

EDITORIAL PACE

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Vol. 38, No. 5, J.E.H

Status Quo?

By Larry Gordon, Assistant Editor

Environmental health personnel frequently express concern or dissatisfaction with their organizational settings, agency goals and mission, and program scope and methodology. While change should be based on identified needs rather than change for the sake of change, it is worth noting that many environmental health organizations and programs have changed but little in the past 30 years.

In many cases, desirable changes have occurred only at the prodding of some external force, rather than through internal desires and actions. With rapid changes in the environment, economy, technology, population numbers and distribution. land use and social values it is reasonable to assume that the organizations and programs responsible for environmental health should be periodically reevaluated.

Where organizational and programmatic problems are identified and recognized, changes can and should be recommended and instigated by environmental health personnel. Necessary organizational and programmatic changes can be implemented - you can fight City Hall and win. But, it takes 1, the desire; 2, a complete plan of action; 3, perseverance, 4, aggressiveness, and 5, the willingness to lose, if necessary.

Industry has learned that their products must be re-designed and re-packaged frequently in order to compete and survive. Environmental health organizations could

take a page from industry's experience and consider re -designing and re packaging their organization and their products (programs) if necessary to better serve the public.