

SUNY Geneseo Waste Minimization Program

I. Program Description

In 1994, SUNY Geneseo initiated a chemical reduction program. The intent was to eliminate out-dated and unused products and chemicals from the campus, thereby reducing the hazards to campus personnel and need for emergency chemical clean-up and/or disposal projects.

Other campus waste elimination programs included the replacement of all PCB-containing transformers and switches and the clean-up of any PCB spills, and the removal of all hexavalent chromium containing brine from the Hockey Rink (80 Tons removed summer 2000).

The campus also has a very extensive Recycling Program and utilizes the Universal Waste Recycling option for fluorescent bulbs and batteries.

The amounts of hazardous waste generated by campus activities is quite small (approximately 2400 pounds in 2000). This amount should continue to decline as less toxic chemical options are employed whenever possible by faculty and students.. "Free Trial Offers" of chemicals and/or products have also been eliminated as a common practice. Any products purchased are done so with the intent of being used consumptive; large volume purchases must be justified.

II. Responsibilities

The Environmental Health and Safety Department will maintain records of the types and volumes of hazardous waste generated each year as required by RCRA regulations. Records of solid waste generation are maintained by the Department of Facilities Services.

III. Waste Stream Descriptions

Typical SUNY Geneseo operations and activities generate the following types of hazardous waste:

- Lab Packs of waste laboratory and art studio chemicals.
- Spill wastes
- Paint and Thinner Wastes
- Parts Cleaning Solvents

SUCF activities on the SUNY Geneseo campus will generate other wastes specific to project activities.

IV. Program Review

In 1994, a goal for waste volume was set at 0.25 lbs/student.

Typical campus activities for 1999 generated 0.5 lbs/student, more than one-half that amount from Art Studio waste trap cleaning. Waste elimination projects conducted by campus departments and off-site contractors continue to generate wastes in addition to the amount generated by typical campus activities.

These waste elimination projects and programs are essential to good waste management practices and employee safety and will continue to be an integral portion of the total campus waste management program.

Purchasing reviews have all but eliminated P-listed waste generation. In 1999, the campus generated only 5 pounds of acute hazardous wastes. The actual amount was less than one pound, however, the contractor was required to use minimum recorded amounts on the manifests.

Waste elimination programs in the foreseeable future include:

- Chemicals reviewed for suitability of use as the Biology Department is relocated into the new Science Facility
- Retirement of some science department faculty

This program will continue to be reviewed by the Department of Environmental Health and Safety upon completion of each Annual Report or annual waste summary to determine success in reducing volumes of hazardous waste generated.

SUNY Geneseo Campus Hazardous Waste (pounds per student)

