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Last Update: December 1997



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Agency Region 8

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Colorado, Montana, North
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Environmental News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUDY WONG EPA 303/312-6390
GEORGE DONNELLY EPA 303/312-6193
PATTY WEIMERSKIRCH EPA 303/312-6464

December 23, 1997

DENVER--Seven new participants along the front range have joined EPA's voluntary Green Lights Program which promises to save them money and cut air pollution, Agency officials today announced.

As part of an agreement with EPA, each will convert light fixtures from standard lighting to energy-efficient lighting systems. This new lighting technology will help lower their utility bills by reducing their energy usage.

Besides saving money, facilities using Green Lights cut their electrical use, which reduces demands on utilities for electrical power. Nationally, on average, Green Lights Partners use 40 percent less energy for lighting after upgrading their facilities.

Reducing energy consumption leads to less air pollution emitted from power plants. Unhealthy emissions from electrical utilities include carbon dioxide (CO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxide (NO_x), all of which are associated with smog, global warming and acid rain.

EPA's Regional Administrator, Bill Yellowtail, noted that stopping pollution before it happens is good

for the environment and profitable. "Increasingly private industry and government realize that preventing pollution is sensible and affordable," Yellowtail remarked. "For instance, Green Lights participants install these new lights which reduce energy demands and lead to lower utility bills. Meanwhile, the utility company that generates electricity burns less fuel and emits less pollution because the facilities need less energy."

Listed below are EPA estimates of the amounts of pollution the participants will keep out of the air once they complete their Green Lights upgrades. The lighting square footage each facility expects to convert also is included. EPA reports the average cost savings for completed lighting upgrades is 19 cents per square foot per year.

The figures below listing the equivalent number of cars removed are based on the national annual average of CO₂ emissions from automobiles and are used to relate these pollution-reduction figures to the real world, such as the number of cars traveling our highways. Once all the new participants complete their lighting conversions, the amount of prevented CO₂ emissions will equate to taking 8,251 vehicles off the nation's highways.

Academy 20 School District(1,517,000 sq. ft.):

- Equivalent number of cars removed = 674
- CO₂ = 5,056 tons
- SO₂ = 33,000 lbs
- NO_x = 32,000 lbs

Lewis Palmer 38 School District (580,000 sq. ft.):

- Equivalent number of cars removed = 258
- CO₂ = 1,933 tons
- SO₂ = 12,774 lbs
- NO_x = 12,387 lbs

Jefferson County School District (10,400,000 sq. ft.):

- Equivalent number of cars removed = 4,622
- CO₂ = 34,660 tons
- SO₂ = 229,000 lbs
- NO_x = 222,000 lbs

Auraria Higher Education Center (3,616,000 sq. ft.):

- Equivalent number of cars removed = 1,607
- CO₂ = 12,052 tons

- SO₂ = 79,000 lbs
- NO_x = 77,000 lbs

Saint Anthony Parrish School (22,000 sq. ft.):

- Equivalent number of cars removed = 10
- CO₂ = 73 tons
- SO₂ = 484 lbs
- NO_x = 470 lbs

University of Denver (2,311,000 sq. ft.):

- Equivalent number of cars removed = 1,027
- CO₂ = 7,703 tons
- SO₂ = 51,000 lbs
- NO_x = 49,000 lbs

Ryall Electric Supply Co. (10,400,000 sq. ft.)

**Green Lights Ally:

- Equivalent number of cars removed = 53
- CO₂ = 400 tons
- SO₂ = 2,600 lbs
- NO_x = 2,500 lbs

Green Lights participants are divided into three categories: Partners, Allies and Endorsers. **Partners** are public or private organizations that actually upgrade their lighting. **Allies** are companies in the lighting or energy industry that perform upgrades in their own facilities and promote energy-efficient technologies to their customers. **Endorsers** are professional and trade organizations that promote the program to their memberships. As of December 31, 1996, EPA's Green Lights Program included 1,437 Partners, 589 Allies and 274 Endorsers nationwide.

To become a Green Lights Partner, companies make an agreement with EPA to survey 100 percent of their facilities and to upgrade, where profitable and without diminishing lighting quality, 90 percent of their square footage with new low-energy lighting systems. Partners must complete improvements within five years and annually report to EPA on their progress. The Agency provides technical support, manuals and publications, product information, support from Allies and public recognition.

The Green Lights Program, which began January 16, 1991, encourages voluntary, widespread use of energy-efficient lighting technologies. It is flexible, so that organizations both small and large can benefit from the program. Participants in this unique national partnership include small businesses; schools; environmental groups; electric utilities; state, city and local governments; manufacturers; hospitals;

industries; universities and others.

Lighting represents about 25 percent of all the electricity sold in the United States each year. If government and industry throughout the country were to convert to energy-efficient lighting where profitable, EPA estimates the nation would cut its demand for electricity by more than 10 percent and slash its annual electrical bill by \$12 billion. This decreased energy usage would reduce air pollution emissions by 12 percent from today's levels.

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Environmental News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUDY WONG EPA 303/312-6390
GEORGE DONNELLY EPA 303/312-6193
PATTY WEIMERSKIRCH EPA 303/312-6464

December 23, 1997

DENVER--Three metro Denver area companies have saved themselves more than \$1.2 million dollars and kept nearly 22,000 tons of pollution out of the air, according to EPA officials who today recognized these Partners in the Agency's voluntary Green Lights/Energy Star Pollution Prevention Programs.

As part of an agreement with EPA, Mobile Tool of Westminster, U.S. West Communications of Denver and Wall Technology of Broomfield recently finished upgrading their facilities from standard lighting to energy-efficient Green Lights systems. Nationally, on average, Green Lights Partners use 40 percent less energy for lighting after upgrading their facilities. By reducing their energy usage, the companies will be rewarded with lower electricity bills.

Businesses using Green Lights not only save money when they cut their energy consumption, they also prevent pollution from power plants. These plants generate electrical power and in the process emit harmful pollution into the air. When companies lower their energy needs, they reduce demands on utilities for electricity. Diminished energy demands mean less electricity is produced, which leads to less air pollution emissions from the power plants. These emissions include carbon dioxide (CO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxide (Nox), and are associated with smog, global warming and acid rain.

Listed below are EPA estimates of the amounts of pollution the Partner's kept out of the metro area's air as a result of the companies' lighting upgrades. The lighting square footage each converted also is included, along with approximate annual cost savings realized by each company. EPA reports the average cost savings for completed lighting upgrades is 19 cents per square foot per year.

Mobile Tool (284,000 sq. ft.):

- \$53,960
- CO2 = 947 tons
- SO2 = 6,255 lbs
- NOx = 6,000 lbs

U.S. West Communications (6,236,000 sq. ft. **Includes All Facilities in Fourteen State Region):

- \$1,184,840
- CO2 = 20,785 tons
- SO2 = 137,000 lbs
- NOx = 133,000 lbs

Wall Technology (25,000 sq. ft.):

- \$22,800
- CO2 = 83 tons
- SO2 = 551 lbs
- NOx = 534 lbs

Upon completion of its lighting conversions, Mobile eliminated from the road what equates to 126 automobiles. Meanwhile, U.S. West and Wall removed 2,771 and 11 cars respectively. These figures are based on the national annual average of CO2 emissions from automobiles and are used to relate these pollution-reduction figures to the real world, such as the number of cars traveling our highways. The total amount of prevented CO2 emissions by all three companies equates to taking 2,908 vehicles off the nation's highways.

Bill Yellowtail, EPA's Regional Administrator, applauded the business sense displayed by these Green Lights participants. "All three companies will enjoy dramatically reduced utility bills by simply converting to energy-efficient lighting," Yellowtail observed. "Businesses and government are working together to stop pollution before it happens, and are saving money in the process. This makes good sense, for the environment and for a company's bottom-line."

Lighting represents about 25 percent of all the electricity sold in the United States. If government and industry throughout the country were to convert to energy-efficient lighting where profitable, EPA estimates the nation would cut its demand for electricity by more than 10 percent and slash its annual

electrical bill by \$12 billion. This decreased energy usage would reduce air pollution emissions by 12 percent from today's levels.

EPA predicts that by the turn of the century the Green Lights and Energy Star Programs will prevent more than 40 billion pounds of CO2 emissions nationwide. These reductions are equivalent to planting 6 million acres of trees or taking 4 million cars off U.S. highways. "What impresses me most about the Green Lights Program is the amount of pollution that is prevented each year," Yellowtail observed. "Since the Program began, almost 5 billion pounds of carbon dioxide and 17 million pounds of nitrogen oxides nationally have been prevented from fouling our air."

The Green Lights Program, which began January 16, 1991, encourages voluntary, widespread use of energy-efficient lighting technologies. It is flexible, so that organizations both small and large can benefit from the program. Participants in this unique national partnership include small businesses; schools; environmental groups; electric utilities; state, city and local governments; manufacturers; hospitals; industries; universities and others.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GWEN HOOTEN 303-312-6571
CAROL RUSSELL 303-312-6310

December 22, 1997

DENVER -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants the public to comment on its recently released cleanup plan for the Pallas Yard Site between 5300 and 5900 South on 300 West in Murray City, Utah. At this site lead and arsenic contamination has been detected in the soil and arsenic contamination in groundwater.

The Pallas Yards rail lines were originally developed around the turn of the century by Union Pacific Railroad and the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad to support the smelters in the area. During the development of the rail yard, the agency believes that contaminated fill was brought in and placed beneath the track.

The Utah Transit Authority has volunteered to cleanup the contaminated areas as part of its TRAX light rail project. In this way, the project can proceed faster and at less expense to the general taxpayer. To protect the health of workers on site, the EPA and UDEQ studied various options for cleaning up contaminated areas of the site. The alternative preferred by EPA prevents direct exposure to contamination in the soil and groundwater includes a gravel cover placed over areas of the site which have high concentration of lead in the soil. The preferred alternative also includes either: (A) Placing an impermeable cap over the source areas for the arsenic in the ground water; or (B) Excavating the arsenic contaminated soils causing the groundwater contamination and isolating the material in the berm designed to muffle sound from the rail line. The contaminated material will be capped with an impermeable barrier and the excavated area filled with clean materials. This option protects the workers on-site while fitting into the final plans for the area.

Although EPA has identified preferred alternatives for dealing with contamination at the Pallas Yard Site, the agency will not decide upon a plan until it evaluates all public comments received. Copies of the Cleanup Plan and other pertinent documents are available for review at the Murray Library, 166 East 5300 South, Murray, UT 84107. The public is encouraged to offer comments from December 19, 1997 through January 19, 1998. Comments on the Cleanup Plan may be submitted either orally or in writing at the public meeting set for 7 p.m. on December 30, 1997, at the Murray City, Hall, 5025 State Street, Murray, Utah. Written comments may also be sent to: Gwen Hooten, EPA Region 8, (8EPR-SR), 999 18th Street, Denver, CO 80202 and postmarked no later than January 19, 1998.

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Guest Opinion or
Letter to the Editor

TANK DEADLINE: ONE YEAR AWAY

As you read this, thousands of tanks containing fuel or hazardous materials are quietly corroding away underground, their sometimes carcinogenic contents leaking toward groundwater used for drinking, stock watering and irrigation.

Why doesn't someone do something about it?

Someone did.

Nine years ago, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency gave tank owners 10 years to upgrade tanks installed before 1988. They were to provide protection against spills, overfills and corrosion, replace their old tanks or close them, filling them with inert materials such as sand or cement.

Next December 22, the 10 years are up. Yet nearly 23,000 tanks in the six states in EPA's Region 8 (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT and WY) have not been upgraded and 8,300 of them may be leaking now.

States report that underground tanks are the most common source of groundwater contamination and petroleum is the most common contaminant. In addition to poisoning groundwater, leaking fuel can create potential for fire and explosions.

Some operators may be betting on an extension of the deadline. EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner announced last May that she does not intend to extend the deadline. An extension, she said, would reduce the incentive to comply and would not be fair to owners who did comply with the law--about 34 percent in this region.

Browner believes that 10 years is plenty of time for tank owners to make their plans and take the needed

actions. EPA will begin enforcing the rule shortly after the December 22 deadline next year.

Costs to **upgrade** vary widely, starting at about \$12,700 for a three-tank facility. **Replacing** those three tanks and piping would cost between \$80,000 and \$100,000. **Closing** a tank (draining, cleaning and removing it or filling it with inert material) would cost \$5,000 to \$11,000. That's not cheap, but neither is the cost to local, state or Federal taxpayers when tank owners walk away from leakers that have contaminated soil and groundwater.

EPA provides a free 16-page booklet called "Don't Wait Until 1998" that explains the tank rules. Some states have financial assistance programs that provide grants or low-interest loans to help owners upgrade or replace their tanks. EPA also provides a booklet on "Financing Underground Storage Tank Work: Federal and State Assistance Programs." To order the booklets, call EPA's Hotline at 1-800-424-9346.

To talk to an EPA tank expert in Denver, call 1-800-227-8917 and ask for the information center. To talk to your State program call in:

Colorado 303-620-4300

Montana 406-444-5970

North Dakota 701-221-5166

South Dakota 605-773-5054

Utah 801-536-4100

Wyoming 307-777-7096

Bill Yellowtail is the Regional Administrator for EPA's Region 8, headquartered in Denver.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMY PETERSON 303 312 6906
TERI BAHRYCH 303 312 6788
NEWS OFFICE 800 227 8917 X6780

DECEMBER 12, 1997

DENVER--The Bureau of Indian Affairs Aberdeen Area Office must correct problems with 52 underground storage tanks on nine Indian reservations in North and South Dakota under a proposed agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today in Denver.

The agreement contains a proposed penalty of nearly \$938,000. BIA may offset a portion of that cash payment by doing a "supplemental environmental project" focusing on environmental issues in the Aberdeen area. Violators cannot use penalty money to correct their own problems, however.

The agreement states that funds for compliance must come from BIA itself and must not impact the budget of any tribe or tribal program.

For many of the tanks, BIA can comply by using low-cost methods of detecting leaks from tanks. Taking inventory of fuel received and dispensed, verifying that pumps and measuring devices are calibrated right and various methods of testing for tank "tightness" can help head off large-scale contamination of soil and groundwater.

Groundwater supplies more than half the drinking water in the Great Plains and there are 17,307 active or closed underground tanks in North and South Dakota, about 350 active tanks on Indian lands there. Nationally, EPA estimates one of every four tanks leaks.

Once gasoline or chemicals get into groundwater, it is extremely expensive, sometimes impossible, to clean up the contamination. "It makes more sense to keep contamination out of our water supplies in the first place," said EPA tank specialist Teri Bahrych in Denver, "and that begins with leak detection."

Bahrych said, "Leak detection is the critical first step in protecting underground supplies of water we use for drinking, livestock and irrigation." Bahrych noted that in 1995, a city well on Pine Ridge had to be closed when contaminated by fuel from a nearby leaking tank. "Often, when wells are closed, new ones must be drilled at substantial expense to small communities. With good leak detection, we can head off such potential health problems and save that expense."

Tank owners and operators have been required to perform leak detection since 1988. By December 22, 1998 they must either upgrade their tanks with overfill, spill and corrosion protection or close them following strict requirements.

BIA's Billings Area Office is included in the proposed agreement for work it must do at the Crow Agency in Montana where fuel had leaked from tanks removed in 1994. EPA has not proposed a penalty in that case because the cleanup is underway but the Agency included a "compliance schedule" to ensure that work is done.

The facilities named in the proposed order as operators, work needed and schedules are:

Cheyenne River Takini School	inventory	within 60 days
	monthly leak detection	
	inventory	one full year
Crow Creek Facility Mgmt	inventory	one full year
	verify stick/pump calibration	within 30 days
Lower Brule Facil. Mgmt./Roads	inventory	one full year
	document proper closure	
	for unused tanks	within 60 days

Fort Berthold Twin Buttes School	perform tightness test or show records of recent test	within 30 days
	inventory	one full year
	pump calibration	within 30 days
Turtle Mtn. Admin. Bldg./Roadstightness	tightness test	within 30 days
	inventory	one full year
Spirit Lake Admin. Bldg	document proper closure for unused tanks	within 30 days
	tightness test	within 30 days
	inventory	one full year
	pump calibration	within 30 days
Standing Rock Admin. Bldg	inventory	one full year
	dipstick/pump calibration	within 30 days
	tightness tests	within 30 days
Pine Ridge Facil. Mgmt./Roads	inventory	one full year
	pump calibration	within 30 days
Pine Ridge Kyle Roads	inventory	one full year

Pine Ridge Bldg., Util. & Land	document proper closure for all unused tanks, plus site assessment, clean-up plan if necessary	within 60 days
Pine Ridge Loneman School	document proper closure for all unused tanks, site assessment, clean-up plan	within 60 days
Pine Ridge Crazy Horse School	document proper closure for all unused tanks, site assessment, clean-up plan if necessary	within 60 days
Pine Ridge Little Wound School	document proper closure for all unused tanks, site assessment, clean-up plan if necessary	within 60 days
Pine Ridge American Horse School	inventory	one full year
Pine Ridge Manderson School	inventory	one full year

	tightness tests	within 30 days
Rosebud Roads	inventory	one full year
	verify pump calibration	within 30 days
	tightness tests	within 30 days

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Environmental Note to Correspondents

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEE HANLEY EPA 303/312-6555
DAVID ROCHLIN EPA 303/312-6892
VAUGHN WHATLEY EPA 303/312-6603

November 25, 1997

DENVER--The Environmental Protection Agency today formally charged Phillips Petroleum Company with air pollution violations at its Woods Cross, Utah, refinery.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) filed the complaint in Federal District Court in Utah on EPA's behalf. The complaint alleges Phillips violated sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions limits and monitoring rules beginning in October, 1994; some of these violations are still ongoing. If the charges are proven, the company could face costly civil penalties.

In 1991 Utah refineries agreed to install and operate equipment that would help recover much of the sulfur before it is released into the air. State permits also require refineries to install devices that constantly monitor emissions to ensure limits are not surpassed.

SO₂ is formed when fossil-fuels containing sulfur are burned. The Agency alleges that large amounts of SO₂ escape into the air when the company's oil refinery improperly operates. Once airborne, the gas

changes into small particles that are often trapped for lengthy periods because of the area's meteorological conditions. When trapped, the pollution particles add to the smog problem in Salt Lake and Davis counties.

Stationary sources account for 63 percent of the particle pollution in the two counties. Refineries contribute about 19 percent of the total particulates, while Phillips' emissions make up about five percent of the total.

"SO₂ and the tiny dust particles it turns into can harm people's health -- especially children, the elderly and those with breathing problems," said Carol Rushin, EPA's Denver Office Enforcement Director. "The nation's Clean Air Act sets air pollution limits to protect the health of those living in the community and to preserve their environment."

The complaint seeks an injunction that requires the company to comply with the law and seeks a civil penalty of up to \$27,500 per day for each violation.

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MIKE HERKIMER (801) 538-6058
EPA NEWS OFFICE 1-800-227-8917 (extension 6780)

October 31, 1997

DENVER-- During the first week of November, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will begin a short-term cleanup action at the Bull Oil Company facility (also known as the LIPA Facility Site) in Lehi, Utah. EPA will conduct this cleanup under the authority specified in the Oil Pollution Act (Section 4201).

Oil contamination at the Site is concentrated in the sediments along a six hundred foot section of the ditch between the LIPA Facility and a privately-owned stock pond. Water from this ditch eventually flows into the Jordan River.

According to the EPA ecotoxicologist, while no downstream impacts on the Jordan River have yet been observed, without cleanup, the oil contaminated sediments may be a continued source of downstream contamination for years to come.

EPA plans to remove the contaminated sediment in the ditch and stock pond and replace it with some three hundred cubic yards of clean material. EPA expects to complete the cleanup before the end of November.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARC HERMAN (303) 312-6724
DIANA HAMMER (303) 312-6601

October 27, 1997

DENVER-- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced its decision regarding two proposed changes to the original cleanup plan for the Lowry Landfill Superfund Site in Arapahoe County.

EPA has decided to treat the contaminated soils and buried drums from the "former tire pile area" of the landfill onsite. EPA has also decided to pre-treat the ground water onsite to remove organic contaminants before piping it to the Metro Wastewater Reclamation District (Metro) facility and the City of Aurora's Sand Creek Wastewater Reclamation facility for final treatment.

In direct response to community concerns about this second change, Metro will provide additional community involvement and monitoring activities.

According to Marc Herman, EPA Project Manager for Lowry Landfill, the decision to pipe pre-treated ground water offsite for additional treatment was made after much deliberation. This option represents the safest, most reliable and cost-effective treatment for ground water at the Site.

Earlier this year, EPA and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) proposed to change the March 1994 "record of decision" for the Lowry Landfill as follows:

- The agencies proposed to treat and dispose of contaminated soils and buried drums from the "former tire pile area" onsite. The original plan called for offsite treatment and disposal. Based on

public comment and the technical merit of this proposal, EPA today approved this change.

- The agencies also proposed to pipe pre-treated ground water contaminated with inorganic compounds offsite at the existing Metro facility and Aurora's Sand Creek Wastewater Reclamation facility. The original plan called for either a new or upgraded onsite wastewater treatment facility. EPA today decided to approve this change as well. EPA is confident that this decision is based on sound science and that this is technically the best option for ground-water treatment.

EPA, while having a responsibility to protect human health and the environment, also has a responsibility to consider community concerns. During the public comment period, community members voiced concern about Metro's land-based operations, specifically its fertilizer application (treated sewage sludge is called "biosolids" and is applied as fertilizer to area soils) and farming practices.

In direct response to these concerns, Metro has agreed to work with the community and to provide additional community involvement and monitoring activities. These activities will focus primarily on the biosolids and farming operations, for example: setting up a community monitoring committee, conducting baseline sampling and developing a soil conservation plan.

EPA and CDPHE reviewed all comments submitted during the 90-day public comment period and responded to each in the "responsiveness summary," which is available for public review at these locations:

EPA Superfund Records Center
999 18th Street, Suite 500
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 312-6473

Aurora Central Public Library
14949 East Alameda
Aurora, CO 80002
(303) 340-2290

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Colorado, Montana, North
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Utah, Wyoming

Environmental Justice Pollution Prevention Grants Program

FY1997 Award Summaries

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COLORADO

Madeline Williams, Program Contact
National Association of Black Environmentalists (NABE)
999 18th Street, Suite 2750
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 297-3048

Amount Awarded: \$100,000

Program Summary: The Sustainable, Environmentally-Robust Urban Community Project (SERUC) will introduce pollution prevention, as well as water and energy conservation sensitivity and practices to the residents of Denver's Northeast Park Hill community. In this seven square mile, high density area, the

income levels are low and the community is overwhelmingly minority. Youth employment is a primary goal of this project. Youth, businesses and families will learn about and address environment related threats to their health and the quality of their lives through environmental information, activities and services related to soil and water quality, indoor and outdoor air quality, toxic materials assessment and abatement, alternative raw materials and technologies, point source pollution and non-threatening conflict resolution.

