

memorandum

DATE: May 13, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Office of Environment, Safety and Health: LStirling: 6-2417

SUBJECT: Voluntary Partnership Programs

TO: Assistant Secretaries
Field Office Managers

In my role as the Department of Energy's (DOE) Agency Environmental Executive, I am writing this memorandum to encourage your participation in the voluntary environmental partnership programs which are sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through its *Partners for the Environment* initiative. I also ask you to consider having your office or your facilities participate in one or more of these beneficial programs.

Briefly, these voluntary partnership programs represent a new approach by the Administration to achieving real environmental results while saving money along the way. The traditional "command and control" approach to environmental management, with which we are all familiar, has been successful up to a point. However, if we are to successfully negotiate the increasingly complex environmental challenges we face at the beginning of this century we need environmental management tools which can be more focused and provide greater flexibility. That is why the Department recently issued DOE Order 450.1, *Environmental Protection Program*, which calls for the implementation of environmental management systems (EMS) at our sites.

The EPA is now providing additional tools for our use through its *Partners for the Environment* initiative. Under this program, EPA works with organizations to set voluntary environmental goals and commitments, such as conserving water and energy, reducing greenhouse gasses, and minimizing toxic emissions and solid waste. EPA may provide regulatory relief in exchange for a commitment to superior environmental performance as a part of these programs.

Some of you are already taking advantage of these programs. For example, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve has received National Environmental Performance Track (NEPT) recognition and the Germantown Headquarters building has achieved Energy Star status. Experience with the *Partners for the Environment* initiative demonstrates that these voluntary programs can provide a cost-effective way to help protect the environment. With these tools in hand our managers can help ensure that "greening" our operations contributes to achieving program and mission goals, which is everyone's bottom line.

Attachment A, *Summary of Selected EPA Voluntary Partnership Programs*, lists some of the more than 40 programs and provides hyperlinks to the EPA websites where you can

learn more. My staff is available to work with your staff in pursuing those programs of interest to you.

John Howard, the Federal Environmental Executive, has contacted the Department and will be tracking the implementation of voluntary initiatives as part of the President's scorecard.

Please contact Larry Stirling of my staff at 202-586-2417 (email: john.stirling@eh.doe.gov) for assistance or if you have any questions.



Beverly A. Cook
Assistant Secretary
Environment, Safety and Health

Attachments:

- A. Summary of Selected EPA Voluntary Partnership Programs
- B. DOE Sites With Either National Environmental Performance Track or Energy Star Recognition

Distribution:

Assistant Secretaries

Manager, DOE Albuquerque Operations Office

Manager, DOE Chicago Operations Office

Manager, DOE Ohio Field Office

Manager, DOE Idaho Operations Office

Manager, DOE Nevada Operations Office

Manager, DOE Oak Ridge Operations Office

Manager, DOE Richland Operations Office

Manager, DOE Rocky Flats Office

Manager, DOE Oakland Operations Office

Manager, DOE Savannah River Operations Office

Attachment A

Summary

Selected EPA Voluntary Partnership Programs

1. **Climate Leaders:** Challenges Partners to set an aggressive corporate-wide greenhouse emissions reduction goal. Partners inventory emissions and track progress towards meeting their reduction goal. <http://www.epa.gov/climateleaders/>

2. **Adopt Your Watershed:** Challenges citizens and corporations to actively work to protect and restore rivers, streams, wetlands, lakes, ground water and estuaries. EPA sponsors information sharing and educational programs and provides for recognition of projects. <http://www.epa.gov/adopt/>

3. **Commuter Choice Leadership Initiative:** EPA and DOE help employers solve commuting challenges, reap financial rewards (tax and cost savings), and provide valuable commuter benefits. Reduces auto emissions, improves air quality and saves energy. <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/transp/comchoic/ccweb.htm>

4. **Energy Star (buildings):** For homes, identifies energy efficient household products and materials. For business provides an energy management strategy to measure and improve current energy performance, set energy efficiency goals, track savings and reward improvements. Uses an energy rating system. Provides Energy Star recognition. <http://www.energystar.gov/>

5. **Green Engineering**

Promotes the design, commercialization, and use of processes and products that are technically and economically feasible while minimizing pollution at the source and risk to human health and the environment. <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/greenengineering/>

6. **Green Power:** Reduces impacts from the generation of electricity. Promotes purchase of electricity produced by solar, wind, geothermal, biomass and low-impact hydro facilities. Provides information about the “Green Power Market” and reduces transaction costs of acquiring green power. Provides recognition and certification by third party. <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/>

7. **National Environmental Performance Track:** Recognizes and rewards businesses and public facilities demonstrating strong environmental performance beyond compliance requirements. Encourages continuous improvement, use of environmental management systems, community involvement and measurable results. See attached list for DOE Performance Track facilities. <http://www.epa.gov/performance-track/>

8. **National Waste Minimization Program:** Publically recognizes and showcases source reduction, recycling and advanced manufacturing accomplishments of member partners that commit to reducing wastes containing Waste Minimization Priority Chemicals. <http://www.epa.gov/wastemin/>

9. **Project XL**

Allows companies to test alternative approaches that achieve cleaner and cheaper environmental results than would be realized under existing requirements. <http://www.epa.gov/ProjectXL/>

10. **Waste Wise:** Provides assistance and recognition to organizations that eliminate costly municipal solid waste, benefitting their bottom line and the environment. Targets the reduction of municipal solid waste, e.g., containers, office paper, yard trimmings, packaging and wood pellets. <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/reduce/wstewise/index.htm>

11. **Water Alliances for Voluntary Efficiency (WAVE) Program:** Assists commercial businesses and institutions to prevent pollution and to reduce the demand for water and energy resources. Helps examine water usage practices and implement water efficiency programs. Partners include the lodging industry, office buildings and educational institutions. <http://www.epa.gov/owm/water-efficiency/index.htm>

EPA Regional Programs

In addition to the national programs described above, EPA's regional offices have set up voluntary programs aimed at addressing specific regional environmental priorities.

- 📁 Region 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)
- 📁 Region 2 (NJ, NY, PR, VI)
- 📁 Region 3 (DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV)
- 📁 Region 4 (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)
- 📁 Region 5 (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)
- 📁 Region 6 (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)
- 📁 Region 7 (IA, KS, MO, NE)
- 📁 Region 8 (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)
- 📁 Region 9 (AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU)
- 📁 Region 10 (AK, ID, OR, WA)

Attachment B

DOE Sites with National Environmental Performance Track and/or Energy Star Recognition

A. National Environmental Performance Track Recognition

1. Kansas City Plant
2. Strategic Petroleum Reserve
3. Waste Isolation Pilot Project
4. Western Area Power Administration
5. West Valley Demonstration Project

B. DOE Sites with Energy Star Recognition

1. Germantown HQ
2. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Building 69
3. Nevada Test Site, Buildings 117 and 132
4. Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the Buildings Technology Center Headquarters