

SECTION IV - REGIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Regional accountability occurs at a minimum on two levels based on what agency is involved. State, local, and Tribal governments conduct a significant amount of the environmental work in Region 10. This work is generally funded through local resources in combination with federal grant money. Region 10 is involved in grant management and overview of these federally supported programs. In addition, Region 10 is responsible for the direct implementation of programs, where a state or Tribe does not have delegated or approved programs.

Overview of state programs and grant management has been an ongoing activity in Region 10 for years. Grantees prepare grant work plans which contain detailed products, milestones, and due dates. In addition to approving the grant work plan prior to commencing work, midyear evaluations and end-of-year close outs are routinely completed. This grant management process is to assure that the appropriate work is completed for the money awarded.

In addition to grant management evaluation, periodic formal program evaluation of state programs are conducted. For example, Region 10 recently conducted a comprehensive review of the stationary source air pollution permit program in the State of Alaska. These reviews result in findings that are discussed with the state and action plans developed to address deficiencies. Performance in addressing deficiencies many times are incorporated into the program support grant.

Region 10 senior management this fiscal year initiated a new accountability system based on the Six Regional Priorities and 5 National Goals called Environmental Management and Performance (EMP). EMP is a process to evaluate Region 10's progress in achieving our environmental goals and objectives. It is part of the Region 10 strategic planning process. That overall process includes identifying long term health and environmental priorities and goals, identifying where Region 10's priorities differ from the National Goals, establishing short term activities and commitments, and periodically evaluate whether our strategies are effective in making progress toward these environmental goals.

At the beginning of each fiscal year, in consultation with the Regional Planning Network (RPN) and Executive Team (ET), and with approval of the Deputy Regional Administrator (DRA), an annual EMP Plan is developed for holding periodic meetings among the appropriate Region 10 Offices. The objective of these meetings is to evaluate progress in achieving our environmental goals. This plan will include; which Priority or Goal in the Regional Strategic Plan will be discussed, roughly when they will be scheduled, which is the lead office, and which offices should be involved for support, coordination and consultation. This annual EMP plan will also include the main focus of each meeting.

Periodic meetings will be held throughout the fiscal year to discuss the status and progress on the Six Regional Priorities and the Five National Goals with the RA & DRA. These meetings are not limited to discussions of a Regional Priority or National Goal and may include other significant programs deemed appropriate by the DRA. Generally, only existing reporting and tracking systems will be used in presenting data or information.

There will be two levels of documentation of progress. An Annual Report will be developed at the end of the fiscal year that documents progress made during the year. This report will be available for distribution to our partners (states, tribes and local agencies), and elected officials.

A second report, for internal use only, will be developed after each meeting that summarizes the results

of the meeting and provides continuity of the periodic meetings. This report should include; action items and due dates, changes in direction or resources, or other significant revision to the goal/priority or workplan.