



Compliance Assistance Success Story

Meeting the Needs of Amish Communities

Challenge

Ohio has a significant number of Amish communities that include various small businesses owned and operated by their members. Given their values and lifestyle, a common regulatory compliance challenge for the Amish is electronic access to regulatory information, forms and reporting tools.

Solution

To respond to the communities' unique challenges, Ohio EPA's Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention (OCAPP) created specialized outreach tools and modified their approach to business owners. OCAPP's efforts included a postcard-based assistance request form to help Amish facilities more easily request technical assistance and better communicate with Ohio EPA. Ohio EPA inspectors share these postcards during inspections at Amish-owned businesses so the owners and employees have an easy, standard way to request assistance at preferred times and dates.

OCAPP staff routinely meet with the Amish-owned businesses, assist them with completing permit applications and other required documents and then hand-deliver the completed documents to the appropriate regulatory division in Ohio EPA. When a permit is finalized, OCAPP staff hand-deliver a copy of the permit to the business owner, and explain the permit in detail, going over all the operating and recordkeeping requirements in the permit.

Although these specialized outreach efforts take time, the benefits to the community and business owners are evident - in many cases, helping to avoid future violations.

Resources

Each year, OCAPP helps thousands of businesses with their environmental compliance needs. OCAPP is a free, confidential resource for Ohio businesses that need help with Ohio EPA regulations. OCAPP conducts more than 200 site visits annually to help with permit applications and other Ohio EPA-related records.

This is just one example of how Ohio EPA's compliance assistance services help businesses meet Ohio EPA requirements, reduce potential liability and save money through more environmentally friendly practices. For more information about OCAPP's services, visit epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/assst.aspx or contact our toll-free hotline at (800) 329-7518.

Compliance Assistance Services

OCAPP provides free and confidential assistance to help businesses comply with Ohio's environmental requirements. These services include:

- a toll-free compliance assistance hotline (800) 329-7518 staffed with environmental specialists 8-5 Monday through Friday;
- assistance completing and understanding Ohio EPA forms and permit applications;
- easy-to-understand industry-specific compliance information;
- a quarterly newsletter and monthly email update with information about the latest regulations, publications and training events;
- workshops and webinars; and
- on-site compliance assessments to help identify and maintain environmental compliance.