



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

JUN 7 2004

MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR

SUBJECT: FY 2005 National Program Guidance and Regional Plans

TO: Assistant/Associate Administrators
Regional Administrators
Deputy Assistant/Associate Administrators
Deputy Regional Administrators
Assistant Regional Administrators

I am pleased to announce the issuance of EPA's FY 2005 National Program Guidance and – culminating a year of development – a set of Regional Plans. Accessible via the OCFO home page, at www.epa.gov/ocfopage/, they represent another step in our collaboration with the Environmental Council of the States and the Tribal Caucus to strengthen our joint planning and improve the Agency's planning, budgeting, and accountability processes.

By developing Regional Plans, using them to help develop program guidance, and then issuing guidance for our five national programs on the same schedule, we align our efforts more effectively with state, tribal, and regional planning processes. As a result, we and our partners can consider proposed priorities, strategies, and performance measures for all five programs at once from a more comprehensive perspective.

Progress continues toward identifying results-oriented priorities in a more open, inclusive process. Regional Plans reflect consultation with states and tribes; National Program Guidance benefits from the Regional Plans and from comments received from regions, states, and other organizations. Our efforts lay the groundwork for the new, more transparent process we will be using to develop annual regional performance commitments. Our streamlined FY 2005 Annual Commitment Process will allow us to eliminate the Memoranda of Agreement on which we have been relying and to engage all parties as regions develop annual performance commitments and negotiate Performance Partnership Agreements, Performance Partnership Grants, and other agreements with states and tribes. Guidance on NEPPS – also available on the OCFO web site – discusses how our new planning processes mesh with enhancements we and ECOS have made.

I applaud the hard work of regional and national program staff and look forward to continued success in improving our planning, budgeting, and accountability.


Stephen L. Johnson
Acting Deputy Administrator

Attachments



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