Test course super endorses self-audit

BY MARK LESLIE

The initial results are in from the first golf course superintendent mandated law—the Hall-Kimbrell Environmental Services’ self-audit kit and he is sold on its use.

"I’m very, very impressed with the entire concept," said Steve Wharton, director of GCSAA’s Environmental Services, in a telephone conversation with Golf Course News. "I think this is a service that we all need." He has worked closely with GCSAA in the development of the self-audit program.

Environmental laws that have become increasingly more strict in recent years will be tightened even more in the years ahead, according to Hall-Kimbrell’s self-audit project manager. "We will recommend not just response actions that will simply bring them into compliance but in many cases actually take them beyond compliance," said Steve Wharton through a selection process of environmental engineering, analytical science and sensitive to it. Someone who is sensitive to it. Someone who is sensitive to it.

"We want to help superintendents make their golf courses as best they can and safe and responsible," said John M. Schilling, executive director of GCSAA.

Hall-Kimbrell, which is headquartered in Lawrence, Kansas, has worked closely with GCSAA in the last year to develop the client-assistance program, and the first phase in that program is the self-audit procedure.

"So what we will be recommending will be not just response actions but will bring them in to compliance but in many cases actually take them beyond compliance," said Wharton.

"We call them ‘best-management practices.' In the agronomy, I’m always taking courses and I feel I keep on top of things. Other things will improve immediately regardless of cost or time. Other things will improve immediately regardless of cost or time.

"First and foremost, there is a movement afoot now to make it apply to golf courses," Stewart said. "But they tell us what you need to do on your own for now. There are several different levels of priorities on action. Certainly where you are not complying with the laws, that is high-priority and I expect to make that type of correction immediately regardless of cost or time. Other things will improve immediately regardless of cost or time. Other things will improve immediately regardless of cost or time."

"I will guarantee that as thorough as the first golf course superintendent of all the states, Maine, and the government agencies they needed to address. They have not done the resources internally within the organization and they went through a job as Hall-Kimbrell does outliers and if you are in Idaho, Nebraska or Montana or somewhere that is not a predominance of golf courses, soon may.

Law's expected to get tougher

Environmental laws that have become increasingly more strict in recent years will be tightened even more in the years ahead, according to Hall-Kimbrell’sself-audit project manager.

"We can almost guarantee that the laws will get tougher at the state and federal level both," Wharton said.

"There will be a federally mandated law that is transferred to the states for enforcement in the near future—implementa-

The program was designed after project manager Steve Wharton ‘visited 22 golf courses from coast to coast and visited all the states that are particularly sensitive to environmental issues, as well as the ones where there is a predominance of golf courses—California, Florida, Michigan and so forth.’

"It’s a 50-question questionnaire addressed to professional environmental practices.

"Worker health and safety.

"Water quality.

"Pesticide usage.

"Hazardous waste.

"Underground storage tanks.

"Worker right to know.

"Community right to know.

"Indoor air quality.

"Initial Hall-Kimbrell expert reviews each report before it is returned to a course, giving them computer-generated findings. Wharton said followup work will be done after the report is returned.

"We are developing training programs to help (GCSAA) members comply with the federal hazardous communications standard, the worker right to know law, programs for the monitoring and testing of soil and groundwater, operation of underground storage tanks," he said. "The community right to know laws are somewhat confusing; there are 39 different variations on them at the state level. So we are putting together some programs to help people comply with that as well."

People may obtain the package through GCSAA Membership Services, 1617 Andrews Drive, Law-

"I believe it’s true that we have to do these things if we’re not going to poison ourselves to death," he added. "I feel we have to be responsive. Pesticides are an important part of the industry; they need to be used, and used safely."