Sharon Day, Town of Meeker Administrator
Town of Meeker/MP2 Pollution Committee
PO Box 38
Meeker, CO 81641
(970) 878-5344

Amount Awarded: \$25,000

Program Summary: The Town of Meeker and the grassroots Meeker P2 Committee have organized a partnership of community-wide support for pollution prevention program development which will benefit Meeker and set the stage for a county-wide program. The town is economically depressed, 33% of the 841 households make less than \$15,000 annually. A full-time P2 Specialist would be hired to develop educational articles for publication in the local weekly newspaper, coordinate P2 training for local businesses, coordinate a community-wide used oil collection service, and other P2 efforts.

MONTANA

Dr. Michael P. Vogel, Program Coordinator
Montana State University
Department of Education-Extension Service
109 Taylor Hall
Bozeman, MT 59717
(406) 994-3451

Amount Awarded: \$100,000

Program Summary: The Montana P2 Program is an educational and non-regulatory program of the Montana State University Extension Service (MSUES). Through successful past experiences with Montana Indian Tribes, the MT P2 Program plans to facilitate the creation of the Tribal College Environmental Justice/Pollution Prevention Scholarship, Intern and Empowerment Program. This effort will provide P2 support courses and experiential learning opportunities for Native American faculty and students of seven tribal colleges. The program will offer qualified faculty and students the opportunity to

attend MSU with the MT P2 Program for one semester or summer session. The goal is to empower faculty and students to return home to assist tribal administration and members assess and implement opportunities to attain environmental justice through pollution prevention.

Andrea Main, Executive Director
Montana Tribal Business Information Network
University of Montana
Gallaher Building, #257
Missoula, MT 59812
(406)243-6634

Amount Awarded: \$85,000

Program Summary: The Montana Tribal Business Information Network (TBIN) is comprised of the seven Tribal Business Information Centers located on each of the seven Indian reservations in Montana. The TBIN will provide technical assistance and training in implementing pollution prevention technologies, as well as form a Pollution Prevention Tribal Cooperative. The project will assist tribal small business in seeking information about source reduction opportunities, provide onsite technical advice, and develop and implement tribal small business source reduction plans.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Tom Cook, Program Manager
Running Strong for American Indian Youth
8815 Telegraph Road
Lorton, VA 22079
(308) 432-2290

Amount Awarded: \$30,000

Program Summary: Running Strong for American Indian Youth sponsors and operates the Slim Buttes Community Agriculture Development Project on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The Slim Buttes Project is a community-based cooperative effort developing organic family gardens primarily in the western districts of the 5,000 square mile reservation. The youth focus on land use, environmental and health issues, and the appropriateness of Indians helping themselves through their own efforts and by employing traditional resources based on organic gardening techniques. The program will provide technical, mechanical, and material assistance to individual family, tiospaye (relatives living together), and small-scale community gardens.

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Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

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COLORADO

Lorraine L. Granado, Director/Beth Blissman, Program Contact
Cross Community Coalition (COPEEN)
Family Resource Center
2332 East 46th Ave.
Denver, CO 80216-3914
(303) 292-3203

Amount Awarded: \$19,920

Project Summary: The Cross Community Coalition is receiving this EJ grant as the umbrella agency for the Colorado Peoples' Environmental and Economic Network (COPEEN). COPEEN's goal is to bring together community-based grassroots people of color groups in the north Denver I-70 corridor

communities of Elyria, Swansea, Globeville, and North Park Hill to build partnerships to address environmental justice issues, improve coordination, communication, and information exchange. This will be accomplished through the quarterly COPEEN News newsletter, community discussions and dissemination of environmental information.

Office of the District Attorney
Fifth Judicial District
P.O. Box 488
Breckenridge, CO 80424
(970) 453-2327, ext. 20

Amount Awarded: \$15,240

Project Summary: The purpose of this project is to work with Hispanic and lower income populations in Lake, Eagle, Summit and Clear Creek counties, to increase community understanding of environmental and hazardous materials management by improving communication and coordination among stakeholders. This project will include more involvement among emergency response personnel to educate citizens in the target populations.

Madeline Williams, Program Contact
National Association of Black Environmentalists (NABE)
999 18th Street, Suite 2750
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 297-3048

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Program Summary: The National Association of Black Environmentalists (NABE) is local 501c(3) academic, scholarship, and mentoring organization dedicated too attracting minority and disadvantaged youth into environmental careers in the Denver, Colorado area. Established in metropolitan-Denver public schools in September, 1994, NABE has cultivated a loyal core of students who have benefited from program-administered tutoring, mentoring, field experiences, career and research-skills training. This project will incorporate sociological treatment of environmental injustice into the academic program; incorporate an air-quality component to test ambient air into the physical science component of the program; intensify outreach to prospective NABE students; expand internship capabilities for the program, and define and concentrate on programmatic needs for students by establishing partnerships.

Lynn Westberg, Program Contact
San Juan Basin Health Department
281 Sawyer Drive
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 247-5702

Amount Awarded: \$19,062

Program Summary: The environmental justice issue addressed in this grant concerns the South Durango neighborhood. South Durango, a low income and predominantly Hispanic area, is one example of a population that will benefit from this community-based approach. The residents of South Durango, as represented by the South Durango Neighborhood Association (SDNA), feel this section of town has borne a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from the commercial operation of the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad. This project will work with the community to establish a stakeholder group to discuss air and water quality issues associated with the operations of the railroad.

Sue Groves, Program Contact
Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 248
Towaoc, CO 81334
(970) 565-3751 ext. 316

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Project Summary: This project will identify, assess and address the potential of inequitable environmental impacts from mining operations to the White Mesa Community located in southeast Utah, eleven miles south of Blanding . The White Mesa Uranium Mill owned and operated by Energy Fuels Nuclear, Inc. is located 5 miles from the tribal community. White Mesa Community consisting of 800 acres, 99% tribal members mostly of the Ute Mt. Ute Tribe, an unemployment rate of 50-60% and a per family annual average income of less than \$5,000 is a separate part of the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Reservation. The Tribe will establish communication with the State of Utah, Division of Radiation Control and the Division of Water Quality regarding this issue. Utilizing the expertise of a consultant to evaluate and interpret existing data, community residents should be able to better understand if they bear a disproportionate share of negative environmental impacts from the mining facility.

Tracy Smith, III, Program Contact
Northeast Denver Housing Center
1735 Gaylord Street
Denver, CO 80206
(303) 377-3334

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Project Summary: Provide environmental education for low income inner-city residents through Denver's Environmental Education Initiative. NDHC will develop a program that educates residents about their environment. This project will be a model that brings the community, private and public

sector together to learn from each other and to formulate sustainable solutions through workshops and community events.

Michelle Wolf, Project Manager
Stapleton Development Corporation
1125 17th Street, Suite 2000
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 295-7900

Amount Awarded: \$15,778

Project Summary: Provide opportunities to economically-disadvantaged and ethnically- diverse youth, ages 15-24, to learn about environmental issues by working on environmental work projects along Sand Creek, thereby advancing environmental justice. This program will enable youth to obtain meaningful employment experience, job and life skills training, and much-needed income while providing valuable information about the environmental issues affecting the northeast Denver metro community.

MONTANA

Ina Nez Perce, Program Contact
Fort Belknap Community Council
R.R. 1 Box 66
Harlem, Montana 59526
(406) 353-2205, ext. 429

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Program Summary: The Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, located in north-central Montana, encompasses an area of 653,000 acres and is the home of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes. The foremost environmental concern of the Fort Belknap Community Council (FBCC) and Fort Belknap Indian Reservation residents is the risk of water contamination from Montana's largest cyanide heap leach gold mining operation - the Zortman and Landusky gold mines. The project proposes to (1) inform and educate the community on water quality and safe drinking water issues through a quarterly newsletter, two workshops (one on safe drinking water and the other on water quality issues) and radio (KGVA Fort Belknap College radio station) forums and programs, (2) seek to empower the community through workshops and radio forums and programs so they may make more informed environmental decisions and actively participate in environmental issues, and (3) build and expand community partnerships with environmental organizations and agencies to promote local environmental justice issues.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Lillian A. Wilmore, Program Contact
Jobs and Environment Campaign/Pine Ridge Reservation
Native Ecology Initiative
P.O. Box 470829
Brookline Village, MA 02147-0829
(617) 232-5742

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Program Summary: This project is requesting funds to complete Phase 3 of the Oglala Lakota Environmental Empowerment Project (OLEEP) which is an on-going partnership/collaboration between Native Ecology Initiative, an Indian-run, non-profit project, and the Oglala Lakota Nation (OLN). This partnership is designed to substantially improve the quality of existing environmental programs, focusing on groundwater and pesticides, of the OLN that have a direct impact on the Pine Ridge Reservation in the State of South Dakota. Project activities will include a ground water and pesticide management plan, additional pesticide specific plans, and quality assurance documentation.

Elaine WhitePipe, Program Contact
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
P.O. Box 807
Lower Brule, SD 57548
(605) 473-5561

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Project Summary: The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe is located in Lower Brule, South Dakota. The project will analyze possible contamination of drinking water from groundwater relative to the use of pesticides, herbicides and chemicals on irrigated lands on the reservation. This information will then be shared with community members, through formation of an Environmental Review Commission representing community stakeholders.

Mike Bengé, Program Contact
Sinte Gleska University
P.O. Box 490
Rosebud, SD 57570
(605) 747-2263

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Project Summary: Sinte Gleska University is located on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in Rosebud, South Dakota. This project will conduct training of personnel from Native American tribes in the detection of environmental contaminants, in the analysis of environmental data, and the use of environmental analysis equipment.

WYOMING

Don Aragon, Program Contact
Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes
P.O. Box 217
Fort Washakie, WY 82514
(307) 332-3164

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Program Summary: The Wind River Environmental Quality Commission (WREQC) is an entity of the Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes (Tribes) of the Wind River Indian Reservation (Reservation). With this Environmental Justice Small Grant, the WREQC will work to find new, innovative ways to reduce the exposure of tribal members to potentially toxic waste and chemicals through a combination of efforts aimed at: recycling research; general public education on a lean and safe environment; provide access to information on hazardous materials; work with private and tribal programs on planning for pollution prevention; collection and elimination of hazardous materials from individuals private homes. WREQC will hold one Environmental Fair for all Reservation Schools.

UTAH

Tim Brown, Program Contact
Utah Society for Environmental Education
350 South 400 East, SE G4
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
(801) 328-1549

Amount Awarded: \$20,000

Program Summary: A situation of disproportionate amount of minority and low-income communities experiencing higher than average exposure to toxic pollutants and environmental disrepair is exemplified by the environmental condition of the Jordan River corridor that meanders through the Salt Lake Valley. In the southern portion of the corridor, the surrounding community is economically stable and the environmental quality and integrity of the urban stream ecosystem in this area is being restored. The northern river corridor, however, winding through the low-income, minority dominated area, which is the target audience for this grant, appears abandoned in contrast. The goal of the project is to change the community's attitude about the river and their ability to resolve environmental justice issues facing them. Specifically, USEE will continue to work as facilitator and liaison with schools, community councils, other community groups and agencies; will publish a monthly newsletter that informs the community about issues, events and celebrations along the river; and will broaden community involvement and increase partnerships.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOLL-FREE 1-800-227-8917
ART PALOMARES, ext. 6658
PETER ISMERT, ext. 6665

OCTOBER 9, 1997

DENVER (Colo.)--The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 8 and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) Wednesday ordered F.E. Warren Air Force Base to immediately stop construction work on a landfill "cap" on the base.

Under the previously adopted cleanup plan the Air Force was to cover the landfill with the type of cap used for hazardous waste facilities. The Air Force has proposed a different type of covering which is untried in Wyoming.

EPA and WDEQ said the work should stop until they approve the technical design and construction plans and the public has had a 30-day period to comment on the project. The public comment period is required by the Superfund law and an earlier agreement among the agencies and the Air Force.

In a letter to John Wright, F.E. Warren's project manager for environmental cleanup work at the Base, Terry Anderson, director of EPA Region 8's Federal Facilities Program, said, "work being performed at Landfill 6...is inadequate, and this inadequacy is likely to have an adverse effect on implementation of the (cleanup) remedy."

Landfill 6 is a 41-acre site used by the base to dispose of solid waste from 1971 to 1980 and from 1980 to 1984 for disposal of fly ash generated by the base's coal-fired heating plant.

"Construction of the cap cannot proceed until after the public's opinions have been taken into

account,"said Anderson. EPA and WDEQ feel strongly defects are likely to interfere with the future implementation of the remedy and its ability to protect human health and the environment.

Members of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), a local citizens' group that meets monthly to advise the Air Force on cleanup activities, also expressed concerns at the last RAB meeting on Sept. 23.

One member said he feels very strongly the current construction activities are a mistake and that EPA's concerns should be heard immediately.

Another member said the cap, as being constructed, has no better than a 50/50 shot of surviving the winter, and possibly will require reconstruction.

For further information, call either Art Palomares or Peter Ismert at EPA Region 8, 800-227-8917, ext. 6658 or ext. 6665, or Maggie Davison at WDEQ, (307) 777-7092.

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Editor, Rocky Mountain News
P. O. Box 719
Denver, CO 80201

Editor:

In its September 28 editorial, "Sen. Allard vs. The EPA," the News missed the most important point:

The Superfund program works.

Radioactive waste from the Colorado School of Mines Research Institute no longer threatens 250,000 people who depend on Clear Creek for their drinking water. Only Superfund can move fast enough to head off this kind of threat. By comparison, figuring out who owes what for the cleanup is a smaller matter.

And there, your editorial was misleading as well. Here are the facts:

Claim: The Environmental Protection Agency exempts itself and other federal agencies from complying with national pollution laws--specifically Superfund.

Fact: Federal agencies are paying their fair share at Superfund sites. They are footing the bill at 10 of the 52 Superfund sites in the six-state EPA region that includes Colorado.

Claim: EPA let federal agencies off the hook at the Colorado School of Mines Research Institute cleanup in Golden.

Fact: EPA follows a standard process when it identifies those responsible for cleanup at Superfund sites. Neither private companies, states, nor federal agencies receive special treatment. Evidence showed that the work of the federal Bureau of Mines contributed to contamination at the research facility, as did the work of the School of Mines and several private companies. In addition, an EPA laboratory and many

other companies contributed to the waste by sending samples to the facility for analysis. Using a standard formula, EPA's share of cleanup costs was \$132.

The Bureau of Mines will pay its fair share. Right now, the Bureau is working with the school and several companies to reach agreement on their rightful share of cleanup costs. Agreement is close at hand. In addition, EPA has offered to absorb \$185,000 that it spent to clean up the site in an effort to move the agreement forward.

Claim: EPA opposes congressional efforts to make federal agencies comply with environmental laws to the same extent as everyone else.

Fact: EPA has taken no formal position on this legislation. EPA has committed to working with Congress to craft a comprehensive and workable rewrite of the Superfund law.

Sincerely,

William P. Yellowtail
Regional Administrator

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Environmental News Advisory

RELEASE AT WILL

Laura Farris EPA 303/312-6189
David Schaller EPA 303/312-6146
Toll Free - News Office EPA 800/227-8917

October 1, 1997

DENVER--EPA's Denver regional office will jointly host satellite downlink sites in Colorado and Utah, as part of the national Climate Change Conference, which will address health and environmental impacts of global warming. This event will occur simultaneously in various cities throughout the country on October 6, 1997. It will serve as a prelude to an international conference scheduled for this December in Kyoto, Japan. Participants at the Kyoto conference will try to negotiate a binding agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions worldwide.

Reporters attending the Colorado downlink site can watch the conference live from Washington, D.C. At the conference, panels of experts will convene to discuss issues ranging from global warming science and technology's role in cutting greenhouse emissions to climate change policy and the U.S. economy. The President and Vice President also will attend the conference and address the national audience. During the lunch intermission, local panels will react to the national discussions and offer their views concerning the regional impacts of climate change and strategies to decrease global warming.

WHO:

The President and Vice President of the United States and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

WHAT:

The White House Conference on Climate Change: The Challenge of Global Warming

- Satellite downlinks throughout the country will offer live coverage of the national panel discussions.
- Lunchtime local panel of experts will discuss regional effects of global warming, ideas to cut greenhouse gas emissions and reflect on the national panel discussions. Local panelists also will respond to questions from those attending the satellite downlink.

WHEN:

Monday, October 6th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. (MDT). Lunchtime activities will run from 10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (this time frame is only an estimate and is subject to change).

WHERE:

In Colorado, at the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Signs inside the building will direct you to the appropriate room for the Climate Change Conference satellite downlink.

DIRECTIONS:

U.S. 36 west to Boulder. Exit on Baseline and travel westbound. At the Broadway intersection, turn right (north). Continue for about two blocks, then turn right onto Euclid Ave. After traveling about a block, you will find the parking structure. Walk to the east end of the parking structure (away from the mountains) and turn left (north) on 18th street and continue past the Hunter Building to a walkway. Turn left (west) at the walkway and go past the Ketchum Building (on your right side) to the CIRES building which straddles the walkway.

WHAT ELSE:

Transportation, parking and lunch are the participants' responsibility. For more details contact Laura Farris (meeting coordinator) at 303/312-6189.

CONTACTS:

- *Jack Hiding*, EPA Pollution Prevention Program Manager (attending the University of Utah downlink), 303/312-6387.
- *David Schaller*, EPA point person at the Boulder downlink, 303/312-6146.
- *Rich Lathrop*, EPA Regional Press Officer, 303/312-6780.
- *Vaughn Whatley*, EPA Regional Press Officer, 303/312-6603.
- *Chris Powers*, Department of Energy and assisting the media in Boulder, 303/275-4742.
- *Ron King*, Department of Energy (assisting reporters at the Utah downlink site), 208/526-7300.

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Reporters attending the Utah downlink site can watch the conference live from Washington, D.C. At the conference, panels of experts will convene to discuss issues ranging from global warming science and technology's role in cutting greenhouse emissions to climate change policy and the U.S. economy. The President and Vice President also will attend the conference and address the national audience. During the lunch intermission, local panels will react to the national discussions and offer their views concerning the regional impacts of climate change and strategies to decrease global warming.

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WHEN:

Monday, October 6th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. (MDT). Lunchtime activities will run from 10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (this time frame is only an estimate and is subject to change).

WHERE:

At the University of Utah (Skaggs Hall) in Salt Lake City, Utah. Signs inside the building will direct you to the appropriate room for the climate change conference satellite downlink.

DIRECTIONS:

From downtown Salt Lake City, take 400 S. towards the campus of the University of Utah. Continue past Rice Stadium, take the next right turn onto Guardsman Way and go left into the Guardsman Way parking lot. Park and go to the SW corner and wait for the Green Shuttle (departs from the parking lot at :15, :30 and :45 minutes past the hour). Take this shuttle to the Art and Architecture Building where you will transfer to a Blue Shuttle (runs about every five minutes). Take the Blue Shuttle to Skaggs Hall.

To return to the parking lot, take the Red Shuttle that departs Skaggs Hall at :8, :28 and :38 minutes past the hour. Take the Red Shuttle to the Business Building where you must transfer to the Green Shuttle (runs about every eight minutes). The Green Shuttle will take you back to the Guardsman Way parking lot.

WHAT ELSE:

Transportation, parking and lunch are the participants' responsibility. For more details contact Laura Farris (meeting coordinator) at 303/312-6189.

CONTACTS:

- *Jack Hiding*, EPA Pollution Prevention Program Manager (attending the University of Utah downlink), 303/312-6387.
- *David Schaller*, EPA point person at the Boulder downlink, 303/312-6146.
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NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS

DELDI REYES (303) 312-6055
ELISABETH EVANS (303) 312-6053

SEPTEMBER 17, 1997

WHAT:
Community members speak about challenges in Environmental Justice at EPA Brownbag lunch.

Please bring your own lunch.

WHO:
Lorraine Granado (Cross Community Coalition)
Munir Meghjee (Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund)
Gerry Swingle (South Durango Neighborhood Association)

WHEN:
Thursday, September 25, 1997 noon - 1:00 p.m.

WHERE:
The EPA Conference Center (2nd floor)
999 18th St. (between Curtis and Champa)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Wednesday, October 8, 1997 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Stephen Pevar, National Staff Counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, will speak on "EPA's Trust Responsibility and Ethical Concerns".

Participants at this brownbag are eligible to receive Continuing Legal Education (**CLE**) **credit**.

Tuesday, November 18, 1997 noon - 1:00 p.m.

Lalo Delgado, Executive Director of the Justice Information Center, will speak. His topic is "Update on Pesticides and Migrant Workers and the Consumer".

Each event will be in the EPA Conference Center.

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Charla Colson (303) 312-6280
Jack Rychecky (303) 312-6812
EPA News Office (800) 227-8917 x6610

SEPTEMBER 15, 1997

FORT LUPTON, COLORADO - Once a wastewater system with numerous violations, the Fort Lupton Wastewater Treatment Plant has earned top honors in the 1997 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Operations and Maintenance Excellence Awards program.

The Fort Lupton Facility won first place in EPA Region 8 which includes the states of Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota and North Dakota. They followed this prize by taking top honors in national competition encompassing all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

Fort Lupton's new plant came on line in 1993 replacing an old aerated lagoon system. Before the new facility was built, the city had numerous violations of the Clean Water Act. Since 1993 there have been no violations.

The facility treats approximately one million gallons of wastewater a day and serves a population of 6,120 people. The plant was judged outstanding in its cost management, energy conservation, biosolids management, biomonitoring investigations, industrial waste management, training and public involvement.

EPA's Operations and Maintenance Award program began in 1986 as part of a national effort to recognize publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities that demonstrate excellence in their overall operation. The program is also designed to heighten public awareness about the importance of efficient

wastewater treatment.

Operations and Maintenance Award Coordinator, Charla Colson, expressed EPA's appreciation for the quality work done at the Fort Lupton plant. She said, "This country has spent billions of dollars on wastewater treatment projects in the last 20 years. The Fort Lupton plant is an example of our best in the fight against water pollution."

Jack Rychecky, EPA Municipal Systems Chief, will present the award to Plant Manager Kim Schoen and staff at the September 24 Fort Lupton City Council meeting.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Kim Schoen, Plant Manager, can be reached at 303/659-1278.

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Environmental News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gwen Jacobs EPA 406/441-1140 x235

Libby Bohanon EPA 303/312-6904

William Brooks DOJ 202/514-2008

September 2, 1997

HELENA, MONTANA--Plum Creek Manufacturing, L.P. has agreed to pay civil penalties totaling \$300,000 and to expend an additional \$75,000 to complete a beneficial environmental project for past Clean Air Act violations at its Pablo Mill, located on the Flathead Reservation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today.

The settlement, lodged September 2, 1997, in U.S. District Court in Missoula, resolves the United States' claims that the lumber mill's wood-fired boiler violated particulate emission limits and monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements of the Clean Air Act's New Source Performance Standards since its startup in the fall of 1990. Plum Creek disputed EPA's claim that the New Source Performance Standards applied to its wood-fired boiler. Despite its contention, the company installed emission control equipment and an air quality monitoring device in December 1995.

