Guidance for Worksheet 7 – Identifying Opportunities

The search for pollution prevention opportunities is central to the planning process. As with process mapping, the best way to identify opportunities is to involve a group of individuals most familiar with a given process. Such a group can respond to the singular characteristics of the process as well as the culture of the company. There are many techniques that are useful for generating ideas - from very specific root cause analysis to free-flowing brainstorming sessions. The goal is to identify one or several opportunities applicable to a priority waste stream or product/chemical that can be evaluated later for technical and economic feasibility.

There are many good sources of information about pollution prevention opportunities that you probably already use, including vendors, trade association articles and various industry magazines, workshops and trade shows.

Use the resources shown in Appendix C. If there is a chemical or process that you want to focus on, the Environmental Assistance Office can help with research.

Use Worksheet 7 to show any opportunities that will be evaluated during the planning cycle. The overriding concept in evaluating pollution prevention opportunities is that source reduction measures should be looked at first for feasibility, followed by recycling measures. Treatment and disposal management strategies are not considered pollution prevention.

**Example Source Reduction Strategies:**

*Material Substitution:* switch to water-borne coatings in place of solvent-based ones.

*Equipment Upgrade*: add hardware to more efficiently apply raw materials in-process.

*Improved Operation and Maintenance*: adopt written Standard Operating Procedures for cleaning equipment to minimize solvent use.

*Product Reformulation*: switch to product components that don’t require finishing.

*Process Change*: work with customer (if necessary) to eliminate unnecessary cleaning step or clean using hot water only.

Worksheet 7- Opportunities, by Priority

Identify pollution prevention opportunities to be evaluated and the associated process for each. Are the opportunities that will be evaluated better described as source reduction or recycling?

**Source Reduction Initiatives:**

*Enter text here*

**Recycling Initiatives:**

*Enter text here*