



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 7 2003

THE ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Council for Regulatory Environmental Modeling

TO: Assistant Administrators
Associate Administrators
Regional Administrators
Science Policy Council

I am seeking your continued support for the important work of the Council for Regulatory Environmental Modeling in the year ahead.

Last May, as EPA observed Science Month, I wrote to you about "Strengthening Science at the Environmental Protection Agency." I emphasized that success in pursuing our mission and enhancing the quality of life for all Americans remained largely dependent on our ability to integrate appropriate and relevant science into our programs, policies, and decisions.

By designating Paul Gilman as the EPA Science Advisor, I sought his leadership in identifying and implementing key initiatives that integrate EPA's decision-making with the highest quality science. I am pleased to see that our accomplishments are already being widely recognized. I also asked Dr. Gilman to revitalize the Council for Regulatory Environmental Modeling, and I stressed the importance of Agency-wide support for these efforts. Thank you for your help in enabling CREM, under the leadership of Dr. Gilman and his staff, to become an active senior-level working group with enhanced participation by the regions.

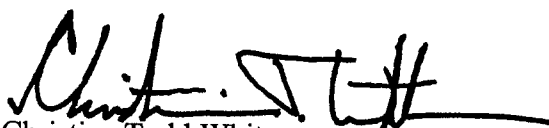
As you know, EPA's Information Quality Guidelines have become effective, and our use of models has become more visible to our stakeholders and the public. I am now asking CREM to accelerate its efforts to ensure that the necessary policy guidance and support systems are in place for use by all model users across EPA. I applaud the fine work already under way within EPA's modeling, quality systems, and environmental information communities to ensure that our model-based decisions advance our mission in a defensible manner, and I am confident this progress provides an excellent foundation for our accelerated efforts.

Toward this end, I am asking that CREM, working with Dr. Gilman and the Science Policy Council, accomplish the following in 2003:

- Make publicly accessible an inventory of EPA's most frequently used models, which will include information on a model's use, development, validation, and quality assessment;
- Provide guidance for the development, assessment, and use of environmental models;
- Sponsor a series of workshops in the regions to engage a broader community of model users and stakeholders regarding model use in environmental decision-making;
- Initiate immediately a collaborative effort with the National Academy of Sciences to develop a report recommending best principles and practices in using environmental and human health models for decision-making; and
- Establish a stakeholder group of environmental model users outside EPA to interact with CREM and the National Academy of Sciences for the benefit of the broader community of model users.

These are not easy tasks. However, by undertaking them, we will maintain our leadership role among federal agencies in ensuring that strong science informs policy-making and in facilitating environmental protection in the face of evolving science.

Thank you for supporting this ambitious agenda and for making available to CREM the staff and resources it needs to realize these goals.



Christine Todd Whitman

cc: Deputy Administrator
SPC Steering Committee
CREM Members