Airborne particulate matter, or soot, comes from car, diesel truck, industrial and power plant emissions, street sanding, wood burning stoves, unpaved streets, etc. These tiny particles are inhaled and lodge in a person's lungs, causing serious respiratory and other health problems and environmental damage.

In addition to paying a civil penalty, Plum Creek will purchase high-grade road-sanding material for the

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. The tribes, Montana Department of Transportation and local entities will use the sanding material during the winter months on roads in and around Pablo. This material will cut road dust (another source of airborne particles), while maintaining vehicle traction during snowstorms.

Without admitting to the federal allegations, Plum Creek agreed to pay the penalty, complete the environmental project and comply with all applicable laws in the future.

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News Advisory

RELEASE AT WILL

Fred Reid EPA 303/312-6018
Bruce Cooper EPA 303/312-6028
Toll Free Phone Number EPA 800/227-8917

September 19, 1997

DENVER--EPA requires companies that produce or use certain toxic chemicals or metals to submit annual toxic release inventory reports, and each year industries in Colorado make news when these reports are made public. In 1998, businesses in seven newly added industrial sectors must begin annually reporting to EPA on toxic chemical pollution coming from their facilities. These reports are required under the [Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act \(EPCRA\)](#), under which EPA regulates chemicals.

WHAT:

Next week, EPA will offer a **FREE** two-day workshop in Denver that instructs businesses from the newly added sectors on how to comply with EPCRA requirements. The class includes information to help companies report types and amounts of pollution released into the air, water or land. EPA, states and communities use the data to identify chemical release permit violations, monitor materials released into the environment and gauge a facility's pollution prevention progress.

WHO:

The workshop targets businesses that fall into one of the new categories recently added to the list of industries that must file annual toxic release reports. Those who have never reported, do not understand

how to report or have not attended a previous workshop should attend.

The seven new industrial sectors categories added under the right-to-know program are:

- much of the metal mining sector;
- most coal mining operations;
- electric utilities (those that use coal and oil as fuel);
- commercial hazardous waste treatment facilities;
- petroleum bulk stations (those under 10,000 gallons of storage capacity);
- chemical and allied product wholesalers (agricultural chemicals, pesticides and fertilizer); and
- commercial solvent recovery services.

These categories will join the 20 others already reporting on their toxic releases. Companies within the new industrial sectors must begin reporting in 1998; figures are due to EPA by July 1, 1999.

WHEN:

Tuesday and Wednesday, September 23rd and 24th from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WHERE:

The Renaissance Hotel - Grand Ballroom C, located at 3801 Quebec Street in Denver. Nearby street parking is free and parking in the hotel's garage is available for a fee. The hotel's phone number is: 303/399-7500.

WHAT ELSE:

Space is limited and participants must register for the workshop in advance. Register by phone: (301) 907-3844, fax: (301) 907-9655, or e-mail: epcra@tascon.com. When registering be prepared to give your name, company name, telephone number, fax number, e-mail address, mailing address and industrial sector. Transportation and lodging are the participants responsibility. For more details call Fred Reid at (303) 312-6018 or Bruce Cooper at (303) 312-6028.

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EPA NEWS OFFICE 1-800-227-8917 x6610

SEPTEMBER 2, 1997

DENVER, Colo.--A high school in Adams County will create a web site for a pollution prevention curriculum through an environmental project that is one of 21 applicants regionally to share in an estimated \$172,000 in grants under the National Environmental Education Act of 1990, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Rice University (Ute Mountain Ute Reservation) will use its **\$18,894** grant to link an informal rural science project - the Ute Mountain Discovery Camp - with the formal public school curriculum and area science professionals to produce a locally-based, self-sustaining environmental education resource. EPA funds will also be used to establish a web site for teacher support and dissemination of the environmental education project.

Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (Denver) will use a **\$16,100** grant to mobilize 15 community-based EE networks, made up of 2,300 environmental educators, to create a comprehensive, cross-referenced listing of EE programs in fulfillment of the statewide curriculum content standards. CAEE will also sponsor 10 training workshops on the standards for EE providers.

Ignacio School District 11JT (Ignacio) will use a **\$5,000** grant to implement a hands-on, experiential water quality research program at Ignacio High School. Students will become a river research team, aided and instructed by science and technology teachers and environmental personnel from the Southern Ute Tribe and community. Partners of the project include the Southern Ute Tribe and the Colorado

Division of Wildlife River Watch Program.

Colorado Wildlife Federation (Lakewood) will use its **\$5,000** grant to present the Urban NatureLink program to Denver inner-city families to increase their awareness of the wildlife, habitat and environmental issues in their neighborhoods, and provide resources for families to protect or improve their environment as they see fit. Partners of the program include the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado Bird Observatory, Denver Parks and Recreation and the Thorne Ecological Institute.

Electronic Pathways (Boulder) will develop an environmental science career website for women and girls organizations with its **\$5,000** grant. The website will become part of the Career Communications Network for Women and Girls currently being developed through a grant from the Women's Foundation of Colorado and will facilitate communications among 50- 75 women and girls organizations and for careers in health, science, technology and the environment.

Adams County School District 14 (Commerce City) will use a **\$4,926** grant to establish a website to disseminate a proven environmental curriculum and student-produced multi-media presentations on pollution prevention and reduction for homes, schools and communities. The website - Students as Catalysts for Pollution Prevention Online - goal is to increase student, teacher and public access to pollution prevention strategies and resources that can contribute to a safer environmental future.

Hygiene Elementary School (Hygiene) will use a **\$4,900** grant to implement a year-long, total school, interdisciplinary environmental education project focusing on water quality, conservation and preserving aquatic habitats. Among the activities included in the plan are the adoption of a wetland by the students and the design and planning for a xeriscape garden on the school grounds.

Friends of Bluff Lake (Denver) will use a **\$4,750** grant to design and distribute the first environmental education curriculum to kindergarten students in the Denver metropolitan area. Approximately 700 students will benefit from the education programs, stewardship efforts and curriculum development in the community surrounding the former Stapleton Airport.

Grand Valley Earth Coalition (Grand Junction) will use a **\$4,364** grant to develop environmental internships for teachers with local environmental government agencies through the Community Environmental Education Program. A second goal is to include local middle school students in research and analysis of area environmental issues and the preparation of interpretive displays to enhance community awareness.

Clean Air Campaign of the Pikes Peak Region (Colorado Springs) will use a **\$2,000** grant to improve instructors' environmental education teaching skills by conducting a series of hands-on educator workshops for teachers from 13 public school districts in the Pikes Peak Region, private schools and other educational facilities . The goal is to educate teachers and students about the properties of air, effects of air pollution on the community ; and to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills for pollution prevention.

"It's a pleasure for EPA to fund such quality examples of environmental education," said EPA's environmental education program coordinator in Denver CeCe Forget. "We can all be proud to support this work."

These projects applied for funding to EPA's regional office in Denver which has authority to issue grants of \$25,000 or less. Applications for larger amounts are sent to EPA's Washington headquarters.

Designed to boost teaching skills, the grants also promote information sharing and public awareness and allow for wide application of new techniques as they are developed.

Winning projects also focus on building state, local and tribal capacity to deliver environmental education, increasing opportunities for minority and other under-represented groups and on teaching pollution prevention. Applications were screened by teams of peer reviewers from within and outside the Agency.

For more information on these projects call:

- Rice University, Jean Vorhaben: (713) 527-4820
- Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education, Mike Way: (303) 297-0187
- Ignacio School District 11JT, Julia Somers: (970) 563-9431
- Colorado Wildlife Federation, Diane Gansauer: (303) 987-0400
- Electronic Pathways, John Hoover: (303) 492-5593
- Adams County School District 14, Don Bruce: (303) 853-7776
- Hygiene Elementary School, Billie Pett: (303) 678-0771
- Friends of Bluff Lake, Kent Messer (303) 764-3643
- Grand Valley Earth Coalition, Sandi Sturm: (970) 523-5149
- Clean Air Campaign of Pikes Peak, Christine Regan: (719) 633-4211

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SEPTEMBER 2, 1997

DENVER, Colo.--Missoula's YMCA will launch a new outdoor program this month for area youth and the general public through an environmental project that is one of 21 applicants regionally to share in an estimated \$172,000 in grants under the National Environmental Education Act of 1990, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The University of Montana School of Forestry (Missoula) will use a **\$25,000** grant to develop and demonstrate a new, balanced teacher training course and an integrated ecosystem framework in which middle and high school teachers can use existing curriculum to teach ecosystem conservation. Participating teachers will attend a formal workshop taught by forestry researchers, managers and faculty.

Missoula Family YMCA (Missoula) will use its **\$4,642** grant to provide a new outdoor environmental education learning experience to over 100,000 residents of the Missoula area through a community-based organization approach. A broad array of classes and activities, including science and nature study, environmental issues, history and culture and team-building initiatives focusing on the unique ecosystems and environmental issues of western Montana.

"It's a pleasure for EPA to fund such quality examples of environmental education," said EPA's environmental education program coordinator in Denver CeCe Forget. "We can all be proud to support this work."

These projects applied for funding to EPA's regional office in Denver which has authority to issue grants of \$25,000 or less. Applications for larger amounts are sent to EPAs' Washington headquarters.

Designed to boost teaching skills, the grants also promote information sharing and public awareness and allow for wide application of new techniques as they are developed.

Winning projects also focus on building state, local and tribal capacity to deliver environmental education, increasing opportunities for minority and other under-represented groups and on teaching pollution prevention. Applications were screened by teams of peer reviewers from within and outside the Agency.

For more information on these projects call:

- University of Montana, Ken Hubbard: (406) 243-6670
- Missoula Family YMCA, Porter Hammitt: (406) 721-9622

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SEPTEMBER 2, 1997

DENVER, Colo.--Students in Manti will plan and operate a green house for native plants for an elementary school's planned nature area through an environmental project that is one of 21 applicants regionally to share in an estimated \$172,000 in grants under the National Environmental Education Act of 1990, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Utah Society for Environmental Education (Salt Lake City) will use a **\$21,100** grant to create an evaluation instrument for environmental education (EE) program audiences and field test the instrument at selected EE provider sites. The project will also result in the creation of a statewide database and reporting system that will help to measure EE program effectiveness.

Decker Lake Wetlands Preserve Foundation (Salt Lake City) will use its **\$17,461** grant to educate the Granite School District and the Decker Lake Business Park about watershed water quality through outreach visits and hands-on work on issues that impact the Decker Lake watershed. Business leaders and the community will be educated through the visits and a student-developed media campaign.

Utah State University (Logan) will use a **\$4,961** grant to develop educational partnerships and activities that will help families discover/rediscover a sense of place in the Logan River Canyon area. The community-based project will

partner a number of groups to promote critical thinking and decision-making skills as it relates to

important local issues. Parents and children will learn about ecology and natural history together.

South Sanpete School District (Manti) will use its **\$4,874** grant to provide workshops to teachers and field trips for students to various types of range land to increase their knowledge of range quality issues. Students will apply their critical thinking skills by planning and operating a greenhouse in which they will germinate and raise native plants. Plants raised by the students will be used in the Spring City Elementary nature walk area, on the Snow College campus and in disturbed areas on national forest or BLM land, where agencies are trying to do away with many dirt roads.

"It's a pleasure for EPA to fund such quality examples of environmental education," said EPA's environmental education program coordinator in Denver CeCe Forget. "We can all be proud to support this work."

These projects applied for funding to EPA's regional office in Denver which has authority to issue grants of \$25,000 or less. Applications for larger amounts are sent to EPA's Washington headquarters.

Designed to boost teaching skills, the grants promote information sharing and public awareness and allow for wide application for new techniques as they are developed.

Funded projects also focus on building state, local and tribal capacity to deliver environmental education, increasing opportunities for minority and other under-represented groups and on teaching pollution prevention. Applications were screened by teams of peer reviewers from within and outside the Agency.

For more information on these projects call:

- Utah Society for Environmental Education, Tim Brown: (801) 328-1549
- Decker Lake Wetlands Preserve, Dianna Smith: (801) 261-0496
- Utah State University, Dr. Sharon Ohlhorst: (801) 797-2580
- South Sanpete School District, Ellen Walker: (801) 283-6008

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SEPTEMBER 2, 1997

DENVER, Colo.--A school in Kelly will provide environmental education training for teachers and community leaders to bring an awareness and understanding of water resources and conservation to students through an environmental project that is one of 21 applicants regionally to share in an estimated \$172,000 in grants under the National Environmental Education Act of 1990, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Wyoming Recycling Association (Lander) will use a **\$5,000** grant to start a solid waste educational program on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Fremont County. The Wyoming Recycling Association will partner with the University of Wyoming's Conservation Connection, the State's Department of Environmental Quality, the Wind River Environmental Quality Commission and the VISTA program of the National Recycling Coalition to conduct a minimum of 12 solid waste workshops and one recycling expo.

The University of Wyoming (Laramie) will use its **\$5,000** grant to conduct three implementation workshops in Wyoming elementary schools to continue the Statewide Integrated Conservation Education Program (SICEP). SICEP's long- term goal is to provide every Wyoming teacher with the training and materials to effectively teach about the environment and natural resources.

The Wyoming Association for Environmental Education (Cheyenne) will use a **\$4,750** grant to develop and implement a strategic environmental education master plan that uses existing models from

other states and is taught through 10 facilitated planning sessions.

The master plan will focus on educating the public about environmental issues in communities through community-based organizations.

Magic City Enterprises, Inc. (Cheyenne) will use a **\$4,121** grant to educate approximately 2,000 fifth and sixth grade students and the public about recycling by providing tours of its recycling Eco Center. Teacher packets will include information on recycling, projects that can be done in class; how recycling benefits

wildlife and activities that can be coordinated by teachers. A half-day recycling seminar will also be offered to Cheyenne teachers.

Teton Science School (Grand Teton National Park) will use a **\$3,662** grant to educate public school teachers, environmental education students and community leaders about environmental issues to improve their environmental education skills by using the Project WET curriculum. Teachers from the Wind River Reservation, Teton Science School graduate students and 16 Girl Scout leaders from across the country will receive 12 hours of training to teach the curriculum and will be prepared to use the program in a variety of settings.

"It's a pleasure for EPA to fund such quality examples of environmental education,said EPA's environmental education program coordinator in Denver Cece Forget. "We can all be proud to support this work."

These projects applied for funding to EPA's regional office in Denver which has authority to issue grants of \$25,000 or less. Applications for larger amounts are sent to EPA's Washington headquarters.

Designed to boost teaching skills, the grants promote information sharing and public awareness and allow for wide application of new techniques as they are developed.

Funded projects also focus on building state, local and tribal capacity to deliver environmental education, increasing opportunities for minority and other under-represented groups and on teaching pollution prevention. Applications were screened by teams of peer reviewers from within and outside the Agency.

For more information on these projects call:

- Wyoming Recycling Association, Leslie Gnadinger: (307) 332-3164
- University of Wyoming, Dr. Duane Keown: (307) 766-2593
- Wyoming Association for Environmental Education, William Edwards: (307) 634-8189
- Magic City Enterprises, Inc., John Firestone: (307) 637-8869
- Teton Science School, April Landale: (307) 733-4765

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SEPTEMBER 2, 1997

KAYSVILLE, UTAH - The Central Davis County Sewer District has taken top honors in the 1997 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Operations and Maintenance Excellence Awards program. Central Davis placed first in a six-state region including the states of Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota and North Dakota. This is the second time the plant has won a Region 8 first place award in the last three years.

The facility, located at 2627 W. Shepard Lane, is categorized as a medium/secondary treatment plant. It treats approximately 5 million gallons of wastewater a day.

Under the management of Leland Myers, the Central Davis Plant has moved from a plant out of compliance to a top-rated facility. It was rated excellent in its process control, pollution prevention and management of laboratory services, safety, biosolids and finance.

EPA's Operations and Maintenance Awards program began in 1986 as part of a national effort to recognize publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities that demonstrate excellence in their overall operation. The program is also designed to heighten public awareness about the importance of efficient wastewater treatment.

"The federal government has spent billions of dollars in the last 20 years on wastewater treatment plants in an effort to keep our waters clean," said EPA Region 8 Operations and

Maintenance Award Coordinator Charla Colson. "Operations such as Central Davis are an example of what we have been promoting. This facility is an example of the best in Region 8 and the United States."

Steve Tuber, EPA Water Program Director, will present the award to Leland Myers and the Central Davis plant staff in a ceremony at the September 11 District Board Meeting.

EDITORS NOTE: Leland Myers, Plant Manager, can be reached at (801) 451-6836.

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SEPTEMBER 2, 1997

FREEMAN, SOUTH DAKOTA - The Freeman Wastewater Treatment Plant has earned a first place excellence award in a six-state region from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Freeman facility competed against plants in the states of South Dakota, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, Utah and Wyoming in the small-sized/secondary treatment category. The plant application has been forwarded to Washington D.C. for national competition.

Nominees for the award were ranked by a six-member panel from EPA Region 8 and its states. Freeman was judged exceptional in plant septage management, toxic waste control, collection system maintenance, financial management, automation and staff training.

The Freeman Wastewater Treatment Plant is operated by Chief Operator Vince Kribell and Operator Duane Walter. Administrative personnel include Chester Sorensen, Dean Sikkink, Steve Waltner and Michael Schultz.

The plant staff and town council developed an outstanding maintenance management plan. Through the use of a television-based snaking system, areas in need of repair are pinpointed. Their goal has been to plan ahead and make repairs over several years rather than wait for an emergency.

A huge savings resulted when the City of Freeman joined the Turner Hutchinson Electric Cooperative to

promote usage of the generator during non-peak hours. The outcome of this combined effort was a \$13,000 per year savings to the city.

EPA's Operations and Maintenance Award program began in 1986 as part of a national effort to recognize publicly-owned wastewater treatment facilities that demonstrate excellence in their overall operation. The program is also designed to heighten public awareness about the importance of efficient wastewater treatment.

"Treatment plants are our first line of defense in protecting the nation's waterways," said EPA Operation and Maintenance Award Coordinator Charla Colson. "Since 1972 billions of dollars have been spent on these plants to keep pollution out of America's lakes and streams. Proper operation and maintenance of our wastewater treatment plants help protect that investment."

Jack Rychecky, EPA Municipal Systems Chief, will be on hand at the Freeman City Hall on September 11 to present the award. The award festivities are scheduled from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Editors Note: Sharon Schamber, O&M applicant contact can be reached at (307) 925-4444.

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AUGUST 11, 1997

DENVER, COLORADO - The Metro Wastewater Reclamation District has taken top honors in the 1997 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Operations and Maintenance Excellence Awards program.

Metro placed first in a six state region including the states of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Montana, South Dakota and North Dakota. The plant is a second place winner in national competition which consists of plants in all 50 states and U.S. territories.

The Denver Metro District operates the largest wastewater treatment plant between the Mississippi River and the West Coast. It provides treatment to 55 local governments in the Denver metropolitan area. The plant treats 150 million gallons of wastewater a day through 256 miles of interceptor sewers.

The Denver facility sets itself apart and above other plants in several aspects. The facility has had no violations for the past several years. This compliance record was accomplished with no rate increases to its customers. The district had zero rate increases in 1997 and projects a 5.5% decrease in 1998.

Other areas of excellence include equipment maintenance, laboratory management, pollution prevention, biosolids management and toxic waste control.

EPA's operations and maintenance award program began in 1986 as part of a national effort to recognize publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities that demonstrate excellence in their overall operation. The

program is also designed to heighten public awareness about the importance of efficient wastewater treatment plants.

According to Charla Colson, EPA Region 8 Operations & Maintenance Award Coordinator, "The federal government has spent billions of dollars in the last 20 years on wastewater treatment plants in an effort to keep our waters clean. Operations such as Metro are an example of what we have been promoting. This facility is an example of the best in the United States."

Steve Tuber, EPA Water Program Director, will present the award to the Metro plant staff at a ceremony at the plant on August 19. The national award will be presented in Chicago on October 20.

EDITORS NOTE:

Steve Frank, Public Information Officer from the wastewater treatment plant, can be reached at (303) 286-3465.

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ED STEARNS (303) 312-6946
RICK CLAGGETT (303) 312-6800
EPA NEWS OFFICE 1-800-227-8917 x6610

AUGUST 15, 1997

DENVER, Colo.--The **Devils Lake Basin** will receive a **\$200,000** grant award for environmental restoration activities from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regional office in Denver.

The Devils Lake Basin project focuses on a watershed demonstration program for the restoration of wetland basins on private lands. The project will also show the values wetlands provide for flood protection, water quality improvement and fish and wildlife habitat.

Over half the wetlands in the 3,814 square mile basin have been drained. The loss of grasslands and wetlands has resulted in a flooding problem that threatens water quality and quantity. The goal of existing partnerships within the local community, EPA and other agencies is to manage the watershed and restore some of its natural functions.

EPA Headquarters received over 200 project proposals nationwide, totaling over \$483 million in grant requests. Projects must be for actual restoration work related to America's waters, not design projects or studies that might lead to restoration.

Under terms of settlement for the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989, Exxon agreed to pay \$4.5 million for environmental restoration projects around the country. This project is among three regionally* to share in \$350,000 made available to EPA's Denver office through the settlement.

*EPA Region 8 includes Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

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Brian Friel (303) 312-6277
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AUGUST 20, 1997

BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA - The Bismarck Wastewater Treatment Plant has earned a second place award in the 1997 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Operations and Maintenance Excellence Awards program.

The Bismarck facility competed against plants in a six-state region including the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Utah. Nominees for the award were ranked by a six-member panel from EPA Region 8 and its states.

The wastewater facility treats an average of 6.4 million gallons of wastewater a day. The plant serves a 20 square mile area with a population of 55,000. The plant was judged outstanding in process control, sludge management, laboratory management, safety education and public education.

EPA's Operations and Maintenance Award program began in 1986 as part of a national effort to recognize publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities that demonstrate excellence in their overall operation. The program is also designed to heighten public awareness about the importance of efficient wastewater treatment.

Operations and Maintenance Award Coordinator, Charla Colson, expressed EPA's appreciation for the quality work done at the Bismarck plant. She said, "This country has spent billions of dollars on wastewater treatment projects in the last 20 years. The Bismarck plant is an example of our best in the

fight against water pollution.

Brian Friel, EPA Environmental Engineer, will present the award to Plant Manager Keith Demke and the plant staff at the August 26 Bismarck City Council meeting.

#

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Keith Demke, Plant Manager can be reached at 701/222-6583.

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EPA, State to Boost Colorado Recycling Businesses

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHITNEY TRULOVE-CRANOR EPA 303-312-6099

MELISSA PETRONE OEC 303-620-4292

ERIC LOMBARDI ECO-CYC. 444-6634

AUGUST 26, 1997

DENVER--Colorado's distance from some key markets has put local recycling programs at a disadvantage. A solution: develop local markets. And today, the Environmental Protection Agency gave a \$236,000 boost to State efforts to do just that.

