

## **NAS NORTH ISLAND - NAVY REGION SOUTHWEST NAVY ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

### **POLLUTION PREVENTION**

#### **RECYCLABLE ABSORBANT PADS**

##### **LEAD ACTIVITY**

Naval Air Station North Island (NAS North Island)

##### **STATUS**

Active

##### **MISSION**

To reduce the overall cost of the purchase and disposal costs of standard non-recyclable spill absorbent pads and mats and the associated waste generated from these materials.

##### **REQUIREMENT**

California law regarding absorbent materials was dramatically changed when senate bill 419 (SB419) was signed into law in 1993. SB419 is part of the California Health and Safety Code and can be found in section 25144.6. SB419 allows reusable textile absorbents to be exempt from many requirements pertaining to hazardous waste. The following is a further breakdown of this requirement for generators:

- The absorbent must be a reusable soiled textile material. A reusable textile material means textile items, including but not limited to, shop towels, uniforms, gloves, and linens and towels which may become soiled with hazardous waste during commercial or industrial use, and are made reusable by laundering or comparable methods of cleaning.
- The materials or the management of the materials must not otherwise be regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the federal act.
- The materials must not be used to clean up or control a spill or release that is required to be reported to any state or federal agency.
- No hazardous waste can be added after the materials original use.
- No free liquids as defined by section 66260.10 of Title 22 of the CCR (i.e. free liquids readily separate from solid portion of waste), can be released during transportation or storage of the materials.
- The facility laundering or cleaning the materials must maintain records of the date, type, and quantities by piecework or weight of the materials collected and laundered.
- The facility laundering or cleaning the materials must prepare a contingency plan which specifies procedures for handling both onsite and offsite emergencies involving the materials, and employees are training in it's execution.

**Note:** The Health and Safety Code also provides additional requirements that apply to the commercial laundry facility cleaning the reusable textile materials that are not listed here.

## **DESCRIPTION**

Helicopter Squadron – 10 (HS-10) has volunteered to act as a test site for the use of “reusable absorbents”. The absorbents provided in this project were purchased from M.L Winters Industrial Cleaning of Pico Rivera, California. The absorbent materials are made of a special textile material with high absorption rates for oils and the strength and durability needed to hold up to the dry cleaning process. The primary purpose of this project is to identify if whether the use of reusable textile absorbents are a cost effective way for handling the absorbent needs of a typical industrial activity.

## **BENEFITS**

- Reusable textile absorbents are exempt from hazardous waste generator fees connected with the waste absorbent materials.
- Reusable textile absorbents are exempt from hazardous waste manifesting and other hazardous waste transportation requirements.
- Reusable textile absorbents are exempt from requirements to use certified hazardous waste haulers.
- Reusable textile absorbents are exempt from requirements to use permitted hazardous waste TSD facilities.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS/CURRENT STATUS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
JAN 2002	Commenced Pilot Project

## **FUTURE PLAN OF ACTION & MILESTONES**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
AUG 2002	Pilot Project Complete
OCT 2002	Pilot Project Report Submitted
JAN 2003	Technology exported to various commands

## **COLLABORATION/TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**

A collaboration effort was initiated between M.L. Winters Industrial Cleaning, LLC (the vendor), Helicopter Squadron 10 at Naval Air Station North Island, and the Navy Environmental Leadership Program.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- California Code of Regulations
- Information Package from M.L. Winters Technical Manual

## **RELATED GOVERNMENT INTERNET SITES**

None Applicable

**RELATED NAVY GUIDEBOOK REQUIREMENTS**

None Applicable

*UPDATED: 01/23/02*