



The Secretary of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

April 21, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENTAL ELEMENTS

FROM: SPENCER ABRAHAM

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Spencer Abraham".

SUBJECT: Earth Day 2003

The Department of Energy (DOE) is committed to protecting the environment while conducting its important national security and energy-related missions. In support of this commitment, we are implementing formal environmental management systems at our facilities thereby reducing the amount of waste we produce and release into the environment.

Environmental Management Systems

President George W. Bush supports the implementation of environmental management systems at Federal facilities, and his Performance Management Agenda recognizes the importance of such systems in the effective and efficient operation of the Federal government. An environmental management system provides a systematic framework to identify and address the environmental impacts of our work, ensures compliance with regulatory requirements, and determines opportunities for further and continual improvement.

At present, DOE has seven major facilities which have been registered--by independent third-party registrars--as conforming to ISO 14001, the international consensus standard for environmental management systems. Three of these facilities, as well as two additional ones, are recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency, under the National Environmental Performance Track program, for their environmental management system and sustained record of environmental performance.

It is my goal, consistent with the requirements of Executive Order 13148, *Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management*, to have environmental management systems in place at all major DOE facilities by the end of 2005. The Department recently updated our Order defining DOE's environmental protection program. The new DOE Order 450.1 implements Executive Order 13148 by requiring environmental management systems at DOE facilities as part of their integrated safety management systems.

Pollution Prevention

Pollution prevention is a fundamental aspect of an effective environmental management system and the Department's approach to protecting the environment, worker safety, and the public. Environmental management systems required by DOE Order 450.1 must provide for the systematic planning, execution, and evaluation of departmental programs for pollution prevention.

We have made notable progress in pollution prevention to date with many DOE facilities being recognized for their leadership. In 2002, DOE was the recipient of four White House Closing-the-Circle Awards recognizing the Department's success in pollution prevention. For 2003, I am pleased to announce that ten DOE facilities have won DOE pollution prevention awards for 17 initiatives ranging from waste minimization and recycling to environmental sustainability in building design and construction, and "green" procurement of environmentally preferable products and services. Each of these DOE award-winning initiatives has been entered into the 2003 White House Closing-the-Circle competition.

Several years ago, the Department set ambitious goals for reducing our generation of various types of waste by 2005. We have made tremendous strides toward reaching these goals, and while the Department's commitment to pollution prevention and our demonstration of environmental leadership are evident, opportunities for further improvements need to be pursued. Accordingly, I am charging all Department programs to use their ingenuity to reinvigorate their efforts towards meeting DOE's 2005 pollution prevention goals for reducing the generation of waste and release of pollutants into the environment. These goals apply to waste from routine operations. In addition, as we clean up our sites, we need to actively seek opportunities to minimize the amount of waste resulting from our cleanup, stabilization, and decommissioning activities.

Not only does pollution prevention pay for itself by reducing the life-cycle costs of our operations, but it is sustained by DOE's unique capability for innovation and continuous improvement.

The Department is already a leader in Greening the Federal Government. I intend for DOE to continue this leadership in the future.