The Governor's Office of Energy Conservation (OEC) will use the money to contract with Boulder's Eco-Cycle to create a Recycling Development Incubator (RDI). In its first two years, RDI hopes to help up to 10 entrepreneurial prospects to launch or expand their business, creating 25 new jobs, \$2 million in capitalization and 50,000 tons of materials processed or remanufactured.

The project aims to establish "an economic development infrastructure for recycling in Colorado," with the help of an advisory board of business, financing and technical assistance providers and recycling processors and manufacturers, according to the OEC. Also assisting will be San Francisco-based consultants, Materials for the Future Foundation, which operates a successful business development center for recycling and reuse enterprises.

"Projects such as this, which view recyclables as commodities rather than trash, can help move recycling into the economic mainstream," said EPA's acting deputy in Denver Patricia Hull. Hull said the grant comes under EPA's Jobs Through Recycling program which helps states move "beyond collection" to business development.

Key tasks for the project include:

- recruiting and selecting the entrepreneurs.
- analyzing "vertical market weaknesses," materials that are hard to market in Colorado.
- setting up a network of business, technical and financing help.
- creating a listserv and Internet homepage to share lessons learned.
- creating a database for the rapidly expanding business of recycling.
- establishing the advisory board.
- holding a recycling "summit" in May 1998, and an investment forum in November of that year.

"Governor Romer has consistently advocated that economic growth and environmental stewardship go hand in hand," said John Dill, Director of the Colorado Office of Business Development. "On behalf of the State of Colorado, I'd like to express our appreciation to the Environmental Protection Agency for affording us this opportunity to partner with them in building the economic development infrastructure that allows us to maximize business opportunity and sustain a healthy environment."

"The RDI project represents the next phase in Colorado recycling," said Eric Lombardi, executive director of Eco-Cycle, Inc. "RDI will result in the creation of local businesses dedicated to turning waste into useful products. Using secondary or recovered materials is definitely a growth industry for the 21st century," Lombardi said.

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News Advisory

What:

EPA presents \$236,000 to the State of Colorado for a Recycling Development Incubator that will develop local markets to increase the use of recycled materials in existing and new Colorado businesses.

When:

August 26, 2 p.m. MDT

Where:

E-Tech Products, Inc., 11909 E. 51st Avenue, Denver (map, directions attached).

Why:

Because collecting recyclables is only part of the solution. **Local** manufacturers can make recycled materials into new products and provide Colorado jobs.

Who:

John Dill, Colorado Office of Business Development
Patricia Hull, Acting Deputy Regional Administrator, EPA
Eric Lombardi, Executive Director, Eco-Cycle, Boulder
Tom Warda, President, founder, E-Tech Products, Inc.

Visuals:

Oversized check. Bales of wastepaper. Big bags of E- Tech's product, "E-Nuts" packaging material made from recycled paper and water. E-Tech is the kind of firm that will benefit from the incubator.

Contact:

Whitney Trulove-Cranor, EPA 312-6099;
Rich Lathrop, EPA 312-6780;
Melissa Petrone, Governor's Office of Energy Conservation, 620-4292;
Eric Lombardi, Eco-Cycle, Boulder 444-6634.

If you go...

- I-70 east to Peoria exit
- North on Peoria to 47th Avenue
- West on 47th Ave. to Paris
- Paris becomes 51st Avenue
- E-Tech Products, Inc. 11909 E. 51st Avenue
(303) 373-1462

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KATHIE ATENCIO 303-312-6803
DAVID OSTRANDER 303-312-6931

AUGUST 13, 1997

DENVER--Redevelopment of portions of North Stapleton Airport will receive a \$200,000 boost from the Environmental Protection Agency's "Brownfields" program.

Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial properties which may have been contaminated by earlier industry, complicating redevelopment plans with fears of liability and cleanup costs.

The funds will be used to conduct detailed environmental testing of groundwater under the northern portion of the former airport and a neighboring parcel to be purchased by Commerce City. These studies will help to clarify uncertainties about redevelopment uses and the need for cleanup - if any - required for those parcels of land.

"That's just what Brownfields projects are designed to do," said Max Dodson who directs the Superfund program in six western states, "remove that uncertainty so local lenders and developers can approach a site with confidence. This project provides still another opportunity for the City and County of Denver to show leadership similar to what occurred at the Home Depot redevelopment project. It also complements Commerce City's Sand Creek effort."

Metropolitan-area businesses and foundations strongly support the redevelopment of Stapleton. A Citizens Advisory Board, comprised of representatives from local neighborhoods, businesses and local

governments in Denver, Aurora and Commerce City, will oversee redevelopment of the area.

"Here's a great example of the Federal Government working in partnership with local governments and businesses to rejuvenate our urban landscape." said U.S. Representative Diana DeGette. " With the EPA's help, the Stapleton Airport area will become, once again, a valuable and important part of our community."

"At Stapleton we plan to create a community that will ultimately provide about 35,000 jobs in employment centers that will be mixed with residential areas, public transportation, and commercial services," said Denver Mayor Wellington Webb.

"Redevelopment of the adjoining Arsenal property will link neighborhoods that previously were isolated by the two facilities."

Commerce City Mayor David Busby said, "This grant will help Commerce City develop the property as a gateway to the Arsenal Wildlife Refuge."

Patti Shwayder, executive director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, said, "The awarding of this grant and the study it will finance are important steps forward in the redevelopment of a portion of the former Stapleton Airport. The Brownfields concept, which also is used by the State Health Department to expedite the cleanup of contaminated sites, is very useful in removing impediments to restoring these sites and in putting them back into productive use more quickly."

The Brownfields Initiative is part of a Clinton Administration commitment to help cities clean up and redevelop abandoned property. Since 1993, 115 projects have received over \$20 million.

The North Stapleton grant will be the third such grant in Colorado. The Sand Creek Corridor received a \$200,000 Brownfields grant in 1994 and recently the City of Englewood was selected as a regional pilot to receive a \$200,000 grant.

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AUGUST 11, 1997

DENVER--The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will recognize five groups and 41 individuals for special acts to protect the environment in Colorado and on the Southern Ute Reservation in a Denver ceremony August 12.

A Fort Collins woman working to advise homeowners of radon hazards; a town, high school and newspaper working to develop recycling near Ignacio; entertainment giant Viacom voluntarily going beyond cleanup requirements at the Eagle Mine Superfund site near Vail...these and more will receive environmental achievement awards on Tuesday.

Awardees and their contributions include:

LINDA DEVOCELLE of the City of Ft. Collins Natural Resource Dept. who chaired the committee which recommended a local ordinance requiring that homebuyers be given radon information and be encouraged to test for the radioactive gas. The ordinance went into effect in June of this year. Since her education campaign started, 2,300 residents have tested for radon.

The **TOWN OF IGNACIO**, its high school's **FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA** and the **SOUTHERN UTE DRUM NEWSPAPER** for a program that has recycled more than 6,000 gallons of used motor oil, 20 cubic yards of newspaper, 24 yards of aluminum and 26 yards of glass in its first two years of operation.

Also from Ignacio, **CYNTHIA CRIST** for her work in developing water quality standards for the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. Crist has also secured a Bureau of Reclamation grant to improve irrigation efficiency and range conditions on the Tribe's buffalo pasture. She is also working on erosion control, streamside restoration and wildlife habitat improvement.

The **EAGLE RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL AND BUSINESS ALLIANCE** has contributed to a successful cleanup of the Eagle Mine Superfund site near Vail by keeping area residents informed, providing technical input and discussing with people their concerns about a hazardous waste cleanup in their neighborhood.

VIACOM INTERNATIONAL, INC. has been conducting the Superfund cleanup of the Eagle Mine under legal consent decrees with EPA and the State of Colorado but has gone beyond legal requirements, furnishing the town of Minturn with a safe water supply, voluntarily cleaning up large amounts of hazardous materials, planning to intercept clean water flowing onto its site and keeping a skeptical public informed about the cleanup.

TOM JOHNSON OF COLORADO SPRINGS, the coordinator of the Fountain Creek Watershed Project, has brought together efforts of the governments and military facilities in the Colorado Springs area whose activities affect a principal waterway there. Past efforts to solve water quality problems there stumbled over jurisdictional boundaries. The new cooperative spirit fostered by Johnson led to signing of a memorandum of understanding among the parties last September and optimism about prospects for the watershed.

DAVID JAMIEL, A PARK RANGER for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, was credited for the success of the Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge in Arvada. Two Ponds is the smallest, and one of the newest, refuges in the national system and it is entirely within a city. Jamiel has worked with organizations such as the City of Arvada, Boy Scouts and League of Women Voters to build trails, small bridges, planting trees and maintaining the area.

LARRY VINZANT OF THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, Sacramento District, worked for eight years pressing for wetlands protection in the since- withdrawn proposal for the Adam's Rib Recreation Area near Eagle, Colorado. Under his review, a project that would have damaged 90 acres of wetlands was pared down to 18 acres and the project design and scope of impacts were reduced significantly.

In addition to the achievement awardees, four individuals and their organizations received Friends of EPA Awards:

GREG CHAMPLIN, Director of the Denver Office of Emergency Management and

LT. JOHN AFSHAR, Hazmat Coordinator of the Denver Fire Department for helping Federal agencies

shape plans to deal with potential emergencies associated with the Oklahoma City bombing trial.

JOE HARVEY and **JACQUELINE KOCHIS** of Amerimar Realty Mgmt. Company which manages the building that houses EPA offices for helping the Agency design and install its new security array in the months following the Oklahoma City bombing. The two were cited for "superb customer service."

"Individuals, working alone or in their companies, organizations or agencies, shape our world's environment--for better or worse," said acting EPA chief Jack McGraw in Denver.

"EPA is proud to recognize these people who have made such individual contributions to the environment and their communities should be proud of them as well."

The Colorado awardees are among 11 groups and 95 individuals from Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming to receive awards this year. Some 600 individuals, businesses and organizations have earned the Agency's recognition since 1980.

#

EDITORS: If you'd like more detail on any awardee, please contact his or her nominator:

Devocelle--Kathleen Craig 303-312-6031
Ignacio--Cheryl Wisecamp 970-563- 0100
Crist--Michael Frost 970-563-0384
Eagle River Alliance--Gene Taylor 303-312-6536
Viacom --Gene Taylor 303-312-6536
Fountain Creek--Rick Claggett 303-312-6800
Jamiel--Cece Forget 303-312-6605
Vinzant--Sarah Fowler 303-312-6192
Champlin/Afshar--Jim Knoy 303-312-6838
Amerimar--Debra Griffin 303-312-6329

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AUGUST 11, 1997

DENVER--The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will honor the late State Representative Dick Knox in its annual achievement awards ceremony in Denver on Tuesday.

Montana Environmental Quality Director Mark Simonich nominated Knox, citing "substantial, far-reaching and lasting" contributions to Montana during the lawmaker's service as Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee and as a member of the State's Environmental Quality Council.

The Natural Resources chair was "respected on both sides of the aisle and all along the volatile spectrum of natural resource and environmental interests for his fairness, willingness to listen and ability to make reasoned decisions," wrote Simonich.

The Knox award is one among 11 groups and 95 individuals from Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Colorado to receive EPA recognition this year. Some 600 individuals, businesses and organizations have earned the Agency's achievement awards since 1980.

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AUGUST 12, 1997

DENVER--North Dakota companies and individuals and a Minnesotan were among those receiving environmental achievement awards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in a Denver ceremony today.

The people who restored safe drinking water and wastewater treatment to Grand Forks just three weeks after city services were shut down by last April's flooding, were nominated by Francis J. Schwindt, Chief of environmental health for the North Dakota Department of Health.

City crews worked under the guidance of Public Works Director and City Engineer **KEN VEIN** and with **CHARLES VEIN, ADVANCED ENGINEERING** of Grand Forks, to restore the water treatment and distribution system and with **TOM HANSON, of WEBSTER, FOSTER AND WESTON** of Grand Forks to re-establish wastewater and stormwater collection and treatment.

RANDAL LOESLIE, of Thompson, and **CLARK CRONQUIST** of Gilby, worked to provide emergency water from their undamaged **GRAND FORKS-TRAILL** and **AGASSIZ RURAL WATER USERS** systems to the Grand Forks Air Force Base. The base receives most of its drinking water from the city and most local evacuees were temporarily housed there.

The flood contributed another award winner, **JAY CROY**, of East Grand Forks, Minnesota. Croy immediately volunteered to help EPA's emergency response team when it arrived April 24. EPA's first

job was to remove heating oil floating in basements and in the next few days, Croy handled hundreds of calls from homeowners, prioritizing and scheduling pumping times, doing work that otherwise would have required an EPA responder.

EPA saluted the **MELROE COMPANY** of Bismarck , safety coordinator **TODD SCHIMKE** and plant manager **DAVE HALVORSON** for a series of actions to cut hazardous wastes at the Bismarck factory from more than 50,000 pounds in 1992 to 3,800 pounds in 1996.

The company has eliminated the use of 70 hazardous chemicals, recycled thousands of pounds of solvents, used oil, metal scrap, paper, cardboard and wood. State officials who nominated the firm identified Melroe "...as a shining example for others in North Dakota to follow."

"Individuals, working alone or in their companies, organizations or agencies, shape our world's environment--for better or worse--said acting EPA chief Jack McGraw in Denver.
"EPA is proud to recognize these people who have made such positive individual contributions to the environment and their communities should be proud of them as well."

The North Dakota awardees are among 11 groups and 95 individuals from North Dakota,

South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Utah and Colorado to receive awards this year. Some 600 individuals, businesses and organizations have earned the Agency' recognition since 1980.

###

EDITORS: For more detail on awardees, please contact their nominators:

Grand Forks flood recovery--Francis Schwindt 701-328-5150

Jay Croy -- Doug Skie 303-312-6827

Melroe -- Robt. Tubbs-Avalon

Neil Knatterud 701-328-5166

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APRIL 12, 1997

DENVER--Fourteen South Dakotans and two members of the Lakota Nation were recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in its annual award ceremony in Denver today. The Agency honored:

TIM TOLLEFSRUD and a team from the **South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources** (DENR) who developed a permit program to protect State waters in the face of new and expanded pork production in the state. They built their plan in cooperation with producers and involved the public through a statewide interactive television network. The permit has withstood technical and legal challenges and is now in effect.

Other DENR team members include: **Kent Woodmansey, Kelli Buscher, Rodger Seefeldt, Ray Birchem, Steve Pirner, Roxanne Giedd, Bill Markley, Jeanne Goodman, Tom Brandner, Mark Vomacka and Jaci Konop.**

KIM McINTOSH, also of the DENR, was cited for her technical and negotiation skills in moving forward the hazardous waste cleanups at the Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern roundhouse in Huron and the Fawick Park site in Sioux Falls. EPA emergency response officials who nominated McIntosh credit her with serving as a calming liaison between Federal officials, state officials and the public whose technical suggestions have also saved taxpayer dollars in the cleanups.

DELL PETERSEN, manager of the waste cleanup at Ellsworth Air Force Base, has the project three years ahead of schedule and may save up to \$35 million in cleanup costs according to a U.S. Air Force estimate. Petersen's streamlining of response actions, tied to a partnership with Ellsworth, EPA and the State, can be a model for cleanups at other Air Force bases, according to EPA.

Petersen also cut in half the wetlands acreage that would otherwise have been lost to the cleanup and took action to provide a safe water supply to base neighbors the same day the Air Force learned local drinking water was contaminated by base activities.

KIM CLAUSEN, environmental programs director for the **Oglala Sioux**,

was recognized for assuming all the duties of her predecessor, A. Wade Vitalis, after his untimely death last August. Clausen has had to pick up responsibilities for underground storage tank cleanup, wastewater treatment maintenance, the bombing range project and the solid waste project. Clausen is also involved in developing codes for underground tanks, solid waste and water quality on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Clausen received the Frank DeCouteau Award which recognizes exceptional environmental work on Indian lands. DeCouteau directed such programs for the Turtle Mountain band of Chippewa Indians in Belcourt, North Dakota until his death in 1989.

A. WADE VITALIS was honored posthumously with an award established in his name this year. Vitalis, the former director of the Oglala Water Resource Department, died in a car crash on the reservation August 5, 1996. Reflecting Vitalis' career, the criteria for the new award emphasize "outstanding contributions to environmental protection in Indian Country...skill and dedication in addressing complicated concerns to improve the environment, particularly in water issues." The 27 tribes in EPA's Region 8 may nominate tribal chairs, council members, environmental directors or staffers for the award.

"Individuals, working alone or in their companies, organizations or agencies, shape our world's environment--for better or worse," said acting EPA chief Jack McGraw in Denver. "EPA is proud to recognize these people who have made such positive individual contributions to the environment and their communities should be proud of them as well."

The South Dakota and Lakota awardees are among 11 groups and 95 individuals from South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, Colorado and Indian Nations to receive awards this year. Some 600 individuals, businesses and organizations have earned the Agency's recognition since 1980.

#

EDITORS: For more details on any awardee, please contact his or her nominator:

Tollefsrud-- Nettie Myers, DENR 605-773-5559

McIntosh -- Duc Nguyen, EPA 303-312-6061

Petersen -- Peter Ismert, EPA 303-312-6665

Clausen-- Deb Madison, Ft. Peck Tribes 406-768-5155

Vitalis -- Larry Wapensky, EPA 303-312-6043

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AUGUST 11, 1997

DENVER--While conflict gets more attention, county, State and Federal governments are *cooperating* on environmental projects in southwestern Utah and the work will receive an achievement award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in a Denver ceremony tomorrow.

The **SOUTHWEST PARTNERSHIP FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

has taken on regulation of septic systems and landfills, protection of ground water and air quality and controlled burning on federal and state lands within the five- county area. Many such issues are ripe for conflict but the "partners" are committed to head that off.

Partners include The Southwest Utah Public Health Dept. (the counties of Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane and Washington make up its jurisdiction), the Utah Department of Environmental Quality and EPA's Denver regional office. The partnership formed in January 1996.

Another Utahn was singled out for EPA recognition. **LELAND MYERS**, an engineer with the Central Davis Sewer District in Kaysville, is "one of the best technical resources for wastewater in the region," according to Don Ostler of UDEQ's Water Quality Division. Among other accomplishments, Myers developed a spreadsheet program for wastewater treatment plants which has become a standard in Utah and the region.

"Individuals, working alone or in their companies, organizations or agencies, shape our world's environment--for better or worse," said acting EPA chief Jack McGraw in Denver. "EPA is proud to recognize these people who have made such individual contributions to the environment and their communities should be proud of them as well."

The Utahns are among 11 groups and 95 individuals from Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota to receive awards this year. Some 600 individuals, businesses or organizations have earned the Agency's recognition since 1980.

Awardees will be recognized at a ceremony in downtown Denver Tuesday, August 12 beginning at 10 a.m.

#

Editors: for additional detail on awardees, please contact their nominators:

SOUTHWEST PARTNERSHIP--Leah Ann Lamb (801) 536-4476

MYERS --Don Ostler (801) 538-6047

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AUGUST 12, 1997

DENVER--Establishing voluntary plans to protect their drinking water wells from contamination has earned two Wyoming towns environmental achievement awards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In an annual awards ceremony today in Denver, EPA saluted Superior and Elk Mountain for launching their own "wellhead protection" programs. In such programs, communities inventory the threats to their drinking water wells and devise ways to avoid contamination or disturbance of their water supply.

Superior established its own committee and met with officials of nearby mines, quarries, county, state and federal agencies to describe the town's water supply, "zones" where activities could impact the water and critical areas that must be protected. Elk Mountain had lost a well from contamination and discovered how costly new wells can be. Both towns decided to move on their own rather than wait for EPA approval of a state program to be run by the Department of Environmental Quality. EPA is reviewing the DEQ plan now.

The towns were among 11 groups and 95 individuals from Wyoming, Utah, Montana, Colorado, North Dakota and South Dakota to receive awards this year. Some 600 individuals, businesses and organizations have earned the Agency's recognition since 1980.

"Individuals, working alone or in their companies, organizations or agencies, shape our

world's environment--for better or worse," said acting EPA chief Jack McGraw in Denver. "EPA is proud to recognize these awardees who have made such positive individual contributions to the environment and their communities should be proud of them as well."

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AUGUST 11, 1997

DENVER--EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner today reappointed William P. Yellowtail, Montana rancher and former state senator there, to head the regional office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, headquartered in Denver, beginning September 2.

Yellowtail, 49, served as regional administrator from January 1994 until March 1996 when he resigned to run for Montana's lone Congressional seat vacated by the retirement of Rep. Pat Williams (D-Montana). Yellowtail won a four-way Democratic primary but lost to Republican Rick Hill in the general election last November.

Yellowtail, a Crow Indian, is the first Native American and the first non-Coloradoan to hold the regional post. The Wyola, Montana rancher served in that state's legislature from 1984 through 1993. He sat on Natural Resources, Fish and Game, Judiciary and Education Committees and served on the Montana Environmental Quality Council.

As regional administrator, he will direct the operations of more than 630 employees who carry out federal environmental programs dealing with air, water and land in Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. He is the seventh person to hold the top Denver position since the Agency's creation in 1970. Five others have held it in an acting capacity.

In fiscal 1997, the Region had an operating budget of about \$235 million. More than half--\$147 million-- goes to States, Tribes and communities in the form of assistance grants. Another \$45 million goes to "Superfund" hazardous waste cleanup programs, another \$5 million to oil spill and leaking underground storage tank work. Other operating programs such as air and water pollution control receive \$37.5 million.

Jack McGraw, a career civil servant and Yellowtail's former deputy, has been acting regional administrator since Yellowtail left in March of 1996. McGraw will return to his deputy position.

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MIKE RISNER EPA 312-6890

TOM SITZ EPA 312-6918

JOE SMITH COLO AGO 866-5017

GARY BAUGHMAN CDPHE 692-3338

AUGUST 4, 1997

DENVER--In a joint action, the State of Colorado and the United States Friday (Aug.1) sued Power Engineering Company for illegally handling hazardous wastes, including chromium, lead and acids at its heavy machinery refurbishing plant at 2525 South Delaware St. in Denver.

The State lawsuit, filed by the Colorado Attorney General's Office for the State's Department of Public Health and Environment in Denver District Court, seeks to force Power Engineering to comply with its orders to abide by Colorado hazardous waste laws and pay a \$1.1 million penalty.

The federal suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Denver by the Justice Department on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency seeks to force the company to:

- stop the illegal treatment, storage or disposal of hazardous wastes;
- comply with all hazardous waste laws;
- pay up to \$25,000 per day for each of the alleged violations.

"This is a great example of state and federal cooperation to enforce laws that protect public

health and the environment," said Lois Schiffer, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division in Washington. "Careless and illegal handling of hazardous waste will not be tolerated."

