

GEMS Awareness Training for Contractors Competent Person

All federal agencies are required by Executive Order to implement an Environmental Management System, reduce waste, reduce quantity of toxic and hazardous chemical and materials acquired, used or disposed of, increase diversion of solid waste by recycling, and use sustainable environmental practices (acquisition of bio-based, environmentally preferable, energy-efficient, water-efficient and recycled-content products).

The Department of Veterans Affairs has chosen the term GEMS to refer to the department's Green Environmental Management System. Green Environmental Management Systems have been shown to be a valuable tool to lessen negative impacts on the environment, and create more efficient, cost effective means of providing service to our veterans. **The GEMS program emphasizes importance of compliance to federal, state, and local regulations; encourages pollution prevention strategies whenever possible; and focuses on continued improvement on environmental issues.** The GEMS Program is based on ISO 14001, which relates to Environmental Management Systems (EMS). The EMS provides a framework to review activities performed by, or on behalf of the organization, including work performed by contractors.

Any parties, including contractors, who perform an activity identified as being significant based on the impact on the environment, environmental compliance, exposure risk, etc., must be aware of our facility GEMS program and ways to reduce the environmental impacts.

Training for contractors involved in construction, renovation or demolition shall consist of being made knowledgeable of VA Master Specifications Section 01 74 19 by their employer regarding construction waste management. The below signer certifies that each member of their staff who is involved in significant construction waste management activities has been given a copy of VA Master Specifications Section 01 74 19.

Acknowledgement by Competent Person of Document Receipt

Company:

Received by (print name):

Signature:

Date: