



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

OCT 4 2001

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable James M. Jeffords, Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6175

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of September 10, 2001, about holding Federal facilities to the same environmental standards that apply to private facilities. Let me assure you that the Bush Administration continues in its commitment to a level playing field between Federal agencies and departments and the private sector. Americans rightfully expect their government to abide by the same environmental laws and standards as private business, and to set an example of sound environmental management.

Under this Administration, Federal agencies will be held accountable to the same high standards for environmental compliance as other members of the regulated community. Federal facility compliance is a priority for EPA. Our record speaks for itself, as we continue to take enforcement actions against the Departments of Defense, Energy, and other Federal agencies for significant violations of environmental requirements. In addition, EPA is firmly committed to non-traditional approaches to ensuring environmental protection at Federal facilities by providing compliance incentives and assistance to Federal agencies and departments. For example, EPA is assisting other Federal agencies in implementing the Executive Order on Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management, which requires Federal agencies to implement environmental management systems, inform the public of possible sources of pollution from facility operations, and reduce the release and use of toxic chemicals.

Finally, you asked whether there were any proposed changes to our Federal facility program. At this time, there are no plans to change our Federal facilities program. If you have further questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Carolyn Dick of the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at 202-564-3678.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine Todd Whitman".

Christine Todd Whitman