"With the joint authorities of the Health Department and EPA, we hope to expedite an effective cleanup," said Howard Roitman, director of the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division in CDPHE.

The lawsuits allege that Power Engineering violated state and federal laws by leaving drums of hazardous waste sitting out in the open for an extended period of time, leaving piles of contaminated soil on the facility's grounds, treating hazardous materials without a permit and mixing wastes with ordinary trash that eventually ended up in municipal landfills not suited to handle toxic substances. A total number of days of violations has not yet been determined.

The suits named Power Engineering Company of Denver; Redoubt Limited of Denver and Richard J. Lilienthal of Denver, who owns and operates both companies.

Inspectors from CDPHE observed violations of the south Denver site in six inspections between 1992 and 1994. The State issued a compliance order to the facility in June 1996 and a final penalty order for \$1.1 million in 1997 which have not been complied with. The company has improved the way it labels and stores waste containers, and moved to correct employee training deficiencies. However, the extent of contamination at the site remains unknown and has not been cleaned up and the State fine remains unpaid.

The State lawsuit was brought under Colorado's Hazardous Waste Management Act. The federal action came under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act that governs the handling of hazardous waste.

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Environmental News Advisory

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

DUC NGUYEN (303) 312-6509

MIA WOOD (303) 312-6554

CAROL RUSSELL (303) 312-6310

July 24, 1997

INDUSTRIAL CHROME PLATING BUILDING REMOVAL

WHO

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

(A person will be on site to answer questions)

WHAT

The Agency will be demolishing and cleaning up the Industrial Chrome Plating Building

WHEN

Today - Thursday thru Monday, July 24-28, 1997

WHERE

The building is located at 919 North Santa Fe Drive on the alley between Santa Fe and Kalamath and between 9th and 10th Avenues.

WHY

The building and surrounding area is polluted with chrome and lead. The site was used as a chromium electroplating site for over 35 years. EPA is concerned about the health threats that the building poses given the close proximity of public activity in the area. There are three schools within two miles from the building, a playground across the alley, and several residences and businesses in the immediate area.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAROL RUSHIN 303-312-6051
MIKE RISNER 303-312-6890
RICH LATHROP 303-312-6780
OR 800-227-8917 + EXTENSION

JULY 31, 1997

DENVER--Improper management of hazardous wastes during 1995 could cost Envirocare of Utah, Inc. hundreds of thousands of dollars in penalties according to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency complaint filed today in Denver.

At issue are 31 violations of Utah rules and the permit that govern operation of the company's hazardous waste facility near Clive. EPA proposed a penalty of \$601,503 in its complaint.

In December 1995, Utah's Department of Environmental Quality issued the company a notice of violation on most of the same counts. UDEQ later settled that case with penalties totaling \$79,000. In March of this year, EPA's enforcement chief in Denver, Carol Rushin, advised UDEQ that EPA viewed the violations as significant and would consider a Federal enforcement action.

Rushin said EPA decided to take the action because of the seriousness of the violations. She emphasized, "The facts of the case are not in question here. The credibility of those who gathered the facts is not in question. This is simply a difference in viewpoint between State and Federal enforcement approaches.

"About 75 percent of the difference in the penalties centers on the 'gravity' of the violations," Rushin said. "In our view, penalties must create a deterrent to future violations. Envirocare is a sophisticated business and needs to be accountable for actions at its facility. It should not be repeating violations.

"We also rate 'potential for harm' as more serious than States often do. States are more inclined to penalize actual harm. If an action has *potential* to harm the environment, public health *or* the success of the regulatory program, we may seek higher amounts," Rushin said.

Both the State and Federal actions cited a list of problems at the waste disposal site. EPA officials said State inspectors found violations during nearly all of their weekly inspection visits to the site.

"Envirocare is dealing with some very toxic materials," Rushin said. "We think they need to tighten up procedures at their facility."

The company has 30 days to respond to the EPA complaint and can seek a hearing on the matter before an administrative law judge.

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DAVE CHRISTENSON 1-800-227-8917, x 6645

SONYA PENNOCK 1-800-227-8917, x 6600

JULY 30, 1997

MEDIA ADVISORY

DENVER--During the week of August 4, EPA staff will investigate claims that automotive wastes were improperly buried in Grantsville, Utah.

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality asked EPA to look into charges that several drums of automotive wastes were buried near the city garage, 322 West Main Street. The investigation involves digging a trench to uncover the drums. The automotive shop's floor drains also will be evaluated to see if wastes were improperly disposed in them.

The area under investigation will be cordoned off with yellow tape to prevent the public from coming in contact with equipment or hazardous substances. Workers trained to deal with these substances will wear special clothing and respirators as a precaution in case they encounter wastes.

If the investigation uncovers hazardous substances, EPA will arrange for the safe disposal of the substances and require that the area be cleaned up.

State environmental authorities are assisting with the investigation.

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TIM REHDER (303) 312-6293
MARC HERMAN (303) 312-6724

June 30, 1997

DENVER-- There is no evidence to conclude that any radioactive wastes from Rocky Flats were disposed of at the Lowry Landfill Superfund site in Arapahoe County, according to officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA officials base this conclusion on their complete and thorough analysis of site sampling results and historical records.

To determine what hazardous wastes were sent to Lowry Landfill from Rocky Flats, EPA compiled a master list of all hazardous wastes generated by the Department of Energy at Rocky Flats from 1965-1980.

While Rocky Flats disposed of some wastes at Lowry, the documents clearly indicate that the radioactive wastes included on the list, such as evaporator salts, were sent to the Nevada Test Site and the Idaho National Engineering Lab for storage or disposal.

According to EPA's records, Rocky Flats sent approximately 55,630 gallons of waste oil, solvents and paint sludges --- none of it radioactive --- to Lowry Landfill for disposal.

"In addition to the historical records, the results of site sampling show there is no risk from radioactive waste at Lowry," said Marc Herman, EPA project manager for the cleanup at Lowry Landfill.

Recently, some individuals alleged that EPA documents show that radioactive wastes from Rocky Flats were disposed of at Lowry Landfill.

According to EPA project manager Marc Herman, this conclusion was apparently drawn by taking certain parts of EPA documents out of context and misinterpreting the information. Individuals making these allegations seem to have made the incorrect assumption that all hazardous wastes on the master list were disposed of at Lowry Landfill.

"There is simply no reason to believe that radioactive wastes were disposed of at Lowry Landfill," concluded Tim Rehder, EPA project manager for the cleanup at Rocky Flats.

For more information, please contact Marc Herman, EPA Project Manager for Lowry Landfill, at 303/312-6724 or Tim Rehder, EPA Project Manager for Rocky Flats, at 303/312-6293.

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June 9, 1997

EPA, Denver: 1-800-227-8917, x 6600
State: Bob Wetsch, 701-328-5166

PICK UP OF FLOOD-DAMAGED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES ENDS SUNDAY, JUNE 15

EPA will make its final pickup of flood-damaged household hazardous wastes in Grand Forks Sunday, June 15.

Homeowners should separate flood-damaged household hazardous wastes from other household wastes and place them near the curb. In case of rain, cover them to prevent leaking of wastes onto lawns and into storm sewers.

Normally, municipal landfills can accommodate the small quantities of hazardous wastes generated by households without threat to the environment. The extent of the flooding, however, so increased the volume of these wastes that EPA must make special arrangements for their safe disposal. So far, EPA has collected enough flood-damaged household hazardous products to fill 1,800 55-gallon drums.

Examples of common household hazardous products

- Pesticides and herbicides
- Fertilizers
- Medications
- Gasoline
- Solvents
- Paints/paint thinners
- Pressure vessels (like aerosol cans, propane tanks, etc.)

- Used motor oil, automotive products (antifreeze, cleaning products, batteries, etc.)
- Kitchen and bathroom cleaners
- Pest and rodent poisons and repellants

For more information on pickup of flood-damaged household hazardous wastes, call 795-9428.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MIKE GAYDOSH EPA 303 312 6773
RENETTE ANDERSON-DEQ 801 536 4478
RICH LATHROP EPA 303 312 6780

JUNE 9, 1997

CLIVE, Utah--Inspectors from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Utah's Department of Environmental Quality today began a 5-day look into operations at the Envirocare Waste Management Facility near here.

The review will cover groundwater, air emissions and the company's handling of hazardous and "mixed" wastes.

Utah regulates Envirocare and issues most of the permits at the facility. EPA remains responsible for assuring that permitted hazardous waste facilities meet Federal requirements.

"Given the special circumstances surrounding Envirocare recently, we felt we needed to comprehensively evaluate their compliance status," said inspection team leader Janice Pearson from EPA's Denver office.

The team also includes specialists from EPA's National Enforcement Investigation Center in Denver. Pearson said NEIC is better able to look at a site "as a whole" and can help EPA and Utah bring their evaluations together. Inspectors from particular programs--such as hazardous waste, air, or groundwater--tend to look at a site more narrowly, from their own program's perspective.

EPA and parties cleaning up "Superfund" hazardous waste sites around the country send material to

Envirocare. Under a so-called "off-site rule," the Agency cannot ship or permit shipment of wastes to a facility that is out of compliance or having "releases." That will be another area of inquiry.

It will be many weeks before final findings are available. EPA expects to have a draft inspection report in about 60 days.

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MAUREEN DOUGHTIE 1-800-227-8917 x6262

MAY 13, 1997

EPA ANNOUNCES TOWN MEETING IN CASPER

DENVER, Colo.--U.S. Environmental Protection Agency staff will be available next week in Casper to listen to residents' thoughts on new annual reports that will describe the quality of drinking water in their area.

Within the next few years, all community drinking water systems will be required to prepare an annual report that identifies all drinking water violations occurring within the past year. These systems must also send copies of the report to all customers. EPA is currently writing regulations for this report and wants to tailor requirements to meet the interests of drinking water customers.

WHO:

All interested parties are invited to attend

WHAT:

A Casper Town Meeting to discuss annual drinking water reports

WHEN:

Wednesday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the

Casper Hilton Inn (I-25 and North Poplar)

"Only three of these meetings are being held in the country," said Maureen Doughtie, EPA co-coordinator for Wyoming's drinking water program. "Attendees at the Casper meeting will be expressing their opinions on behalf of all western states."

Doughtie added, "Our primary role will be to listen. Agency representatives would like to know what topics should be included in these annual reports; how long the reports should be and any other information drinking water customers consider important." EPA Headquarters staff will also attend the meeting.

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CECE FORGET (303) 312-6605
CONNIE DAVIES (303) 312-6613

MAY 15, 1997

DENVER, Colo.--The Cañon City High School Environmental Club in Cañon City is the regional winner of the President's Environmental Youth Award (PEYA), according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regional office in Denver.

Students designed a plan to develop the Fremont County landfill into a 75-acre ecology park. County commissioners accepted the students' proposal and established a community-based task force made up of students, local businesses, community groups and local governments to direct and oversee the park's development.

Through active participation in service experiences that meet actual community needs and are coordinated with the school, the students set three main goals:

- restoration and enhancement of native vegetation and wildlife
- minimal recreational use
- environmental awareness and education

Four phases of development will include seed bed preparation, creation of a pool and runoff system, tree and shrub planting and trail development for non-motorized use.

The PEYA promotes environmental awareness and community involvement through youth projects. A national winner is selected from each of EPA's 10 regions. Region 8 includes Colorado, Montana, North

Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

Cañon City project sponsor Linda Bennett and club president Sherri Jeffries will travel to Washington, D.C. for an award ceremony and other activities including visits to members of Congress and tours of the Capitol.

Students in grades kindergarten through 12 are eligible for the competition and must complete an environmental awareness project that benefits the community. All qualifying participants may receive a certificate of recognition signed by the President.

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MAY 1, 1997
EPA Denver: 1-800-227-8917, x 6600
Al Lange, EPA/Grand Forks: 701-777-0020

MEDIA ADVISORY

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

SUBJECT: FUEL OIL REMOVAL AND CLEANUP

ANNOUNCER:

TO SPEED REMOVAL OF FUEL OIL FROM STANDING WATER IN BASEMENTS, EPA WILL PROVIDE OIL-REMOVING MATERIALS TO FLOOD VICTIMS WHO ARE WILLING TO DO THE WORK THEMSELVES. EMERGENCY RESPONDERS ARE RECEIVING MANY REQUESTS TO SKIM OIL FROM WATER IN BASEMENTS. RATHER THAN DELAY RESIDENTS' CLEANUP WORK, EPA WILL DELIVER ABSORBENT PADS, PLASTIC BAGS, AND GLOVES TO RESIDENTS.

THE PROCESS IS SIMPLE:

- OPEN ALL BASEMENT WINDOWS AND ALLOW ONE HOUR FOR FUMES TO ESCAPE BEFORE PROCEEDING.
- SPREAD A SINGLE LAYER OF ABSORBENT PAD ON OIL. LET IT REMAIN IN PLACE FOR 15-20 MINUTES.
- REMOVE PAD AND PLACE IN A PLASTIC BAG. BAGS CONTAINING OIL-SOAKED

PADS SHOULD BE PLACED NEAR THE STREET FOR PICK UP ALONG WITH HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES.

- ONCE OIL IS REMOVED FROM THE SURFACE OF THE WATER, PROCEED TO PUMP WATER OUT OF BASEMENT.
- TO CLEAN OILY SURFACES, USE A LIQUID DISH-WASHING DETERGENT LIKE DAWN.

REMEMBER TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS WHEN REMOVING FUEL OIL FROM WATER OR CLEANING IT OFF WALLS AND OTHER SURFACES:

- WORK IN A WELL-VENTILATED AREA.
- AVOID USE OF FLAMMABLE CLEANERS.
- FOLLOW DIRECTIONS ON CLEANING PRODUCT LABELS.
- WEAR RUBBER GLOVES.
- DON'T MIX CLEANING CHEMICALS BECAUSE THEY MAY REACT AND PRODUCE TOXIC FUMES.

RESIDENTS IN GRAND FORKS WHO CAN'T REMOVE OIL FROM THE WATER THEMSELVES OR WHO WANT TO ARRANGE TO HAVE BAGS CONTAINING OIL-SOAKED PADS AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PICKED UP SHOULD CALL:

GRAND FORKS HAZARDOUS MATERIALS HOTLINE: 701-746-2566

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May 1, 1997
Al Lange, EPA/Grand Forks: 701-777-0020
EPA, Denver: 1-800-227-8917, x 6600 or 6610

EPA WILL PROVIDE OIL REMOVAL MATERIALS TO FLOOD VICTIMS

To speed up removal of fuel oil from standing water in basements, EPA will provide oil-removing materials to Grand Forks residents who are willing to do the work themselves.

Emergency response staff have received many requests to skim fuel oil from the surface of water in basements. Rather than delay residents' cleanup work, EPA will deliver absorbent pads, plastic bags and gloves to residents.

The removal process is simple:

- Open all basement windows and allow one hour for fumes to escape before proceeding.
- Spread a single layer of absorbent pad on the oil. Let the pad remain in place for 15-20 minutes.
- Remove the pad and put it in a plastic bag. Bags containing oil-soaked pads should be placed near the street for pick up along with household hazardous wastes.
- Once oil is removed from the surface of the water, proceed to pump basement.
- Use a liquid dish-washing detergent, like Dawn, to wash remaining oil from surfaces.

Officials remind residents to take precautions when removing oil from water or cleaning it off walls and other surfaces:

- Work in a well-ventilated area.
- Avoid use of flammable cleaners.
- Follow directions on cleaning product labels.

- Wear rubber gloves.
- Don't mix cleaning chemicals because they may react and produce toxic fumes.

Residents in Grand Forks who can't remove oil from the water themselves or who want to arrange to have bags containing oil-soaked pads and other household hazardous waste picked up should call:

Grand Forks Hazardous Materials Hotline: 701-246-2566 or 701-777-0020

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KATHIE ATENCIO 303 312 6803

DOUG SKIE 303 312 6827

RICH LATHROP 303 312 6780

MAY 13, 1997

DENVER--Englewood may have found a way to encourage developers to build on former industrial sites: take the risk out of it.

With \$200,000 in funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Brownfields" program, Englewood plans to set up a no-risk revolving fund that private-sector property owners could use to assess their properties for contamination.

Fears of liability or costly cleanups drive many developers away from former industrial sites with some history of contamination out to "greenfields" on the edges of cities. Englewood thinks low-interest loans for site evaluation and flexible payment plans for actual cleanups can help reverse that trend.

In coming months, the city will create a Brownfields task force, set the criteria for tapping the fund, identify sources of funding for actual cleanups and start an assessment at a priority site.

First up would be the old General Iron Works

on South Santa Fe Drive just north of Dartmouth. That 18-acre site of a former iron foundry had surface and underground storage tanks, landfill and sludge ponds.

Contaminants of concern on the site include asbestos, solvents and petroleum wastes.

The city's long-range plan calls for the site to be a prominent feature in a vibrant urban setting. While many parties have shown interest in the site in the past two years, they've stopped short of purchase, citing environmental issues as a major reason.

In addition to taking the risk out of up-front assessment, the city hopes to expand the fund to help pay cleanup costs and possibly underwrite environmental insurance policies.

"We plan to build on this revolving fund and additional seed monies to create jobs, and identify and remediate sites that would otherwise stay abandoned. Initially, we plan to target the General Iron site for remediation," said Englewood Mayor Tom Burns.

Max Dodson, who directs EPA's "Superfund" program in six western states*, said Englewood's proposal is a perfect fit for a Brownfields grant. "It combines local ideas with Federal dollars to build local solutions. It will restore tainted properties to productive use where they can begin contributing to the tax base again."

The Brownfields initiative is part of a Clinton Administration commitment to help cities clean up and redevelop abandoned properties. Some 34 new "pilot" projects were announced today in Washington. Since 1993, 113 projects have been funded for a total of more than \$20 million.

Englewood's is the second pilot in the metro area. In 1994, EPA funded the Sand Creek Project in a 20-square-mile area of northeast Denver that is heavily industrialized.

* *EPA's Region 8 includes CO, WY, UT, MT, ND and SD.*

For more details on Englewood's project, contact planner Mark Graham at (303) 762 2353.

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KATHIE ATENCIO 303 312 6803
RICH LATHROP 303 312 6780
TOLL FREE 800 227 8917 X6780

MAY 13, 1997

OGDEN, UT--Revitalization of parts of Ogden City's central business district today received a \$200,000 boost from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Brownfields" program.

Brownfields are abandoned pieces of land--often in inner cities--contaminated by earlier industry but which now pose no serious public health risk. Fears of liability and cleanup costs discourage developers from considering such parcels, sending development to "greenfields" along city edges.

Ogden wants to erase such uncertainties starting with the Old Ironworks site north of 24th and Lincoln. It hopes to complete comprehensive testing on this

site and others in the project area, develop cleanup plans, develop funding sources for actual cleanups and "educate" developers to the benefits of such sites.

Ogden Mayor Glenn J. Mecham said EPA's selection underscores the city's reputation as a leader in developing creative solutions to problems all large cities face. "The EPA funds will also help us sustain our progressive image by cleaning up the areas that are the gateways to our city," Mecham said.

Max Dodson, who directs EPA's "Superfund" program in six western states*, said Ogden's proposal is a "perfect fit" for a brownfields grant. "It combines local ideas and energies with Federal dollars to build local solutions. I look forward to working with Ogden and Utah's Department of Environmental Quality

on this project," Dodson said.

EPA's Regional Office in Denver has made two "pilot" grants this year, in Ogden and Englewood, Colorado. Last August, Salt Lake City's Gateway District, the former Murray Smelter and Provo City's Ironton project received brownfields grants.

The Brownfields Initiative is part of a Clinton Administration commitment to help cities clean up and redevelop abandoned properties. Some 34 new pilots were announced today in Washington. Since 1993, 113 projects have been funded for a total of more than \$20 million.

** EPA's Region 8 includes UT, CO, WY, MT, ND, SD.*

For more details on the Ogden project, contact:

John Ruiz, Ogden City Public Works Dept. (801) 629-8970

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Environmental News

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BRUCE COOPER EPA 303/312-6028
FRED REID EPA 303/312-6018
CHERYL TURCOTTE EPA 303/312-6210

May 20, 1997

DENVER--The Environmental Protection Agency today issued its annual report detailing toxic releases into air, water and land. Nationally, the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) revealed total chemical releases of **1.66** billion pounds in 1995 (the most recent reporting year), compared to **1.75** billion pounds in 1994, for chemicals reported in both years.

Colorado facilities overall showed a **net increase** in total amounts of toxic chemicals released, emitted or discharged into the environment, according to EPA's 1995 TRI report. However, EPA officials note that many businesses in the State are working to reduce, and even eliminate entirely, pollution near residential communities.

The State ranked 43rd nationwide in the amount of toxic chemicals released into the environment during the 1995 calendar year. During that year's report, 182 facilities released 4,575,426 pounds of chemicals onsite. This figure was up from the reported 4,175,133 pounds of toxic chemicals released in 1994. Colorado ranked 44th in the 1994 TRI report. Within the State, the largest single chemical release in 1995 was ammonia (596,782 pounds). Additionally, the fabricated metals industry had the most toxic chemical releases (1,151,127 pounds).

The TRI serves as a monitor of wastes generated and transferred and pollution prevention methods practiced by manufacturing facilities in the United States. The report, required under the 1986 Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act, allows EPA, the states and the public to gauge industry's progress toward reducing toxic chemical pollution.

Toxic release totals reported in 1995 are difficult to compare with previous year's because of changes to the list of chemicals that must be reported. In 1995, EPA required companies to begin reporting their releases of an additional 286 chemicals.

In Region 8 (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY) industries reportedly released 24 chemicals that are part of the 286 new chemicals added to the toxics release list. Companies reported that onsite releases of these chemicals totaled about 9.7 million pounds. Most of the releases, about 7.9 million pounds, came from nitrate compounds used to manufacture fertilizer and photographic film. The second-highest release of new chemicals reported was about 1.4 million pounds of n-Hexane (normal-Hexane). Businesses use this solvent to extract oil from soybeans, cottonseed and other seed grains.

The other factor that hinders comparisons of 1995 figures to past years is the removal of several chemicals from the TRI list in the 1993 & 1994 reporting years. The chemicals taken off the list were acetone, ammonium salts and liquid forms of hydrochloric and sulfuric acid. The removal of these chemicals affected how individual facilities were rated for pollution releases and how specific states ranked nationally in the TRI. For instance, in 1993 facilities nationwide reportedly released 131.9 million pounds of acetone. However, in 1994, no releases were reported because it was no longer included on the TRI list.

These additions and deletions impacted the total amount of chemical pollution some facilities reported, while the total chemical releases reported by other companies remained unaffected. Because of these changes, direct comparisons of a facility's 1995 releases to previous year's may be misleading. Despite the changes to the TRI list, the total amount of releases in EPA's six-state region dropped by about **six percent** from 149,536,733 pounds in 1994 to 140,266,405 pounds in 1995.

