

ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND CONSERVATION - BP 5.4

Legal Authority: NCGS 113A-100; NCGS 143-211; NCGS 143-215.75; NCGS 130A-310

Approval: April 19, 2011

Revision:

Environmental Safety and Conservation

Purpose

The Board directs the President to ensure that the College complies with all applicable federal, state, and local environmental protection requirements, to inform employees and students of their obligations to help the College protect the environment and comply with all applicable laws and regulations, and to promote environmental safety and conservation within the College community.

College Facilities

The College's physical plant, premises, and facilities shall be adequate, safe, and sanitary and shall be in compliance with the statutory provisions and the rules and regulations of all local ordinances pertaining to fire, health, safety, and sanitation. The equipment, supplies, and instructional materials of the College shall be satisfactory and adequate in type, quality, and amount, and shall be suitable for satisfactory use in administering the course or courses of instruction. They shall also meet all requirements of statutory provisions and local ordinances, and rules and regulations adopted by the State or System in regard to fire, health, safety, and sanitation.

Prohibited Conduct

1. General Prohibition. The Board prohibits any activity not conducted in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations. Activities that require compliance with specific environmental laws include, without limitation:

- the production, use, handling, storage, and disposal of chemicals and hazardous materials;
- the generation, storage, treatment, transportation, and disposal of hazardous wastes;
- the maintenance of vehicles, equipment, and facilities;
- the collection, storage, disposal, and recycling of paper, cardboard, plastic containers, and other solid wastes;

- the discharge of wastewater from any equipment or process unit, or from College premises;
- the emission of air contaminants from any source on College premises;
- the use, maintenance, excavation, and handling of soils and vegetation on or from College premises; and construction, excavation, or land clearing activities.

Permitting

The College shall obtain and maintain compliance with applicable air quality, water quality, solid and hazardous waste, land use and development, and other environmental permits and approvals required for construction, operation and use of College equipment, buildings, facilities, and property. All applicable fees associated with such permits and approvals shall be paid as required.

Pollution Prevention

The Board recognizes that prevention of pollution serves to protect the environment, reduce costs, and conserve valuable resources. To that end, the College shall strive and continually improve its efforts to:

- minimize the types and volumes of wastes generated by College activities;
- prevent spills, leaks, discharges, releases, and emissions of chemicals and hazardous materials; and
- recycle paper, cardboard, plastics, metals and other materials used by employees and students.

College's Response to Reports

1. Investigation: Following a report of an environmental incident or instance of apparent violation of environmental laws or this Policy, appropriate College personnel promptly will conduct an investigation into the circumstances of the incident. The President will investigate the incident and report findings to the Board.
2. Corrective/Disciplinary Action: Following the College's investigation of any apparent violation of environmental laws or this Policy, a review of the results of the investigation with the person or persons involved shall be conducted. Corrective and/or disciplinary action will be taken which may result in immediate termination of employment for employees who are determined to have engaged in prohibited or unlawful activity, and immediate dismissal from the College of students who are determined to have engaged in such conduct.

Review of Actions

Any review desired by an employee of corrective and/or disciplinary action resulting from his or her violation of this Policy must follow the Grievance Procedure approved by the Board. Similarly, any review desired by a student of corrective and/or disciplinary action resulting from his or her violation of this Policy must follow the Student Grievance Policy approved by the Board.

Emergency Planning and Response

1. Planning: The President shall be responsible for ensuring the College's compliance with the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act ("EPCRA") and Hazardous Communication ("HAZCOM") program, and any related state and local requirements, with regard to environmental incidents and emergencies.
2. Records: EPCRA and HAZCOM documents shall be available during normal college business hours for review by any employee, student, or other interested person, as appropriate.
3. Personnel, Equipment and Materials: The College will endeavor to obtain and maintain all personnel, equipment, and materials necessary and appropriate to respond to reasonably anticipated environmental incidents and emergencies on the college premises.
4. Cooperation with Local Emergency Response Personnel: The College shall cooperate with local fire, police, and other emergency response personnel in planning and responding to environmental incidents and emergencies on the college premises.

Education and Training

In particular, the College shall provide necessary and appropriate training for College employees in environmental protection, regulatory compliance, chemicals and hazardous materials handling, waste recycling and disposal, and emergency response preparedness.

Environmental Audits

It is the Board's goal to meet the College's environmental obligations through a process of self evaluation and improvement. The College may conduct periodic environmental compliance audits of College operations and activities whenever deemed appropriate by the President. The purpose of the audit shall be to identify areas for improvement in the implementation of this Policy. Audits should be conducted in accordance with accepted independent environmental compliance audit standards and practices by a State or independent private auditor in cooperation with appropriate College administrative personnel and employees. Upon completion of an audit, the President will present findings and any recommendations for improvement to the Board.

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