



## Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Pollution Prevention Champion

Esterline/Advanced Input Systems  
Coeur d'Alene  
2017

### Environmental Commitment

Esterline/Advanced Input Systems manufactures sophisticated electronic equipment for some of the largest companies in the world. The complex products Esterline produces must meet some of the most demanding requirements of any manufactured product, so their commitment to quality is rigorous and unflinching. This commitment extends to environmental quality as well.

#### Reducing Hazardous Waste and Energy Use

As a manufacturer of printed circuit boards, Esterline must occasionally produce products that use lead solder. In 2015, the company was recognized as a Pollution Prevention Champion for modifying its solder waste collection to isolate lead solder waste. This process reduced the lead waste from their circuit boards from 278 pounds per year to only 3 pounds per year—a 99% reduction. In 2017, Esterline reduced generated lead waste even further from 3 pounds to only .064 pounds—another 98% reduction. These continual improvements are significant. In many processes, the final 10% of waste from processes is the most difficult and expensive to reduce; however, Esterline has proven that innovative processes and control measures can effectively and efficiently target even the most difficult waste streams.

Esterline has also successfully reduced energy consumption by implementing numerous energy saving measures in its Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, facility. They have converted to LED lighting, modified HVAC equipment, and adopted variable frequency drive technology on air compressors.

#### Reducing Wastewater Generation

In addition to finding ways to reduce waste generated from lead solder and becoming more energy efficient, Esterline has dramatically reduced the amount of wastewater it generates by making several modifications to its manufacturing processes.

- Esterline implemented a reverse osmosis system that recycles water already used to clean electronic products. This water can then be used several times for cleaning. Reusing this water has reduced the volume of wastewater generated and also reduced the total amount of water the company uses.
- The company moved toward “no-clean” technology allowing it to produce circuit boards that do not require cleaning, essentially cutting out generations of wastewater entirely.

Since 2012, these efforts have reduced wastewater generated at the facility from more than 420,000 gallons a year to only 20,500 gallons a year—a 95% reduction.

### For More Information

To learn more about the Esterline/Advanced Input Systems, visit the company's website at <http://www.esterline.com/advancedinput/Overview.aspx>

*Information on this fact sheet represents an example of pollution prevention projects undertaken by Idaho organizations and does not constitute Departmental certification or approval of compliance at this or any other time with federal, state and/or local regulations.*