This past Earth Day, April 22, EPA Administrator Carol Browner signed a rule that expands industry reporting under the community right-to-know program. The rule increases by about 30 percent the number of industrial facilities required to make public the levels of toxic chemicals they release into the air, water and land in communities across the country.

The new rule requires about 6,100 new facilities, in seven industrial sectors, to begin reporting their annual toxic releases in 1998. These figures are due to EPA by July 1, 1999. With the addition of these new industrial sectors, a total of more than 31,000 facilities will publicly report their toxic emissions.

"EPA's expanded TRI list empowers communities with essential information about potential environmental or health problems posed by chemicals released in their neighborhoods," said EPA's Acting Regional Administrator Jack McGraw. "The report

provides communities with an important tool to help curb pollution and reduce health risks."

The TRI is available in several formats. Many public libraries have the data release. Individuals also can purchase it on CD-ROM, computer diskettes or access it on-line at either: <http://www.epa.gov/enviro> or <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/tri>. For data-use assistance, call 202/260-1531 or fax a request to 202/260-4659. EPA also maintains a national technical hotline (800/535-0202) to help individuals and businesses understand TRI and the reporting requirements.

** **EDITORS NOTE:** Companies listed in the attached state fact sheet are identified by an asterisk if their releases were affected by the addition or deletion of chemicals from 1993-1995.*

*** Reporters, for more information, you may reach one of the contacts listed at the beginning of the news release by dialing direct or toll free at 800/227-8917. Also, if convenient, please fax a tear sheet to: Vaughn Whatley (303/312-6961).*

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Environmental News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRUCE COOPER EPA 303/312-6028
FRED REID EPA 303/312-6018
CHERYL TURCOTTE EPA 303/312-6210

May 20, 1997

DENVER--The Environmental Protection Agency today issued its annual report detailing toxic releases into air, water and land. Nationally, the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) revealed total chemical releases of **1.66** billion pounds in 1995 (the most recent reporting year), compared to **1.75** billion pounds in 1994, for chemicals reported in both years.

Montana facilities overall showed a **net decrease** in total amounts of toxic chemicals released, emitted or discharged into the environment, according to EPA's 1995 TRI report. "Many businesses in the region played a part in cutting toxic pollution," said EPA's Acting Regional Administrator Jack McGraw. "These companies discovered voluntary pollution prevention makes sense and is profitable because of diminished waste disposal needs."

The State ranked 18th nationwide in the amount of toxic chemicals released into the environment during the 1995 calendar year. During that year's report, 27 facilities released 43,891,840 pounds of chemicals onsite. This figure is down by seven percent from the reported 47,227,025 pounds of toxic chemicals released in 1994. Montana also ranked 18th in the 1994 TRI report. Within the State, the largest chemical releases in 1995 came from zinc compounds (31,104,877 pounds).

The TRI serves as a monitor of wastes generated and transferred and pollution prevention methods practiced by manufacturing facilities in the United States. The report, required under the 1986 Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act, allows EPA, the states and the public to gauge industry's progress toward reducing toxic chemical pollution.

Toxic release totals reported in 1995 are difficult to compare with previous year's because of changes to the list of chemicals that must be reported. In 1995, EPA required companies to begin reporting their releases of an additional 286 chemicals.

In Region 8 (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY) industries reportedly released 24 chemicals that are part of the 286 new chemicals added to the toxics release list. Companies reported that onsite releases of these chemicals totaled about 9.7 million pounds. Most of the releases, about 7.9 million pounds, came from nitrate compounds used to manufacture fertilizer and photographic film. The second-highest release of new chemicals reported was about 1.4 million pounds of n-Hexane (normal-Hexane). Businesses use this solvent to extract oil from soybeans, cottonseed and other seed grains.

The other factor that hinders comparisons of 1995 figures to past years is the removal of several chemicals from the TRI list in the 1993 & 1994 reporting years. The chemicals taken off the list were acetone, ammonium salts and liquid forms of hydrochloric and sulfuric acid. The removal of these chemicals affected how individual facilities were rated for pollution releases and how specific states ranked nationally in the TRI. For instance, in 1993 facilities nationwide reportedly released 131.9 million pounds of acetone. However, in 1994, no releases were reported because it was no longer included on the TRI list.

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This past Earth Day, April 22, EPA Administrator Carol Browner signed a rule that expands industry reporting under the community right-to-know program. The rule increases by about 30 percent the number of industrial facilities required to make public the levels of toxic chemicals they release into the air, water and land in communities across the country.

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tool to help curb pollution and reduce health risks."

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Utah, Wyoming

Environmental News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRUCE COOPER EPA 303/312-6028
FRED REID EPA 303/312-6018
CHERYL TURCOTTE EPA 303/312-6210

May 20, 1997

DENVER--The Environmental Protection Agency today issued its annual report detailing toxic releases into air, water and land. Nationally, the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) revealed total chemical releases of **1.66** billion pounds in 1995 (the most recent reporting year), compared to **1.75** billion pounds in 1994, for chemicals reported in both years.

North Dakota facilities overall showed a **net increase** in total amounts of toxic chemicals released, emitted or discharged into the environment, according to EPA's 1995 TRI report. However, EPA officials note that many businesses in the State are working to reduce, and even eliminate entirely, pollution near residential communities.

The State ranked 48th nationwide in the amount of toxic chemicals released into the environment during the 1995 calendar year. During that year's report, 35 facilities released 2,561,837 pounds of chemicals onsite. This figure is an increase of 60 percent from the reported 1,600,214 pounds of toxic chemicals released in 1994. North Dakota ranked 49th in the 1994 TRI report. Within the State, the largest single chemical release in 1995 was ammonia (725,899 pounds). Additionally, the food industry had the most toxic chemical releases (1,340,753 pounds).

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This past Earth Day, April 22, EPA Administrator Carol Browner signed a rule that expands industry reporting under the community right-to-know program. The rule increases by about 30 percent the number of industrial facilities required to make public the levels of toxic chemicals they release into the air, water and land in communities across the country.

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BRUCE COOPER EPA 303/312-6028
FRED REID EPA 303/312-6018
CHERYL TURCOTTE EPA 303/312-6210

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South Dakota facilities overall reported a **net decrease** in total amounts of toxic chemicals released, discharged or emitted into the environment, according to EPA's 1995 TRI report. "Many businesses in the region played a part in cutting toxic pollution," said EPA's Acting Regional Administrator Jack McGraw. "These companies discovered voluntary pollution prevention makes sense and is profitable because of diminished waste disposal needs."

The State ranked 49th nationwide in the amount of toxic chemicals released into the environment during the 1995 calendar year. During that year's report, 72 facilities released 1,913,006 pounds of chemicals onsite. This figure is down by seven percent from the reported 2,060,706 pounds of toxic chemicals released in 1994. South Dakota ranked 48th in the 1994 TRI report. Within the State, the largest single chemical release in 1995 was xylene (863,269 pounds). Additionally, the chemical sector had the most toxic chemical releases (362,250 pounds).

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These additions and deletions impacted the total amount of chemical pollution some facilities reported, while the total chemical releases reported by other companies remained unaffected. Because of these changes, direct comparisons of a facility's 1995 releases to previous year's may be misleading. Despite the changes to the TRI list, the total amount of releases in EPA's six-state region dropped by about **six percent** from 149,536,733 pounds in 1994 to 140,266,405 pounds in 1995.

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Utah facilities overall showed a **net increase** in total amounts of toxic chemicals released, emitted or discharged into the environment, according to EPA's 1995 TRI report. However, EPA officials note that many businesses in the State are working to reduce, and even eliminate entirely, pollution near residential communities.

The State ranked 10th nationwide in the amount of toxic chemicals released into the environment during the 1995 calendar year. During that year's report, 148 facilities released 76,321,734 pounds of chemicals onsite. This figure was a six percent increase from the reported 71,697,321 pounds of toxic chemicals released in 1994. Utah ranked 12th in the 1994 TRI report. Within the State, the largest single chemical release in 1995 was chlorine (58,285,319 pounds). Additionally, Magnesium Corporation of America had the most toxic chemical releases in the State (64,339,080 pounds).

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Environmental News

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BRUCE COOPER EPA 303/312-6028
FRED REID EPA 303/312-6018
CHERYL TURCOTTE EPA 303/312-6210

May 20, 1997

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Wyoming facilities overall reported a **net decrease** in total amounts of toxic chemicals released, emitted or discharged into the environment, according to EPA's 1995 TRI report. "Many businesses in the region played a part in cutting toxic pollution," said EPA's Acting Regional Administrator Jack McGraw. "These companies discovered voluntary pollution prevention makes sense and is profitable because of diminished waste disposal needs."

The State ranked 35th nationwide in the amount of toxic chemicals released into the environment during the 1995 calendar year. During that year's report, 29 facilities released 11,002,563 pounds of chemicals onsite. This figure is down by 52 percent from the reported 22,778,831 pounds of toxic chemicals released in 1994. Wyoming ranked 28th in the 1994 TRI report. Within the State, the largest single chemical release in 1995 was nitrate compounds (7,700,888 pounds). Additionally, the chemical sector had the most toxic chemical releases (9,555,616 pounds).

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practiced by manufacturing facilities in the United States. The report, required under the 1986 Emergency Planning Community Right-to-Know Act, allows EPA, the states and the public to gauge industry's progress toward reducing toxic chemical pollution.

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Environmental Fact Sheet

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRUCE COOPER EPA 303/312-6028
FRED REID EPA 303/312-6018
CHERYL TURCOTTE EPA 303/312-6210

MAY 20, 1997

Toxics Release Inventory Questions & Answers

What is TRI?

The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) is an annual report of toxic chemical pollution released into the environment by businesses throughout the country. It is available so EPA, other levels of government and the public can analyze industries' progress toward reducing its pollution. It also allows individuals to monitor pollution coming from facilities located near residential communities.

Why does EPA require companies to report their toxic releases?

The need for this report stems from an accidental toxic gas release from a Union Carbide chemical plant in Bhopal, India, in 1984. More than 2,500 people died. A similar incident also occurred in West

Virginia.

As a result of these and other accidents, more than 30 states now have laws that provide workers and residents with access to information about hazardous substances in their workplaces and communities.

In 1986, Congress passed the Emergency Planning & Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) making previously voluntary reporting programs mandatory. Under EPCRA's Section 313, specific manufacturing facilities must annually report on their toxic releases into the air, land and water.

Are the releases dangerous to communities?

The TRI information is not designed to show if chemical releases pose potential health or environmental hazards. Rather, the reports divulge how many pounds of chemicals companies release, dispose, treat, recycle, etc. EPA toxicologists, however, use TRI, and other data, to assess risks from some chemical releases.

Why should people care about the TRI?

TRI helps communities with emergency planning. In addition, people have a right-to-know what substances companies produce and discharge into their environment. TRI acts as a tool communities can use to discover types and amounts of toxic chemicals released in or near their neighborhoods. If citizens object to chemical releases in their area, they can pressure facilities to use pollution prevention and source reduction techniques to decrease releases.

Who must report?

Manufacturing facilities meeting **all** the following criteria must report:

- facilities described within **Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes 20-39, and**
- have 10 full-time employees or more (equivalent to 20,000 work hours/year) **and**
- manufacture, handle or process 25,000 pounds or otherwise use 10,000 pounds per year of a toxic chemical listed under Section 313 of EPCRA.
- **What happens to companies that do not report toxic releases or fail to report properly?**

EPA may assess civil penalties for reporting violations. Any company owner or operator who violates the law is liable for up to \$25,000 a day for each violation. In addition, private citizens may file lawsuits to force a company to obey the law.

Does EPA use the information contained in the TRI to penalize companies for pollution violations?

No. But EPA can use the data to verify if releases comply with a company's permits for air, waste and water. Also, the Agency uses TRI data to track industries' progress toward cutting or eliminating toxic chemical releases and wastes.

How does the pollution prevention aspect of the report work and why does EPA require it?

As part of the 1990 Pollution Prevention Act (PPA), facilities **must** (previously optional) report pollution reduction and prevention activities. EPA added Section 8 to the standard TRI Form R report. This section requires facilities to report total releases; releases from catastrophic events; toxic materials recycled, converted into energy, or treated.

Section 8 also requires facilities to report any activities they engage in to reduce pollution sources. This information allows businesses and communities to assess progress made at reducing toxic chemical use and production.

Has EPA recently added any chemicals to the required reporting list?

In December 1994, EPA **added** 286 chemicals to EPCRA's Section 313 list. These chemicals were subject to reporting in the 1995 reporting year. About one-half of these chemicals are pesticides. In addition, several chemicals were **removed** from the TRI list in the 1993 & 1994 reporting years. The chemicals taken off the list were acetone, ammonium salts and liquid forms of hydrochloric and sulfuric acid.

Does EPA expect other industries to be added to the TRI list anytime soon?

On April 22, 1997, EPA Administrator Carol Browner signed a rule that expands industry reporting under the community right-to-know program. The rule increases by about 30 percent the number of industrial facilities required to make public the levels of toxic chemicals they release into the air water and land in communities across the country.

The new rule requires about 6,100 new facilities (including electric utilities), in seven industrial sectors, to report their annual toxic releases. With the addition of these new industrial sectors, a total of more than 31,000 facilities will publicly report their toxic emissions.

Which industrial sectors were added and when will they begin reporting their toxic releases?

The seven new industrial sectors categories added under the right-to-know program are: metal mining, coal mining, electric utilities (those that use coal and oil as fuel), commercial hazardous waste treatment, petroleum bulk terminals, chemical wholesalers and solvent recovery services. These categories will join the 20 others already reporting on toxic releases. Companies within these industrial sectors must begin reporting in 1998; these figures are due to EPA by July 1, 1999.

CONTACTS:

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News Advisory

RELEASE AT WILL

Fred Reid EPA 303/312-6018

Bruce Cooper EPA 303/312-6028

Cheryl Turcotte EPA 303/312-6210

MAY 23, 1997

DENVER--Industries in Utah made news this week when their annual toxic release reports were made public. These reports help EPA, states and communities monitor amounts and types of materials released into the environment, identify chemical release permit violations, and gauge a facility's pollution prevention progress.

To help businesses learn about their toxic chemical reporting requirements, EPA is offering [FREE workshops](#) in Salt Lake City. The classes cover how to comply with the [Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act \(EPCRA\)](#), and include information to help companies report types and quantities of toxic pollution released into the air, water or land.

WHO: Businesses that use, handle or produce toxic chemicals or hazardous materials -- including metals -- should attend. The full-day workshop targets those who have never reported, do not understand how to report or have not attended a previous workshop. The half-day session is for those who are familiar with reporting procedures and wish to review how to complete the reporting form and go over changes in reporting requirements and new rules. Participants need only attend one workshop.

WHAT: Participants will learn:

- how, when and what to report.
- to complete EPA's Form R.
- about recent or proposed additions and deletions of certain chemicals to the annual reporting list.
- EPCRA rules, definitions and exemptions.
- about pollution prevention and reduction.
- the toxic release inventory database and related reporting software.

WHEN: Wednesday, May 28th from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (full-day workshop).

Thursday, May 29th from 8:30 a.m. to Noon (half-day workshop).

WHERE: In Salt Lake City at the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ). Located at 168 North 1950 West, Room 101. UDEQ phone number: 801/536-4100.

WHY: EPA requires companies that produce or use certain chemicals or metals to submit yearly toxic release inventory reports. Businesses that properly report their releases can avoid costly penalties.

WHAT ELSE: Space is limited and participants must register for a workshop in advance. Transportation and lodging are the participants responsibility. For more details or to register, call Fred Reid at 303/312-6018.

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United States Environmental Protection
Agency Region 8

Office of Communication and Public
Involvement (OCPI)
999 18th Street, Ste. 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466

Colorado, Montana, North
Dakota, South Dakota,
Utah, Wyoming

Environmental News Advisory

RELEASE AT WILL

MAY 14, 1997

DENVER--Each year industries in Colorado make news when their annual toxic release reports are made public. These reports help EPA, states and communities monitor amounts and types of materials released into the environment, identify chemical release permit violations, and gauge a facility's pollution prevention progress.

To help businesses learn about their toxic chemical reporting requirements, EPA is offering [FREE workshops](#) in Denver. The classes cover how to comply with the [Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act \(EPCRA\)](#), and include information to help companies report types and quantities of toxic pollution released into the air, water or land.

WHO: Businesses that use, handle or produce toxic chemicals or hazardous materials -- including metals -- should attend. The full-day workshops target those who have never reported, do not understand how to report or have not attended a previous workshop. The half-day sessions are for those who are familiar with reporting procedures and wish to review how to complete the reporting form and go over changes in reporting requirements and new regulations. Participants need only attend one workshop.

WHAT: Participants will learn:

- how, when and what to report.
- to complete EPA's Form R.
- about recent or proposed additions and deletions of certain chemicals to the annual reporting list.
- EPCRA rules, definitions and exemptions.
- about pollution prevention and reduction.
- the toxic release inventory database and related reporting software.

WHEN: Tuesday and Wednesday, May 20th and 21st from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (full-day workshops). Thursday and Friday, May 22nd and 23rd from 8:30 a.m. to Noon (half-day workshops).

WHERE: Downtown Denver at the EPA Conference Center. Located at 999 18th Street, second floor promenade. Conference Center phone number: 303/312-7078.

WHY: EPA requires companies that produce or use certain chemicals or metals to submit yearly toxic release inventory reports. Businesses that properly report their releases can avoid costly penalties.

WHAT ELSE: Space is limited and participants must register for a workshop in advance. Because of security precautions, attendees must bring a picture form of identification. Parking is limited, so plan to arrive early. Transportation and lodging are the participants responsibility. For more details or to register, call Fred Reid at 303/312-6018.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Peter Stevenson EPA 303/312-6799
Mary Hagan EPA 303/312-6608
News Office EPA 800/227-8917

April 17, 1997

EPA CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL CLEANUP

WHO

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

WHAT

The celebration will complete three years' effort to remove carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄) from groundwater in a localized area of Aspen Park. After discovery of the contamination in 1994, subsequent sampling showed some drinking water wells in the localized area contained concentrations of CCl₄ above the safe drinking water level of 5 parts per billion. Carbon treatment systems were installed in 32 residences and are effectively removing the CCl₄ from wells in the area. Now EPA will speed up removal of the contamination from the source area with the newly completed pump and treat system. EPA Regional Administrator Jack McGraw and Max Dodson (title) will be present for the ribbon cutting and activation of the new treatment plant. On-scene Coordinator Peter Stevenson will demonstrate and explain plant operation.

WHEN

Thursday, April 24, 1997 at 2:00 p. m

WHERE

At the new treatment plant, Vosler & Cornelius Streets in Aspen Park (see map)

WHY

This cleanup has been a real success! EPA addressed the threat in a timely manner, provided immediate help as well as a long term remedy safeguarding human health and property values.

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Utah, Wyoming

April 28, 1997

State: BOB WETSCH, 701-328-5166

Wahpeton: JEWEL JONES, 701-642-7788

EPA, Denver: 1-800-227-8917, x 6600 or 6610

COLLECTION SITE FOR FLOOD-DAMAGED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES OPENS IN WAHPETON

Staff from EPA's regional office in Denver will be on hand to oversee the safe disposal of flood-damaged household hazardous wastes in the Wahpeton area from Tuesday, April 29, through Thursday, May 1. Retail and wholesale businesses, farmers, and residents in the area which includes Wahpeton, Abercrombie, Colfax, Fairmont and Great Bend, may drop off their flood-damaged hazardous wastes between the hours of 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM.

Flood-damaged hazardous wastes also will be picked up at homes and businesses on those three days. **To arrange pick up call Jewel Jones, Richland Local Emergency Planning Committee, 701-642-7788.**

Normally, municipal landfills can accommodate the small quantities of hazardous wastes generated by households without threat to the environment. The extent of the flooding, however, will so increase the volume of these wastes that special arrangements must be made for their safe disposal.

EPA advises flood victims to **separate flood-damaged household hazardous waste**. Do not dispose of them with other flood debris.

Examples of Common Household Hazardous Products

- Pesticides and Herbicides
- Fertilizers
- Medications
- Gasoline
- Solvents
- Paints/Paint Thinners
- Pressure Vessels (like aerosol cans, propane tanks, etc.)
- Used Motor Oil, Automotive Products (Antifreeze, Cleaning Products, Batteries, etc.)
- Kitchen and Bathroom Cleaners
- Pest and Rodent Poisons and Repellants

See [EPA's fact sheet](#) for more information.

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APRIL 28, 1997
State: Bob Wetsch 701-328-5166
Wahpeton: Jewell Jones 701-642-7788
EPA Denver: 1-800-227-8917, x 6600

MEDIA ADVISORY

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

SUBJECT: FLOOD-DAMAGED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF AND COLLECTIONS SCHEDULED

ANNOUNCER:

RESIDENTS OF THE WAHPETON AREA MAY DROP OFF FLOOD- DAMAGED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AT THE NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUILDING ON HIGHWAY 13 BEGINNING TUESDAY, APRIL 29TH. E.P.A. AND THE NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WILL RECEIVE THE WASTES TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, APRIL 29-MAY 1 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 AM AND 8:00 PM.

RESIDENTS ALSO MAY CALL JEWEL JONES, RICHLAND COUNTY LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE COORDINATOR, TO HAVE THEIR FLOOD-DAMAGED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES PICKED UP. THE NUMBER TO CALL FOR PICK-UP IS 701-642-7788. PICKUPS WILL TAKE PLACE TUESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES INCLUDE PAINTS, SOLVENTS, PESTICIDES, FERTILIZERS, HAZARDOUS CLEANING MATERIALS, MOTOR OIL AND OTHER AUTOMOBILE LIQUIDS, POISONOUS, CORROSIVE AND FLAMMABLE MATERIALS. E.P.A. OFFICIALS URGE FLOOD VICTIMS TO SEPARATE FLOOD-DAMAGED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES AND EITHER DROP THEM OFF OR CALL FOR PICK UP. DO NOT DISPOSE OF THEM WITH OTHER FLOOD DEBRIS.

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DISPOSAL OF FLOOD-DAMAGED HOUSEHOLD, RETAIL AND WHOLESALE HAZARDOUS WASTE MATERIALS

U.S. EPA Region VIII, Denver, Colorado
APRIL 1997

This fact sheet contains information about managing hazardous materials you may encounter as you begin cleaning up your homes and businesses.

As you clean up your homes and businesses, you will find products that contain hazardous ingredients. If not properly handled, they could harm you and others who help you with the cleanup. If not properly disposed of, they can harm others and the environment.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Locations

In order to help you safely dispose of flood-damaged household, retail and wholesale hazardous wastes, EPA, FEMA, and the State of North Dakota will establish a collection centers in Wahpeton, and curb-side pickups in Fargo and Grand Forks. Locations, dates and times for collection of household hazardous wastes will be announced on local radio stations and in local newspapers.

What makes something a hazardous waste?

