



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

November 5, 2003

OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Regional Seminars on Environmental Models

FROM: Paul Gilman, Ph.D. *Paul Gilman*
Science Advisor to the Agency

Ron Kreizenbeck *Ron Kreizenbeck*
Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 10

TO: Deputy Regional Administrators

The purpose of this memo is to invite Regions to host and participate in a seminar series on the development, evaluation, and application of models to support Regional decision-making. This seminar series is a follow-up action item to the Regions' 45-day study on "Science in Regional Decision Making" and to the Administrator's memorandum asking the Council for Regulatory Environmental Modeling (CREM) to organize regional workshops.

The objectives for the series are two-fold. First, by linking the modeling community across EPA, we hope to promote consistency of model use throughout the Agency. Second, we hope that the series will serve as an opportunity for the modeling community to understand the forthcoming EPA guidance on the use of environmental models and how to apply it to the use of specific Regional models. We hope to conduct seminars in all ten regions within the next year.

Organization and Structure

Gary Foley, the co-chair of the CREM, will act as the ongoing facilitator of these discussions. We anticipate that each seminar will have the following features:

- Each will run for two hours and consist of companion presentations by the hosting Region and by ORD.
- Travel costs will be minimized by using Lotus Sametime software and teleconferencing technology.

- The hosting Region will present a case study of a modeling assessment and the key technical and policy challenges of the assessment.
- The companion presentation by ORD may include a discussion of the scientific issues raised in the regional presentation, alternative modeling approaches, and/or discussion of related ORD work.
- The presentations should focus on key components of model development and evaluation, tying into the topics of the forthcoming guidance on environmental models. (Available only within EPA at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/crem/cremlib.cfm>.)

Region 10 will lead the first of these seminars on November 17, 2003, with a presentation on the Columbia River Temperature Model. At this time we are inviting other Regions to indicate their interest in hosting a seminar by contacting Elsie Sunderland (phone 202-564-1571, e-mail: sunderland.elsie@epa.gov). In addition, we are asking each Region to identify a contact to coordinate the participation of your Region's environmental modelers and users of modeling results in each of these seminars. The Regional Science Liaisons (<http://www.epa.gov/osr/regions/rsmap.htm>) and CREM workgroup representatives (<http://cfpub.epa.gov/crem/aboutcrem.cfm> - structure) are prepared to assist you in identifying modeling case studies for possible presentation at a seminar as well as potential participants in the seminar series.

cc: CREM Council
CREM Workgroup
Regional Science Liaisons
ORD Associate Directors for Ecology