Is Your Facility Prepared for an Environmental Regulatory Inspection?

Recent environmental regulatory trends indicate an increase in both the number of facility inspections taking place, and in penalties being levied. Whether your facility receives regular inspections or has not had one in a number of years, these regulatory trends indicate that it is becoming a question of when, rather than if, an environmental inspector will visit. Have you considered the ways that an environmental inspection of your facility could be triggered?

- Routine Inspections – typically focused on one area (e.g. air, waste, or storm water), agencies often employ advanced technologies to identify sites for inspection or follow materials of concern up and/or down the supply chain;
- Referrals – inspectors from one area often note items from other areas and inform inspectors from other departments;
- Report Discrepancies – significant changes or inconsistencies in your facility’s reporting from one period to the next can raise flags for regulators;
- Permit Status or Permit Changes – applying for a new permit status or a change in a permit can often prompt inspectors to visit prior to approving the application;
- Public Notification – reports to agencies by neighbors, media coverage, incidents, etc.

How prepared is your facility to receive an environmental inspector? Developing an Environmental Compliance Monitoring System for your facility, designating primary points of contact on-site, and conducting mock inspections or drills are all steps you can take to help prepare you for a successful and low-stress inspection day.