



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 2  
290 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

MAY 12 2005

Dear Environmental Coordinator:

I am writing to request your participation in our survey for healthcare facilities. The enclosed survey is formatted using check boxes in an attempt to make it user-friendly and less time consuming to complete. In some cases we are asking for more detailed cost savings and pollutant reduction information. We are especially interested in the following areas: reductions in mercury use, reductions in other toxic materials, reductions in energy use, reductions in water use, and reductions in solid, hazardous, or medical waste. We estimate this activity will take 15-30 minutes.

As you know, EPA Region 2 has been implementing a Healthcare Compliance Initiative for the past several years using an approach that we refer to as an integrated strategy that combines compliance assistance, compliance incentives, and compliance monitoring and enforcement. We will evaluate the results of this survey to help us in formulating future compliance initiatives and in developing better compliance assistance materials and delivery methods. We will also compare the environmental results achieved through the voluntary program with those achieved through the traditional inspection and enforcement program to assess the costs and benefits of each approach. We also want to understand the drivers and barriers that help a facility decide whether to participate in these voluntary compliance initiatives.

This survey will also benefit the hospital sector. Time and limited budgets are an issue for many hospitals and this survey may provide ideas on how to manage your facility by applying best management practices used by others, and in some cases, save money. We will share the survey results, without identification of any facility names, unless permission is explicitly granted, with all hospitals in Region 2. In summary, your participation will help you better understand your system while showing us how we can improve our environmental assistance tools and delivery methods.

Please return the survey within four (4) weeks. We have also posted the survey on our Web site: [www.epa.gov/region02/healthcare](http://www.epa.gov/region02/healthcare) "In The Spotlight". You can download the form and return it by email if you prefer. Please make sure any survey you submit includes contact information so that we can obtain additional information or clarify any of your answers. We would also appreciate any additional comments you may have regarding additional assistance you would like us to provide. If you have any questions or comments, please contact **Linda Longo of my staff at 212 637-3565, email: [longo.linda@epa.gov](mailto:longo.linda@epa.gov)** .

We thank you for your assistance in helping us improve our programs.

Sincerely,



John Gorman, Chief  
Compliance Assistance Section

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