e.g., floor strippers, floor finishes and glass cleaners) and disinfectants.

1. Multipurpose and Specialty Cleaners

- a. Products used shall be certified by Green Seal, Green Guard, Environmental Choice, or Design for the Environment (DfE).
- b. If a product does not have such certification, the product shall not contain carcinogens, mutagens, teratogens, endocrine disruptors, or neurotoxins, and contain low or no volatile organic compounds (VOC).

2. Sanitization and Disinfection

- a. High-touch areas will be routinely cleaned or sanitized as deemed appropriate by the manager overseeing custodial operations for the facility.
- b. Disinfectants shall be used in response to blood-borne pathogen or bodily fluid incidents, in response to viral outbreaks, or as directed by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).

B. Grounds Care

“Grounds care” includes both the management of grounds and outdoor pests.

1. Grounds care departments will continually evaluate the feasibility of changing traditional practices in the interest of eliminating chemical usage (e.g., manually pulling weeds).
2. If it is determined that a chemical application is necessary, then organic or biologically-based alternatives shall be used, with the following exceptions:
 - a. Treatment of stumps of woody invasive species and poison ivy
 - b. Use of non-selective herbicides for spot-treatments of skinned areas of baseball infields and warning tracks as needed
 - c. One-time application of broad-leaf pre-emergent herbicide to reduce broadleaf weeds, so that Bermuda grass can compete with crabgrass for establishment of a new field
 - d. Emergency spot treatment for grub worms
 - e. Spot treatment of parking lots, along rip-rap and in ditches
3. Any County employee or contractor applying pesticides on County or School Board-owned property must hold a current Registered Technician or Commercial Applicator License as issued by Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) except as noted below:
 - a. Incidental use of a pesticide by employees of local, state, or federal governmental agencies who are not registered technicians or commercial applicators is permitted under 2VAC20-51-60.
 - b. Incidental use employees will from time to time make incidental use of ready-to-use pesticides that are properly registered in Virginia. For purposes of this section, “incidental use” means the use of a pesticide on an occasional, isolated, site-specific basis in order to avoid immediate personal harm from stinging or biting insects. This exemption from certification does not include regular, routine, or maintenance applications of pesticides or any use of restricted-use pesticides.
4. Each application of pesticide or herbicide must be documented on the “Pesticide/Herbicide Tracking Log” (Appendix A), including the amount applied, active ingredient and application location. Tracking logs will be maintained by the Environmental Compliance Managers.

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5. Immediately prior to application of a herbicide for which a waiver was granted, a caution sign (see Appendix C) will be posted and remain so for 24-hours after application or as required by VDACS, whichever is longer.

C. Indoor Pest Management. Refer to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program, SOP-IPM-01

D. Employee Safety

1. County employees will have access to Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all products used. Employees shall follow all guidelines and instructions listed on SDS, including personal protective equipment (PPE) recommendations.
2. Hazard Communication (HAZCOM) training shall be provided to all employees before use of any product requiring a SDS.

E. Annual Audit

An annual audit of this procedure will be conducted by the Environmental Compliance Managers. An audit report will be presented to the Board annually for review.

F. Waiver Process

If a situation arises requiring the use of a product that does not meet the above specifications (e.g., not Green Seal certified), then a waiver must be applied for and approved before a product may be purchased or used:

1. The Waiver Request (Appendix B) shall be submitted to the Environmental Compliance Manager for the schools or local government, as appropriate, and shall include: the purpose of the requested chemical, the SDS, the area where the chemical will be used, the anticipated frequency and duration of use, application technique, and anticipated usage amount.
2. If a waiver is granted, the written waiver will include an expiration date, and alternatives consistent with the procedure must be explored when the waiver expires. All granted waivers will be presented with the annual audit results to the Board.
3. Any Waiver Requests granted will be provided to the Board on a quarterly basis. If no waivers were granted during the reporting period, a statement to that effect will be included in the report.
4. All granted waivers will be posted on the County's website.

G. Exemptions

Exemptions to the waiver process include (1) emergency situations that could impact human health or safety, and (2) practices required in order to maintain insurance policies. If an emergency situation requiring chemical use arises that is not identified in this section, the request for use of a product or practice must go through the Waiver Process, as described in Section F. The following are exemptions to Sections A, B, and C of this procedure:

1. Treatment of bees, wasps or hornets
2. Periodic termite treatment or other insurance-related pest control requirements

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Appendix A

Pesticide / Herbicide / Fertilizer Application Records

Date	Time of Application (Indicate AM or PM)	Site	Pesticide/ Herbicide/ Fertilizer?	Brand Name (Be as Specific as Possible)	Amount Applied (gallons - otherwise indicate units)	Type of Area Treated	Size Area Treated	Treating For?	Re-entry Time? (N/A if not applicable)	Name of Applicator

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Appendix B – Waiver Request Form

Safer Chemical Management Procedure
County of Albemarle, VA

Please attach SDS for all requested products.

General Information:

Date: _____

Name of Requester: _____

Department: _____

Details of Request:

Purpose of Application (be specific about what is being treated): _____

Alternatives Considered (List all alternatives considered in lieu of the product for which a waiver is being requested and justification for their rejection. Attach subject matter expert letter concurring there is no viable alternative.)

Name of Product(s): _____

Name of Manufacturer(s): _____

Active Ingredient(s): _____

Anticipated Amount (provide units): _____

Anticipated Duration and Frequency of Application: _____

Application Technique: _____

Waiver Request Reviewer(s):

Date Printed: 10/18/2019

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Local Government ECM

Request Granted:

Yes

No

If No, Reason: _____

If yes, Expiration Date: _____

Date Granted: _____ EM Signature(s): _____

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HERBICIDE APPLICATION IN PROGRESS

Application Date : _____

Product: _____

**Contact: Albemarle County Facilities and Environmental Services,
Public Works Division 434-296-5816**

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HERBICIDE APPLICATION IN PROGRESS

Application Date : _____

Product: _____

Contact: Albemarle County Parks and Recreation Department

434-296-5844