

**2004 INNOVATIONS AWARDS PROGRAM**  
**Application Form**

1. **Program Name** Ohio Oil & Gas Emergency Management Website
2. **Administering Agency** Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mineral Resources Management (DMRM)
3. **Contact Person (Name & Title)** Scott Kell, Deputy Chief
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7. **E-Mail Address** [Scott.Kell@dnr.state.oh.us](mailto:Scott.Kell@dnr.state.oh.us)
8. **Please provide a two-sentence description of the program.**  
The Ohio Oil and Gas Emergency Management Website provides users (oil & gas industry, ODNR, Ohio EPA and local Emergency Responders) with immediate access to up-to-date information on oil and gas well ownership, emergency contacts, location, oil storage capacity, production history and other data necessary to respond to an oil spill, gas leak or well fire emergency. The website includes a decision tree to enable industry responders to identify all parties that they must notify to fulfill federal, state and local reporting requirements when a spill has occurred, and satisfies all Community-Right-To-Know (CRTK) reporting requirements, relieving oil and gas well owners of burdensome paper-reporting requirements.
9. **How long has this program been operational (month and year)?**  
The Oil and Gas Emergency Management Website has been operational since October 2000. HB 94, the 2001 budget bill, authorized the website as a replacement for paper reporting requirements for the CRTK Program.
10. **Why was the program created? (What problem[s] or issue[s] was it designed to address?)**  
The Website was designed to: 1.) Improve response times to oil and gas well emergencies by oil and gas well owners, state regulatory personnel and local emergency responders to reduce public health and environmental risks. 2.) Facilitate full compliance with spill reporting requirements, and 3.) Eliminate burdensome CRTK paper reporting requirements while providing a more efficient, convenient and comprehensive information system for local officials. Under the paper-based system, records were difficult to access and out-of-date by up to three years. One fire department official described the reams of paper records as his own fire hazard.
11. **Describe the specific activities and operations of the program in chronological order.**
  - 1.) The website was developed in 1999 by Argon National Lab through a U.S. Dept.

of Energy Grant to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. 2.) In 2001, HB 94 became effective. As a result oil and gas well owners no longer file copies of hazardous material inventories and site maps, while firefighters and other emergency responders no longer search through boxes of records prior to responding to a spill, fire or oilfield emergency. 3.) Mike McCormac of the DMRM provides training to State and County Emergency Response personnel. Response has been extremely positive.

**12. Why is the program a new and creative approach or method?**

This website is a first of its kind and serves as a national model for the other 28 states with oil and gas production operations.

**13. What were the program's start-up costs? (Provide detail about specific purchases for this program, staffing needs and other financial expenditures, as well as existing materials, technology and staff already in place).**

The USDOE Development Grant was for \$100,000. ODNR spent \$90,000 to complete the project.

**14. What are the program's annual operational costs?**

The annual cost to host and maintain the website on a server at the Ohio State University is \$2750.00.

**15. How is the program funded?**

The ODNR is required by law to maintain and update the website and linked oil and gas well database. The ODNR's oil and gas regulatory program is funded primarily by oil and gas severance taxes and permitting fees.

**16. Did this program require the passage of legislation, executive order or regulations? If YES, please indicate the citation number.**

House Bill 94 (2001)

**17. What equipment, technology and software are used to operate and administer this program?**

- Web Server managed through Ohio State University
- Cold Fusion Software

**18. To the best of your knowledge, did this program originate in your state? If YES, please indicate the innovator's name, present address and telephone number.**

Yes. The proposal to use Ohio's oil and gas well database to replace CRTK paper Reporting requirements was mine. Rick Simmers, the DMRM North Region Supervisor, developed the concept of the Emergency Response Website. Tom Stewart of the Ohio Oil and Gas Association advocated the amendment of Ohio CRTK law. Mike McCormac, a DMRM Geologist, trains county and state emergency management officials to use the website.

**19. Are you aware of similar programs in other states? If YES, which ones and how does this program differ?**

No other state has a similar system.

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**20. Has the program been fully implemented? If NO, what actions remain to be taken?**

Yes

**21. Briefly evaluate (pro and con) the program's effectiveness in addressing the defined problem[s] or issue[s]. Provide tangible examples.**

Pros:

Industry Users: 1. Facilities compliance with complex spill reporting requirements.  
2. Eliminates burdensome paperwork filing requirements. (Every three years, owners submitted chemical and facility inventory forms and maps for each well (180,000+ reports) to OEPA, the local fire department and the county Emergency Planning Commission.)

Ohio EPA: 1. Less paperwork to process.  
2. Well inventory increased 50% from approximately 40,000 reported wells to the full universe (60,000).  
3. Increased oil and gas industry fees for less work.

Fire Departments: 1. Immediate access to up-to-date well and ownership records.  
2. Elimination of paper filing system or boxed records.  
3. Ownership records are updated every week. (Previously, Approximately 25% of all wells would be transferred during the three-year reporting cycle.)

LEPC: 1. Immediate access to up-to-date wells and ownership records.  
2. LEPC can electronically verify whether all owners with wells in their jurisdictional county have been submitted required fees.

ODNR/DMRM: 1. Satisfaction of job well done.  
2. Positive working relationship with regulated industry.

Cons:

None

**22. How has the program grown and/or changed since its inception?**

The use of the website to satisfy CRTK reporting requirements was added in 2001.

**23. What limitations or obstacles might other states expect to encounter if they attempt to adopt this program?**

1. State users would need to purchase and support Cold Fusion Software.
2. States would need a comprehensive oil and gas well database such as RBDMS (currently 23 of 28 oil and gas producing states are using RBDMS.)

Add space as appropriate to this form. When complete, return to:

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DEADLINE: All original applications must be postmarked or e-mailed by April 11, 2004, to be considered for an Innovations Award for 2004.