Substances that threaten health or the environment are considered hazardous. When determining whether

a substance is considered a hazardous waste, ask yourself:

- How easily does it catch fire?
(Example: gasoline)
- How corrosive is it?
(Example: oven cleaners)
- How toxic is it to humans, animals or plants?
(Example: pesticides)
- How explosive or reactive is it?
(Example: aerosol cans)

How can I find out whether something is hazardous?

Look at container labels for danger symbols. Always read the product label. Remember, some hazardous wastes such as used motor oil may not be labeled.

What are the types of hazardous wastes and hazardous materials I may encounter?

Common household hazardous wastes include:

Pesticides (like rat poison, flea powder, insecticides etc.)

Herbicides / Weed control products

Fertilizers

Automotive products: batteries, antifreeze, Gasoline, cleaners, wax

Used motor oil

Pressure vessels (like aerosol cans, propane tanks, etc.)

Solvents, degreasers, spot removers

Paint, paint thinners, lacquer,

Photography materials

Rust removers

Cleaning supplies (like oven cleaners, toilet cleaners, furniture polish, drain cleaners, silver polish, etc.)

Medications

What precautions should I take when cleaning up areas that may contain hazardous wastes?

Product labels often contain information about precautions to take when using the product. In general, remember to keep the material off you skin and wash if you come in contact with it. Protect yourself with proper eye shields (goggles), masks, and gloves. Don't touch your eyes, food or face without washing your hands first. Don't smoke when handling chemicals. Ventilate the area in which you are opening containers.

If possible, keep products in their original containers. **Never mix chemicals!** Do not dispose of hazardous wastes with other flood debris. Package flammables, oxidizers, corrosives, and poisons in separate containers lined with a plastic bag. Place packing material (crumpled paper or cardboard) between boxes. Label boxes ("flammable", "corrosive", etc.) as accurately as you can to assist disposal workers.

If containers are leaking, place in a leakproof container with absorbent material such as kitty litter. Store until pick up or drop off in a cool, dry, well-ventilated location out of the reach of children or animals.

As flood water recedes a new threat may develop. Bacteria and fungus may grow in standing water or in flood-soaked materials. Avoid direct contact and breathing dust. Wear masks, rubber boots and gloves when handling this material. Use bleach when cleaning up potentially infectious wastes. Bleach kills bacteria and disinfects.

How will flood damaged agricultural pesticides and fertilizers be managed?

Because of the large quantity of flood- damaged agricultural pesticides and fertilizers, EPA and the State of North Dakota have made separate arrangements for the disposal of these wastes. Farmers, rural cooperatives, and dealers and distributors of agricultural pesticides and fertilizers will be notified of collection locations.

What should I do if I find a flood-damaged or flood-deposited tank , drum or container?

If you find an flood-damaged container or a container that the flood deposited and you are concerned that it may contain hazardous materials, call your county emergency manager. EPA will send someone out to examine it and decide whether arrangements need to be made for hazardous waste disposal.

If I have questions, who can I call?

North Dakota Health Department (Hazardous and Solid Waste):

Bob Wetsch: 701-328-5166

North Dakota Department of Agriculture (Agricultural Pesticides & Fertilizers):

Judy Carlson: 701-328-4997

Wapehton:

Emergency Response

Jewel Jones: 701-642-7788

Health Department

Jerry Lein: 701-642-6525

Fargo:

Haz. Materials Hotline: 701-280-9366

Mary Chamberlain: 701-298-6944

Grand Forks:

Haz. Materials Hotline: 701-746-2566

701-777-0020

For information and assistance, Minnesota residents should contact:

Minnesota Pollution Control Spills Unit: 1-800-657-3864

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April 28, 1997

State: BOB WETSCH, 701-328-5166

EPA, Denver: 1-800-227-8917, x 6600 or 6610

PICK UP OF FLOOD-DAMAGED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES BEGINS TODAY IN GRAND FORKS

Staff from EPA's regional office in Denver will be on hand to oversee the safe pick up and disposal of flood-damaged household hazardous wastes in the Grand Forks area. Retail and wholesale businesses, farmers, and residents in the area may arrange today to have their their flood-damaged hazardous wastes picked up.

To arrange for pick up call one of these two numbers:

**Hazardous Materials Hotline -
701-746-2566 or 701-777-0020**

Normally, municipal landfills can accommodate the small quantities of hazardous wastes generated by households without threat to the environment. The extent of the flooding, however, will so increase the volume of these wastes that special arrangements must be made for their safe disposal.

EPA advises flood victims to **separate flood-damaged household hazardous waste**. Do not dispose of them with other flood debris.

Examples of Common Household Hazardous Products

- Pesticides and Herbicides
- Fertilizers
- Medications
- Gasoline
- Solvents
- Paints/Paint Thinners
- Pressure Vessels (like aerosol cans, propane tanks, etc.)
- Used Motor Oil, Automotive Products (Antifreeze, Cleaning Products, Batteries, etc.)
- Kitchen and Bathroom Cleaners
- Pest and Rodent Poisons and Repellants

See [EPA's fact sheet](#) for more information.

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APRIL 29, 1997

State: Bob Wetsch 701-328-5166

EPA Denver: 1-800-227-8917, x 6600

MEDIA ADVISORY

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT SUBJECT: FLOOD-DAMAGED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

PICK UP AVAILABLE

ANNOUNCER:

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY IN COOPERATION WITH THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA WILL BEGIN PICKING UP FLOOD-DAMAGED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES IN GRAND FORKS TODAY.

RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES MAY CALL TO HAVE THEIR FLOOD- DAMAGED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES PICKED UP. THE NUMBERS TO CALL FOR PICK-UP ARE 701-746-2566 OR 701-777-0020.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES INCLUDE PAINTS, SOLVENTS, PESTICIDES, FERTILIZERS, HAZARDOUS CLEANING MATERIALS, MOTOR OIL AND OTHER AUTOMOBILE LIQUIDS, POISONOUS, CORROSIVE AND FLAMMABLE MATERIALS.

E.P.A. OFFICIALS URGE FLOOD VICTIMS TO SEPARATE AND, IF POSSIBLE BAG, FLOOD-DAMAGED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES. PLACE MATERIALS TO BE PICKED UP NEAR THE CURB. DO NOT DISPOSE OF THEM WITH OTHER FLOOD DEBRIS.

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United States Environmental Protection
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APRIL 30, 1997
EPA Denver: 1-800-227-8917, x 6600

MEDIA ADVISORY

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

SUBJECT: CLEANING UP FLOOD-DAMAGED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

ANNOUNCER:

COUNTY AND U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY EMERGENCY RESPONSE OFFICIALS URGE FLOOD VICTIMS TO BE VERY CAREFUL WHEN CLEANING UP SPILLED OR FLOOD-DAMAGED HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. PLEASE TAKE THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS:

- WORK IN A WELL-VENTILATED AREA.
- AVOID USE OF FLAMMABLE CLEANERS.
- FOLLOW DIRECTIONS ON CLEANING PRODUCT LABELS.
- WEAR THE PROTECTIVE CLOTHING RECOMMENDED BY THE MANUFACTURER.
- DON'T MIX CLEANING CHEMICALS BECAUSE THEY MAY REACT AND PRODUCE TOXIC FUMES.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES INCLUDE PAINTS, SOLVENTS, PESTICIDES, FERTILIZERS, HAZARDOUS CLEANING MATERIALS, MOTOR OIL AND OTHER

AUTOMOBILE LIQUIDS, POISONOUS, CORROSIVE AND FLAMMABLE MATERIALS.

RESIDENTS IN CASS, GRAND FORKS, PEMBINA, RICHLAND, STEELE, TRAILL AND WALSH COUNTIES WHO WANT TO ARRANGE TO HAVE FLOOD-DAMAGED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PICKED UP SHOULD CALL THEIR COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGER OR EPA'S FLOOD HOTLINE: 701-280-9366.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 11, 1997

MEDIA ADVISORY

DENVER - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced the demonstration of an innovative cleanup technology at the Midvale Slag Superfund Site in Midvale, Utah on April 15, 1997.

Officials from EPA, Solucorp Industries, Ltd. and the City of Midvale will showcase the new cleanup technology called a "Molecular Bonding System" as part of EPA's Superfund Innovative Technology Evaluation (SITE) program. The SITE program aims to bring new technology to bear quickly in the cleanup of hazardous waste sites. This new technology may be pivotal to advancing the cleanup of heavy metals found at Superfund sites such as Midvale Slag.

There will be a presentation about the Midvale Slag Superfund Site, followed by a demonstration of the new cleanup technology. Representatives from EPA, Solucorp Industries, Ltd. and the City of Midvale will speak and be on hand to answer any questions.

EPA invites the public to attend this presentation and technology demonstration at the Midvale City Auditorium (80 East Center Street, Midvale, Utah) on Tuesday, April 15, 1997 from 9:00 - 11:30 am.

For more information, please contact Gwen Hooten, EPA Project Manager, at 1-800-227-8917 ext. 6724, Diana Hammer, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at 1-800-227-8917 ext. 6601 or Susan Hardy with the City of Midvale at (801) 567-7209.

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FOR RELEASE APRIL 15

April 14, 1997

DENVER-- Cleanup designs are now complete for parts of the Lowry Landfill Superfund Site. Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) said that cleanup plans are finished and building for the ground-water cleanup and wetlands can begin.

Designs for cleanup are now complete for the East/South/West Ground-Water Slurry Wall, the North Toe Ground-Water Extraction System, and the Wetlands Mitigation at the Lowry Landfill Superfund Site two miles east of the City of Aurora.

Highlights of the cleanup designs include:

- The "slurry wall" and "extraction system" are part of the cleanup plans for contaminated ground water at the Lowry Landfill Site. The slurry wall is basically an underground dam designed to hold water and keep contamination from flowing off the Site. The ground-water extraction system acts like a french drain to collect groundwater;
- New wetlands will be created next to the Site beginning this month. These wetlands will replace other wetlands lost during some of the earlier cleanup activities at the Site;
- Construction of the slurry wall will begin this month; and
- The ground-water extraction system will be built in late summer.

EPA and CDPHE invite the community to learn more about these cleanup designs by attending a public meeting on April 16 from 7:00- 9:00 pm at the Horizon Middle School (in the lunchroom) in Aurora.

More information about the Lowry Landfill Superfund Site, including the cleanup designs, is available at these locations:

EPA Superfund Records Center
999 18th Street, Suite 500
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 312-6473

Aurora Central Public Library
14949 East Alameda
Aurora, CO 80002
(303) 340-2290

For more information, please contact Marc Herman, EPA Project Manager, at (303) 312-6724; or Joe Vranka, State Project Manager, at (303) 692-3402.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 18, 1997

EPA NEWS OFC. 303 312 6780

DENVER--The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today charged Conoco, Inc. with 78 counts of violating hazardous waste law at the company's Commerce City refinery at 5801 Brighton Boulevard.

EPA proposed a penalty of \$666,771 and ordered Conoco to take action immediately to ensure that all containers of hazardous waste on-site are labeled, secured and managed as required by law.

The Agency ordered the company not to ship any waste by a transporter or to a facility that is not authorized to receive it. That requirement was in response to a 1995 incident when Conoco allegedly sent waste solvents to Denver Metro's Wastewater treatment plant. Alerted by the strong chemical odor, Metro refused the wastes.

Within the next 30 to 45 days, Conoco must improve its inspection program, its contingency plan for emergencies and the way it trains employees to manage wastes. It must provide a list of all positions and employees involved in handling hazardous wastes.

"Looking over these counts, one gets the impression that handling wastes is not being taken seriously as required by law," said EPA enforcement chief, Carol Rushin in Denver. "In fact, many of these charges are similar--in some cases identical--to charges brought by the State of Colorado in 1992 and even as early as 1985," Rushin said.

Today's action comes under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Nation's basic hazardous waste law. RCRA "tracks" wastes "from cradle to grave" or from where they are created through transport to final disposal.

"Many of the counts involve record-keeping which is the essence of the law," she said.

"Knowing where these dangerous materials are at all times, that the right people are trained to handle them and that they get to the right places for recycling or disposal is essential. It can't be done without paperwork."

Conoco has 30 days to request a public hearing and can contest the facts or the penalty amount or seek a review by an administrative law judge or a settlement conference with EPA.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARTIN HESTMARK 303 312 6776
DAVID JANIK 303 312 6917
EPA NEWS OFFICE 303 312 6780

MARCH 18, 1997

DENVER--Alleged hazardous waste violations over a four- year period could cost Platte Chemical Company, Inc. of Greeley \$1.2 million in penalties according to a complaint issued Monday by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Denver.

EPA charged that the Greeley pesticide maker mishandled leaking barrels, stored hazardous wastes in 276 fiber barrels unfit to contain poisons and stored some wastes for years longer than allowed.

More than half the total penalty was for failure to maintain records, conduct and log inspections and to train personnel who handled the wastes. The charges came under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Nation's basic hazardous waste law.

RCRA, called the "cradle-to-grave" law, is designed to track wastes at every step, from production through storage, transport and disposal. "Handling wastes right and keeping good records is the essence of the law," said EPA enforcement chief Carol Rushin. "This firm has not been doing that," Rushin said, noting that the State of Colorado had warned Platte in 1992, issued a notice of violation in 1993 and issued a compliance order in 1994.

"These are the kinds of careless practices that can lead to exposures for workers and communities," Rushin said.

Today's complaint included 752 RCRA charges. There were also four counts under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. EPA said Platte failed to report thousands of gallons of ethylene glycol and the pesticide lindane.

The company has thirty days to request a hearing to contest the facts, the penalty amount or seek a hearing before an administrative law judge.

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FOR RELEASE

March 21, 1997

DENVER-- Based upon new information, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today proposes changes to the cleanup plans for the Lowry Landfill Superfund site in Arapahoe County.

EPA, working with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), proposes to change the March 1994 "record of decision" (ROD) for the Lowry Landfill site in the following ways:

The agencies propose to treat and dispose of contaminated materials from the former tire pile area **onsite**. The ROD calls for offsite treatment and disposal.

The agencies propose to treat groundwater contaminated with inorganic compounds offsite at the **existing** Metro Wastewater Reclamation District facility. The ROD calls for treatment at either a new onsite or upgraded offsite wastewater treatment facility.

EPA said these proposed changes are not major and that the cleanup plans will still protect human health and the environment.

EPA and CDPHE invite the public to comment on these proposed changes from March 24 to April 22, 1997. EPA's document "explanation of significant differences" (ESD) describes these proposed changes. The ESD is available at these locations:

EPA Superfund Records
999 18th Street, Suite 500
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 312-6473

Center Aurora Central Public Library
14949 East Alameda
Aurora, CO 80002
(303) 340-2290

For more information, please contact Marc Herman, EPA Project Manager, at 1-800-312-6312 ext. 6724;
or Joe Vranka, Colorado Project Officer, at (303) 692-3402.

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March 1997

CPR - Creating Partners in Revitalization

WHO:

Who decides how to redevelop your neighborhood?

The Environmental Protection Agency in partnership with the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment, Cross Community Coalition, the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies, and AGEISS Environmental, Inc. invite environmental groups, neighborhood groups, grass roots organizations, planning, zoning, and redevelopment authorities, elected officials, and private sector redevelopment representatives to a workshop to answer this question.

Guest speakers include Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, Bill Lamont, consultant and former Director of Planning and Community Development for Denver, and Lorraine Granado, Director of Cross Community Coalition and co-founder of Colorado People's Economic and Environmental Network.

WHAT:

A fun and educational one-day workshop to encourage neighborhoods, government agencies, and private businesses to work together for community redevelopment. The workshop will provide community groups with basic facts about redevelopment processes and EPA's Brownfields initiative. Activities will promote dialogue between local and non-local development interests and explore ways for the public to participate in decision making around redevelopment issues.

WHEN:

Saturday, April 19, 1997 / 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

WHERE:

Montview Presbyterian Church (By Museum of Natural History)

**1980 Dahlia Street
Denver, Colorado**

REGISTRATION:

: **\$10.00 on or before March 28, 1997** (\$15.00 after March 28)

Registration includes Continental breakfast, Lunch and Afternoon snacks.

Scholarships available.

Send name and payment to: CPR-CCC; 2332 East 46th Ave.; Denver, CO 80216

For more information call 291-8212 or 692-3407.

CONTACT: Wendy Thomi EPA Office of Communications 312-6025

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 14, 1997 NEWS OFFICE 303 312 6780

DENVER--Fifty lucky teachers from six western states will earn graduate credits while gaining first-hand knowledge about environmental issues in an expenses- paid Environmental Institute for Teachers' set for July 11-20 in Denver.

Hosted by EPA and the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education, the Institute will feature classroom work and field trips dealing with air, water and land pollution. "It's an excellent chance for teachers to interact with other educators, share new materials and ideas and boost their own environmental knowledge," said Cece Forget, EPA's environmental education coordinator in Denver.

Specialists from various EPA programs will meet with the teachers to share the latest information on pollution control.

Participants commit to develop a project in their own schools and communities to boost environmental awareness.

Applicants must submit a one-page application, a one-page narrative and a letter of support from the school's administrator or principal. Teachers can get an application and more details by calling Ms. Forget at 800 227 8917, ext. 6605 or Barbara Fleming, ext. 6674.

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Environmental News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 12, 1997

DENVER--EPA's Denver office today announced it has approved Colorado's air quality plan that commits the Denver area to continue to meet national standards for Particulate Matter (PM10) air pollution through 1997.

The State's plans are required by the 1990 Clean Air Act (CAA) Amendments. This marks the first time Denver has had a federally approved plan to control PM10 pollution.

Since January 1993, Denver has not exceeded national particulate pollution levels. The metro area primarily relies on two proven methods already in use to cut PM10 pollution. The first is a strict street sanding and sweeping program. This program calls for reduced amounts of sand applied on streets during snowstorms and replaces that sand with alternative materials. Sand that is applied is promptly removed shortly after a storm ends.

The area's second existing PM10 pollution control involves restricting wood burning during potentially high pollution days. Reduced wood burning cuts down on sooty emissions which add to the pollution particles already lingering in the air.

Colorado's plan also hinges on methods to control particulate emissions that many industrial facilities have in place. Another key element entails decreasing PM10 pollution from motor vehicles. This is accomplished through the State's oxygenated fuels and enhanced inspection and maintenance programs.

The Regional Air Quality Council and the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division developed the State's air quality plan for Denver. These agencies researched the particulate problem and selected the methods to cut pollution levels. The State Air Quality Control Commission adopted the plan and Governor Roy Romer sent it to EPA in March 1995.

EPA announced on November 27, 1996, its proposal to revise the current particulate matter standard. This proposal is based on evidence that shows threats to public health and the environment from particles smaller than the current level of 10 micrograms (one-seventh the size of a single human hair) per cubic meter of air.

The proposal calls for keeping the current PM10 standard and adding a new standard to regulate even smaller particles down to 2.5 micrograms per cubic meter. EPA is taking public comments on the proposal until March 12, 1997, and expects to decide on a final standard by July 19, 1997.

The major sources of PM10, or coarse particles, include dust, street sand, crushing/grinding operations, vehicles, wood burning, and travel on unpaved roads. The fine particles are called PM2.5 and contribute to the total PM10 levels. These particles are the result of burning fuel, as occurs in motor vehicles, power generation, industrial manufacturing and residential fireplaces and wood stoves.

If the proposed standard is approved, the State will begin air monitoring to determine whether Denver's air meets or exceeds the new PM2.5 level. Because of the lack of current PM2.5 monitoring data in the Denver area, EPA will not know for several years what impact the new final standard will have on the city.

EPA will soon publish notice of its acceptance of the State's PM10 air plan for Denver in the Federal Register, and approval of the plan will take effect within 30 days.

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Environmental Note to Correspondents

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 6, 1997

DENVER--Phillips Petroleum Company is on notice that recurring excessive air pollution from the company's Woods Cross, Utah, refinery will no longer be tolerated, said EPA officials today from the Agency's Denver regional office.

EPA alleges that Phillips violated sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions levels and monitoring rules from June 1994 through June 1996. The company could face costly civil penalties for these alleged violations.

In 1991 Utah refineries agreed to install and operate equipment that would help recover much of the sulfur before it is released into the air. State permits also require refineries to install devices that constantly monitor emissions to ensure limits are not surpassed. EPA's violation notice contends that Phillips failed to meet emission requirements and monitoring rules.

SO₂ is formed when fuels containing sulfur are burned. The Agency alleges that large amounts of SO₂ escape into the air when the company's oil refinery operates. Once airborne, the gas changes into small particles, which add to the smog problem in Salt Lake and Davis counties.

Stationary sources account for 63 percent of the particle pollution in the two counties. Refineries contribute about 19 percent of the total particulates, while Phillips' emissions make up about five percent of the total.

SO₂ and the tiny dust particles it turns into can harm people's health -- especially children, the elderly and those with breathing problems. The nation's Clean Air Act (CAA) sets air pollution limits to protect public health and the environment.

The Agency's notice to Phillips is required by the CAA law when the State fails to take action of its own to enforce the local clean air plan and permitted emission limits. EPA maintains that Phillips has threatened public health and harmed local air quality. The Agency also contends the company has received an unfair economic advantage over competitors that have abided by the rules.

Thirty days after issuing the violation notice, EPA may order the company to comply with the law and/or seek a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 per day for each violation. After receiving the notice, Phillips has 10 days to request a meeting with EPA officials to offer evidence that disputes the allegations.

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Environmental News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 3, 1997

DENVER--Carbon monoxide (CO) levels in the Denver area will routinely meet the national standard by December 31, 2000, according to plans submitted by the State and approved last Friday by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Denver office.

The State's plans are required by the 1990 Clean Air Act (CAA) Amendments. This marks the first time Denver has had a federally approved plan to control carbon monoxide pollution.

Denver will primarily rely on two proven methods already in use, as well as fleet turnover, to cut CO pollution. The State will continue the oxygenated fuels and centralized vehicle emissions inspection programs in the Denver area. Combined with strict federal emissions standards for new cars, which regularly replace older dirtier vehicles, EPA concluded the area will achieve the CO standards by the target date.

In addition, EPA announced it modified Denver's air quality ranking from "Moderate" to "Serious" for carbon monoxide pollution. The agency changed the status because Denver failed to comply with a December 31, 1995, CAA deadline to meet the national CO standard. EPA is required to take this action, but it will not have any day-to-day impact on Denver residents.

Denver has made strides in cutting CO pollution since the early 1970's when the area violated the standard more than 100 times per year. Over the past three years, Denver has had only one violation of the CO standard. If current efforts to slash the pollutant continue, Colorado's plan will likely mean the

end of CO violations in Denver by the year 2001.

EPA also approved the State's plan for Longmont, which has had past CO problems as well. Longmont has not had any violations of the CO standard for more than five years.

The Denver plan was developed by the Regional Air Quality Council and the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division (APCD). The Longmont plan was developed by the City of Longmont and APCD. These agencies researched the CO problem and selected the methods to cut pollution levels. The plans were adopted by the State Air Quality Control Commission and sent to EPA by Governor Roy Romer in July 1994.

