

EPA SIGNS LANDMARK AGREEMENT WITH AUBURN UNIVERSITY AND AUBURN UNIVERSITY MONTGOMERY

On June 25th, 2007, The Environmental Protection Agency's Regional Administrator, Jimmy Palmer and representatives AU Risk Management and Safety, Steve Nelson, Tom McCauley and Tom Hodges signed an agreement in which AU and AUM agree to conduct environmental audits of their campuses. The audits will be performed in conjunction with the Alabama Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (AAICU) and the University of Alabama Birmingham. The signing ceremony which was held at Emory University in Atlanta Georgia included representatives from over 100 colleges and universities from Alabama, North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, and Florida.

The audit agreements are being established as part of the USEPA Region 4 College and University Compliance initiative which began in 2002. The program is designed to provide opportunities for schools to voluntarily conduct compliance audits, correct deficiencies and reduce or eliminates fines altogether. The initiative provides a less expensive way to conduct the audits and provides the ability to build a long-term environmental compliance culture on each campus.

Audit team members from Alabama Colleges and Universities attended a workshop at Birmingham-Southern College June 12 – 14 to prepare them for conducting the audits. Audit Teams from AU and AUM consist of the following faculty and staff:

AU Team: Mike Bracken (COSAM), Terri Carsons(Engineering), Byron Harris (Veteranry Medicine), Tom Hodges (Administration), Ken Martin (Facilities), and Frank Owsley (Agrculture)

AUM Team: Mike D'arciprete (Administration) and John Aho (Biology)

HRP Associates, Inc. is providing training and technical support, while Halloran & Sage provides legal assistance for participants. In addition to AU and AUM, participants in the Alabama Audit Program include Birmingham-Southern College, Samford University, Spring Hill College, University of Mobile, Concordia College, Miles College, Huntingdon College, Talladega College and the University of Alabama - Birmingham.

“Colleges and universities are part of EPA's regulated community and often share the same regulatory responsibilities and experience similar environmental challenges as private industry and other government facilities,” said EPA Regional Administrator Jimmy Palmer. “Through this compliance initiative, the voluntary self-audits will help identify opportunities to solve many of their environmental challenges and save money over the long term.” Over the next two years these educational institutions will conduct audits of each other's campuses in all areas of operations, storage, biology, chemistry, food service, mechanical rooms, central supply, waste management, medical labs, art departments, athletics, and agricultural areas.

For additional information please visit the Risk Management and Safety website at www.auburn.edu/rms.