

NEW
VIEW FOSTER'S PRINT ADS ON LINE

News

[Home Page](#)
[Dover Edition](#)
[Local N.H.](#)
[Local Me.](#)
[NH / ME / MA / VT](#)
[Lakes Region](#)
[Sports](#)
[Business](#)
[Obituaries](#)
[Opinion](#)
[Sunday](#)
[Week of News](#)

For the record

[Lotteries](#)
[Weather](#)
[Today in History](#)
[Police Logs](#)
[School Lunches](#)
[School Honor Rolls](#)

Real Estate

[HomeFinder](#)
[Real Estate Classified](#)
[Real Guide to Real Estate](#)

Print Ads Online
Auto

[Dick Poulin Chevrolet](#)
[Granite Ford](#)

Employment

[Burns, Bryant, Cox](#)
[Disetronic Sterile Products Inc.](#)
[Greenland Central](#)
[Huggins Hospital](#)
[Wentworth Douglass Hospital](#)

Furniture

[Off Price Outlet](#)

Real Estate

[Atrio Properties](#)
[Don L. Thompson](#)
[Don L. Thompson](#)
[Gary-Mariner Realty](#)
[Masiello Group](#)
[Remax Central Edge](#)

Sports

[NH Minor League](#)

Foster's Online

Thursday July 1, 2004

 [E-mail This Article](#)

UNH expands haz mat tracking

By ERIN DOLAN

Democrat Staff Writer

DURHAM — UNH announced recently it has expanded its online system used to track hazardous materials to include radioactive materials.

The announcement, made during a time of heightened concern in the U.S. regarding terrorist attacks, has met with much support from the public.

The UNH Chemical Environmental Management System (UNHCEMS) was developed as part of a settlement agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) after UNH failed an inspection five years ago. The university was found to have violated the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act concerning waste disposal in its laboratories at that time.

The UNH Research Computing Center and the Office of Environmental Health are working to expand the system to track biological agents, as well, such as anthrax and the plague.

A case study of UNHCEMS published by the EPA was included in the EPA's best management practices catalog for colleges and universities regarding homeland security.

"From the standpoint of Homeland Security and the U.S. Patriot Act," Manning said, "this system dramatically increases the ability of universities to track specific radioactive materials. For example, if we need to determine if we have a particular hazard on campus, we can query the system and find out within a minute if that substance is on campus and exactly where it is located," he said.

Manning said the purchase of all radioactive materials for laboratory use at UNH requires a permit and goes through his office, which is how the information was compiled for the Web-based system.

UNHCEMS is also able to determine the level of radioactivity of materials by calculating the radioactive decay of the materials.

The system is available for use by other institutions and hospitals nationwide. Brown University and UMASS Amherst are using UNHCEMS, and other universities and hospitals have expressed interest, according to Manning.

According to Patrick Messner, associate director of the UNH Research Computing Center, there is an annual subscription rate of \$15,000 for schools or hospitals that wish to use the system. That rate allows the users to enter their own inventory and manage it.

Messner said the costs to UNH regarding the program have been about \$250,000, including additions and improvements.

Robert W. Varney, regional administrator of the EPA's New England Office, said the system "holds great potential to help universities and colleges improve tracking and management of chemicals and wastes."

Varney said other colleges are wasting chemicals because they do not have systems in place to record what the materials are, where they're located, and how much is there.

"This system holds great promise to reverse this problem, resulting in campuses that are safer and better for the environment," Varney said.

New Hampshire Public Television (NHPT) visited UNH on June 18 and filmed an interview with Manning and a demonstration of the system by Collins as part of a show on bioterrorism. The show was scheduled to air June 24 at 10 p.m. on New Hampshire Outlook, according to NHPT.

© 2004 Geo. J. Foster Company