EPA will soon publish notice of its action in the Federal Register, and approval of the State's plans will take effect within 30 days.

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EPA NEWS OFFICE 1 (800) 227-8917x6610

JANUARY 30, 1997

No person or group of people should shoulder a disproportionate share of pollution. That is the concept behind "environmental justice" and the focus of an Environmental Protection Agency Grant program that targets funds to minority and low-income communities.

Funds for 1997 are now available and the agency is seeking applications. The deadline is March 7.

The agency is also sponsoring a seminar on preparing applications on Saturday, February 15 at Mile High United Way office at 2205 18th Street in Denver, from 9:00 am until noon.

In its Region 8, comprised of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming, EPA has awarded more than \$1.2 million to 49 recipients since the program began in 1994. Projects ranged from an educational program to inform residents of the environmental hazards facing Denver, Colorado to providing bilingual information about the hazards of pesticide exposure to migrant farm workers and their families in Helena, Montana.

In addition to the EJ small grants program, EPA administers grants directed at community/university partnerships, and environmental justice through pollution prevention. For information on how to apply for the grants or to obtain a copy, please call Patricia Denham, at (303) 312-6557 or 1-800-227-8917, extension 6557.

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News Advisory

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

JANUARY 13, 1997

News Office EPA 800/227-8917

PUBLIC HEARINGS SET FOR PROPOSED OZONE AND PARTICULATE MATTER STANDARDS

WHO: In response to the significant level of public interest in the proposed ozone and particulate matter standards, EPA is providing the following information on the **public hearings which have been scheduled on January 14-15** to facilitate broad public comment.

WHAT: The Clean Air Act requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to review the most current science every five years to ensure that current standards for pollutants like particulate matter (soot) and ground-level ozone (smog) are adequately protective of public health. That multi-year review of hundreds of independent peer-reviewed scientific studies showed that the standards are not providing adequate protection. EPA proposed last November revised national air quality standards for particulate matter and ozone in an effort to provide public health protection to 133 million Americans, including 40 million children.

WHERE/WHEN: Salt Lake City, UT on January 14 at 10:30 a.m. and January 15 at 9 a.m., at the Red Lion Hotel, located at 255 S.W. Temple St., (801) 328- 2000.

WHY: The proposal is currently within a 60-day public comment period to allow EPA to seek broad public comment before any final decision is reached. These hearings aim to reach out to all stakeholders -- including community members, small businesses, industry, state and local government, parents, doctors, and scientists -- to obtain the best information available for determining any appropriate final standards later this year. Any citizen or organization may attend the hearings and publicly comment on the proposals. All comments will be seriously considered in the final review process.

HOW: Any citizen or organization may publicly comment on the proposals. Oral presentations will be limited to 5 minutes each. Individuals planning to make oral presentations at the hearings should notify Ms. Linda Metcalf, U.S. EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, at (919) 541-2865. A verbatim transcript of the hearings will be available. Those unable to attend the hearings may also submit oral comments by calling 1-888-TEL-LEPA until February 18.

NOTE PRESS AVAILABILITIES AT HEARING SITES

The following EPA officials will be available in Salt Lake City to news media to respond to questions about the hearings and the proposals: For more information about the press availability, call Stephanie Cutter at 202/260-9828 or Dave Ryan at 202/260-2981.

Who: Felicia Marcus, Region IX Administrator, San Francisco
Jack McGraw, Acting Region VIII Administrator, Denver
John Seitz, Director, Office of Air Quality, Planning and Standards

What: Press Availability

Where: Topaz Room, Red Lion Hotel

When: January 14, 1997, 1:00 p.m.

More information about the public comment period is available on the World Wide Web at site address: <http://ttnwww.trpnc.epa.gov/naaqspro>. The announcement of the public hearing time and location also appeared December 24, 1996 in the Federal Register and is computer-accessible through EPA's electronic bulletin board system, the Technology Transfer Network (TTN) at (919) 541-5742.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 10, 1997

DENVER--Under a new federal "self-policing" policy, Vastar Resources, Inc. has saved money by finding, reporting and cleaning up its own pollution, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today.

The U.S. Department of Justice, on EPA's behalf, has agreed to settle its lawsuit against Vastar Resources and Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) for a combined total of \$657,412. EPA alleged Clean Air Act (CAA) violations at natural gas production operations on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation in La Plata County, Colorado. Vastar is the current owner; ARCO is the previous owner.

The agreement requires Vastar to pay \$137,949. This penalty is only for the amount of money the company saved by operating its natural gas production engines without first installing proper pollution control equipment to limit carbon monoxide (CO) emissions. CO levels at the natural gas operations did not pose a public health danger. CO can, at higher levels, cause serious health problems -- especially for young children, elderly and those with heart and respiratory ailments.

Vastar discovered the alleged violations during an internal environmental audit and voluntarily disclosed the results to EPA. After notifying the Agency, Vastar began installing proper pollution control devices costing nearly \$247,000. This equipment has resulted in CO emissions cuts at the facility of 3,700 tons or 80 percent per year.

Applying the self-policing policy, EPA reduced Vastar's penalty by several hundred thousand dollars. EPA Administrator Carol Browner commented that the Agency did not seek additional penalties against Vastar due to EPA's new "Incentives for Self- Policing Policy." In this instance, EPA applied the policy because Vastar audited itself, identified environmental problems, rapidly notified EPA and fixed the

detected alleged violations.

"New enforcement policies are helping businesses meet their environmental obligations," said Browner, "making it possible to eliminate or reduce penalties if companies discover, publicly disclose and quickly correct violations."

ARCO's settlement of \$519,463 includes money it saved operating the gas production engines without necessary pollution controls. It also contains a penalty for failure to initially install proper pollution control equipment when it built and/or modified the facility during its ownership period.

ARCO disclosed these alleged past CAA violations at the same time Vastar came forward. However, because the company failed to detect, notify and correct the equipment problems while it owned the facility, it did not meet EPA's standards for self-disclosure. The company did cooperate with the investigation; therefore, EPA elected to reduce ARCO's penalty, although not to the extent it reduced Vastar's.

"This case shows the Administration is committed to recognizing efforts of companies that identify and fix their environmental problems," said Lois Schiffer, Assistant U.S. Attorney General for Environment and Natural Resources in Washington.

Safeguards are built into EPA's Self-Policing Policy to ensure companies do not financially benefit from operating irresponsibly or by endangering public health or the environment. The policy requires companies to promptly fix the problem and clean up any environmental damage they caused. Companies must also take steps to prevent repeat violations. Companies that are repeat offenders or commit violations that pose substantial risk or actual harm are not eligible for penalty reduction under the policy.

Without admitting to the federal allegations, Vastar and ARCO agree to pay the penalty and comply with applicable laws in the future.

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Environmental Fact Sheet

RELEASE AT WILL

January 13, 1997

Public Health Effects of Ozone and Fine Particle Pollution

Every American adult breathes in 13,000 liters of air each day, on average, and children breathe in 50 percent more air per pound of body weight than adults do -- making public health protection from harmful air pollutants a top priority. As required by Congress in the Clean Air Act, EPA has reviewed and proposed new standards to reduce two of the most widespread forms of harmful air pollution -- particulate matter and ground-level ozone (smog). Taken together, they contribute to acute health effects ranging from premature deaths to preventable respiratory problems. Following are facts about these types of pollution, related health effects, and results expected from the new proposed standards, if they are finalized in their current form:

Particulate Matter: Particulate matter is a mix of coarse and fine particles that can't be seen individually by the naked eye, but often appear as haze, dust clouds or sooty emissions. Sources of coarse particles include industrial crushing and grinding operations, materials handling, vehicle travel on unpaved roads and windblown dust. Fine particles result from industrial, motor vehicle and power generating fuel combustion, as well as burning wood and brush. Pollutants such as sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds also can form fine particles.

Effect on Public Health: Fine particles can penetrate deep into the lungs. On a smoggy day, a single breath can take in millions of fine particles. Some 74 million Americans -- 28% of the population -- are regularly exposed to harmful levels of particulate air pollution. In recent studies, exposure to fine particle air pollution -- either alone or with other air pollutants -- has been linked with many health problems:

- An estimated 40,000 Americans die prematurely each year, according to peer-reviewed studies, from respiratory illness and heart attacks linked with particle exposure, particularly elderly people;
- Children and adults experience aggravated asthma. Asthma in children increased 118% between 1980 and 1993, and it is currently the leading cause of child hospital admissions;
- Children become ill more frequently and experience increased respiratory problems, including difficult and painful breathing; and
- Hospital admissions, emergency room visits and premature deaths increase among adults with heart disease, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, and other heart and lung diseases.

Increased Public Health Protections from EPA Proposal: The current standard covers reductions of coarse particles of 10 microns in diameter. If finalized in its current form, EPA's proposal would increase public health protection by helping to reduce fine particles of 2.5 microns in diameter, as well as coarse particle pollution. This approach was recommended by an overwhelming majority of independent scientists who reviewed the standard for EPA, based on 86 new health studies that indicate the need for a stronger standard. If finalized as proposed, the new standard would:

- Cut premature deaths linked with particulate air pollution by 50%, or approximately 20,000 deaths; with acid rain controls currently underway, an additional 20,000 deaths will be avoided;
- Reduce aggravated asthma episodes by more than a quarter million cases each year;
- Reduce incidence of acute childhood respiratory problems by more than a quarter million occurrences each year, including aggravated coughing and painful breathing;
- Reduce chronic bronchitis by an estimated 60,000 cases each year;
- Reduce hospital admissions due to respiratory problems by 9,000 each year, as well as reduce emergency room visits and overall childhood illnesses in general; and
- Cut haze and visibility problems by as much as 77% in some areas, such as national parks.

Ground-level Ozone: Ground-level ozone -- the prime ingredient in smog in our cities -- is easily formed in the atmosphere, usually during hot weather. Smog results from a reaction between such gases as nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds that are emitted from motor vehicles and a wide range of industrial air pollutants. Ozone also makes plants more susceptible to diseases and pests, and reduces agricultural crop yields for many economically vital crops such as wheat, cotton, soybeans and kidney beans.

Effect on Public Health: Studies show that repeated exposure to ozone pollution for several months may cause permanent structural damage to the lungs, a serious issue for the 122 million Americans -- 46% of the population -- who are regularly exposed to harmful levels of ozone pollution. Because ozone

pollution usually forms in hot weather, anyone who spends time outdoors in the summer is at risk, particularly children, moderate exercisers, and outdoor workers. Even when inhaled at very low levels, ground-level ozone prompts a variety of health problems:

- Children and adults experience aggravated asthma;
- Healthy adults' lung capacity is temporarily reduced by 15 to 20 percent;
- Hospital admissions and emergency room visits increase. In the northeastern U.S., 10 to 20 percent of all summertime hospital visits for respiratory problems are linked with ozone pollution;
- Lung tissues are inflamed, and acute respiratory problems develop; and
- Immune defenses are reduced, leaving people more susceptible to respiratory illness, including pneumonia and bronchitis.

Increased Public Health Protections from EPA Proposal: Because it has not been revised since 1979, and because current science indicates that many Americans still appear to be at risk from ozone pollution, EPA is proposing to revise the standard to provide increased health protection. If finalized in its current form, the new proposal would reduce ground-level ozone concentrations from .12 parts per million measured over one hour to .08 parts per million measured over eight hours, and change to a more accurate measurement that will better reflect the actual health effects of ozone. This approach was reviewed by a panel of independent scientists and based on 185 new health studies. If finalized in its current form, the new proposal is expected to:

- Result in over 1.5 million fewer cases of significant breathing problems (those where lung function is reduced up to 20%);
- Significantly reduce the need for hospital admissions, missed school and work days, restricted activity, and emergency room visits for respiratory problems;
- Cut illness in children overall, and reduce conditions ranging from inflamed lungs to irreversible lung damage in children;
- Reduce episodes when asthmatic children require medication or medical treatment; and
- Reduce by nearly \$1 billion agricultural crop losses caused by ozone.

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Environmental Fact Sheet

RELEASE AT WILL

January 13, 1997

Scientific Review Process for Proposed Air Quality Standards

EPA's proposals to revise the standards for ozone and fine particle pollution are based on a scientific review required by Congress under the Clean Air Act, which mandates that the EPA Administrator determine every five years whether the nation's air quality standards are adequate to protect public health. Following is the scientific review process that led to EPA's proposals:

Broad Range of Peer-Reviewed Scientific Evidence Examined

- To review the health standards for ozone and fine particle pollution, EPA began by conducting a wide-ranging literature search, covering all aspects of ozone and particulate pollution. The Agency then selected for review those studies relevant to human health effects.
- Over three years, EPA and two independent scientific review panels identified 185 studies on the human health effects of ozone pollution and 86 studies on the links between particulate matter pollution and human health. Studies examined included controlled human studies, epidemiological studies, and toxicological studies.
- A broad range of studies reviewed indicated that the current standards for both ozone pollution and particulate pollution do not adequately protect public health, as required by law. The studies

show that serious health effects would occur even if the current standards were being met, indicating the need for stronger health protection.

EPA Relied on Independent, Peer Reviewed Scientific Research

- Under the Clean Air Act, Congress requires EPA to rely on the advice of an independent scientific review panel, the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, made up of nationally recognized experts in a wide range of disciplines -- physicians, toxicologists, epidemiologists, and atmospheric scientists -- from academic research, industry and the states. Two panels were assembled, one for each type of pollution.
- A review document summarizing published, peer reviewed research on both types of pollution and their health effects was prepared for the advisory panel. A separate panel of national scientific experts then peer-reviewed individual chapters in the summary document before the advisory panel began its review.

· The scientific advisory panels supported EPA's basic findings, supporting the conclusion that a proposal to revise the ozone standard should be made to reflect the health consequences of more prolonged exposures, and endorsing the range of ozone concentrations EPA considered. The vast majority of panel members agreed on establishing a new standard for fine particle pollution.

EPA Opens Extensive Public Comment Period on New Proposals

EPA has launched a 60-day public comment period on the proposed new standards as well as the scientific evidence supporting them. In addition, the review process has been a public one, with scientific advisory panel meetings open to the public, and all review documents publicly available prior to panel meetings.

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Environmental News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Region 8 News EPA 800/227-8917
November 27, 1996

EPA PROPOSES NEW AIR STANDARDS FOR PARTICULATE MATTER AND OZONE POLLUTION EMISSIONS

Based on evidence of harm to human health and the environment, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today proposed new national air quality standards for particulate matter (soot) and ground-level ozone (smog).

Because of the significance of the proposal, EPA will seek broad public comment on its recommended approach and on the need for any changes to the particulate matter and ozone proposal. The purpose of the comment period is to reach out to all stakeholders in order to obtain the best information available for determining the appropriate final standards.

"In the Clean Air Act, Congress required EPA to review and incorporate the best available science into public health standards to protect Americans from air pollution," said EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner. "The EPA proposal would provide new protection to nearly 133 million Americans, including 40 million children. We will use the very best science to do what is necessary to protect public health in common-sense, cost-effective ways."

Particulate matter (PM), or soot, comes largely from combustion from sources like power plants or large

incinerators. Ozone is primarily the haze of chemicals from car exhausts and smoke-stack emissions that shrouds many cities on hot summer days.

EPA and a board of independent scientists have reviewed 86 PM-related human-health studies, covering millions of people, that showed harmful effects from breathing particles at the current standard. The proposed standard, along with clean air programs already planned, would reduce premature deaths by 40,000 per year, and reduce serious respiratory problems in children by 250,000 cases per year.

Another 185 of the latest ozone-related studies on human health also were reviewed. All of them showed harmful effects from ozone at the current standard, including more than 1.5 million incidences a year of significant respiratory problems, such as loss of lung capacity and exacerbation of both childhood and adult asthma. In addition to threatening health, ozone and PM can damage agricultural crops, and diminish visibility in national parks, in some cases by as much as 77 percent.

Browner said, "EPA has based its proposal on a thorough review of the best available science. We are now hoping to hear from a wide range of the American people, from scientists and environmentalists to industry experts, small business owners, doctors and parents, to receive the broadest possible public comment and input on this important issue."

The PM standard currently calls for regulation of particles the size of 10 microns or smaller (PM- 10) in concentrations of 50 micrograms per cubic meter annually and 150 micrograms per cubic meter daily. The proposed PM standard calls for 2.5 microns or smaller (PM 2.5) in concentrations of 15 micrograms per cubic meter annually and 50 micrograms per cubic meter daily. EPA today also proposed maintaining the current standards for PM-10 so that larger, coarse particles would continue to be regulated. The current ozone standard is .12 parts per million measured over one hour. EPA's proposed standard calls for .08 parts per million measured over eight hours. EPA also is seeking comment on several other options, including an ozone concentration of .09 parts per million measured over eight hours, as well as a range of ozone concentrations from .07 parts per million measured over eight hours to .12 parts per million measured over one hour, the current standard. On both proposed standards, EPA has also specified the way in which attainment of these standards would be measured.

EPA believes that the standards being proposed are consistent with the work of the independent scientists on the Clean Air Science Advisory Committee, which is part of EPA's long-standing Science Advisory Board. EPA will be taking comment on the scientific evidence during the comment period.

Browner today also expanded the membership and the mandate of an implementation advisory committee, to ensure that any plans to carry out the standards will include the advice and participation of state and local governments, industry, small business and environmental groups in order to identify common-sense, cost-effective options for implementation of the standards.

Plans to meet any finalized standards would be due in 2002 for PM, and in 2000 for ozone control strategies. Deadlines for achieving full compliance would occur several years thereafter for both types of

pollution.

Congress specifically named six air pollutants under the Clean Air Act to be regulated by EPA's national air quality standards. They are ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and lead. Congress directed that such standards should be reviewed at least every five years by EPA to keep up with current science, and that proposals to revise them should be based solely upon the best current scientific opinion on public health effects, not economic impacts. Since initially setting standards in the early 1970s, EPA has changed the standards only twice: Once, in 1979, and once in 1987. During the Bush Administration, a decision was made not to review the current science regarding the health effects of ozone.

There is a 60-day comment period on the proposal. Once a final regulation is issued in June 1997, it will be among the first major environmental rules reviewed by Congress under the new Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act.

Today's action will appear soon in the Federal Register, but will be computer-accessible earlier through EPA's electronic bulletin board system, the Technology Transfer Network (TTN) at <http://www.epa.gov/airlinks>. The TTN can be reached at 919-541-5742 (backup number for access problems is 919-541-5384). The notice will appear on the TTN's Clean Air Act Amendments Bulletin Board under "Recently Signed Rules." For further technical information, contact Jeff Clark of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at 919- 541-5557.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 1997

Denver--The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today charged the Denver Radiator Co. with 257 counts of illegal storage, disposal and handling of hazardous wastes during a 5-year period. The Agency seeks more than \$466,000 in penalties.

In its complaint, EPA alleged the company dumped lead-contaminated wastes onto soil, stored wastes without needed permits and failed to train employees at its facility at 5501 Pearl St. in Denver. The firm put wastes in open containers and a dumpster with no labels as to their contents and had no contingency plan to handle spills, EPA said.

Colorado's Department of Public Health and Environment reached a separate settlement with the firm Wednesday (Jan. 29) evening. EPA enforcement chief Carol Rushin said her agency had not yet reviewed all the terms of the State's agreement. "Our role in a state that runs its own RCRA program is to be sure penalties are fair, appropriate to the offenses and deter others from breaking the law. We will review the CDPHE pact in that light."

RCRA is the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Despite its title, it is the nation's basic hazardous waste law. It is designed to track wastes from where they are created, through transport, storage and disposal.

Rushin explained that EPA took its action today because a statute of limitations expires Feb. 3. "We see the Denver Radiator charges as serious and had to file to preserve our legal rights in the case," Rushin said. Had EPA not filed by the deadline, it would have been precluded from acting if it finds the State action to be insufficient.

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Regional Activities and Information

EPA announces \$73.1 million in national brownfields grants in 37 states and seven tribal communities

Please see <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/news/pr062003.htm> for more information. A total of \$3 million was awarded to states and tribes within Region 8. Visit the [list of brownfields grants awarded by EPA Region](#).

National Consumer Awareness Campaign Launched on Vermiculite Insulation Used in Some Home Attics

The EPA and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) have launched a national consumer awareness campaign to provide homeowners with important information on vermiculite attic insulation, which may contain asbestos. [View the entire article](#).

Watershed group to receive \$600,000 to restore and protect land damaged by the Hayman fire

Assistant Regional Administrator Max Dodson presented a plaque to the Coalition for the Upper South Platte Sunday June 8th in Lake George, CO as the first anniversary of the Hayman fire was observed. The group was selected for an [EPA National Watershed Initiative](#)



grant through a competitive national process. The money will be used to rehabilitate fire-damaged areas that are impacting water quality, and to protect and restore streams that are still relatively pristine.

Whitman, proud of accomplishments as she prepares to return home to New Jersey, resigns as

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[06/30/2003 - EPA issues National and Montana toxic chemical release report for 2001](#)

[06/26/2003 - EPA offers share of \\$5 million grant for clean school bus programs - Application deadline August 1](#)

[06/12/2003 - Great Plains Restoration Council earns 2003 Friend of the EPA Award](#)

Administrator of EPA, effective June 27, 2003

Washington, D.C. (May 21, 2003) — Yesterday afternoon, EPA Administrator Christie Whitman met with President Bush at the White House and tendered her resignation as Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, effective June 27, 2003. [Read the text of Administrator Whitman's resignation letter](#)

Notice of request for initial proposals to be funded from the indoor air quality (IAQ) allocation

The EPA is soliciting Initial Proposals for the following IAQ areas: to implement EPA's IAQ Tools for Schools Program, to support environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) education and to implement asthma education and awareness projects. Proposals must be **postmarked by June 27, 2003**. [View the Notice of Request in its entirety](#).

Air Quality Standards - State Implementation Plans (SIPs)

[EPA-approved SIP regulations for Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming are now available](#). State SIPs assure that the [National Ambient Air Quality Standards \(NAAQS\)](#) are protected. EPA-approved standards for Utah will be available in the future.

[06/11/2003 - Oglala Sioux Tribe environmental director earns EPA 2003 Frank DeCouteau Award](#)

[06/09/2003 - Conservation District director earns EPA Environmental Achievement Award](#)

[06/09/2003 - Littleton Public School District to receive EPA Environmental Achievement Award](#)

[06/05/2003 - EPA cites five Colorado growers for failing to comply with agricultural worker protection regulation](#)

[06/05/2003 - EPA orders Rico mining company to pay for pollution cleanup](#)

[06/04/2003 - EPA's role in Double Cabin water shutdown](#)

[06/03/2003 - EPA applauds companies for voluntary cleanup in Commerce City](#)

[05/29/2003 - EPA applauds 147 companies for voluntary cleanup of abandoned Commerce City facility](#)

[05/29/2003 - EPA holds public meetings on the new proposed cleanup plan for the Vasquez Blvd. and I-70 Superfund site](#)

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