



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

JAN 26 2007

THE ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: National Environmental Performance Track Program's Fifth Anniversary

TO: Assistant Administrators
General Counsel
Inspector General
Chief Financial Officer
Associate Administrators
Regional Administrators
Deputy Assistant Administrators
Deputy Regional Administrators
Staff Office Directors

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has accomplished a great deal in its efforts to improve the quality of our environment during the past 35 years. Citizens throughout the nation are increasingly taking steps to reduce their environmental footprint. I know that many Agency employees share my belief that we can realize further environmental successes by encouraging more communities, businesses, and individuals to incorporate environmental thinking into their everyday activities. The business community in particular is recognizing that a strong economy and a healthy environment do go hand-in-hand. One way that we have fostered this understanding is through the work of our National Environmental Performance Track Program.

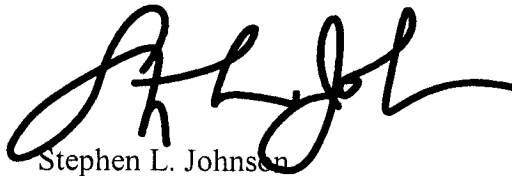
As the Performance Track Program marks its fifth anniversary of securing top environmental results, I would like to reiterate my support for this important program. Performance Track is a public-private partnership that encourages continuous improvement beyond compliance through the use of environmental management systems, local community involvement, and measurable, transparent results. Performance Track clearly embodies principles I laid out in my Action Plan, particularly results and accountability, innovation, collaboration, and environmental stewardship.

Performance Track's 400 facilities are helping the Agency accelerate the pace of environmental protection while maintaining the nation's economic competitiveness through more than 1,500 commitments to continuous improvement. They are also distinguishing themselves as leaders through their willingness to set goals, measure their progress, and share that information with the public. In working to achieve their goals, Performance Track members have collectively reduced their water use by 3.5 billion gallons, greenhouse gas emissions by 88,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, hazardous waste generation by 130,000 tons,

non-hazardous waste generation by 600,000 tons, emissions of sulfur oxides by 17,000 tons, and conserved more than 14,000 acres of habitat. While this is an impressive start, we are always striving to achieve better environmental results.

Performance Track facilities and Corporate Leaders in the program have proven to be staunch allies in our effort to protect public health and the environment. They are motivated and willing to help the Agency test new ideas for improving our system of environmental protection. I urge you to take advantage of the opportunity to work with strong performers to adopt practices that go beyond regulatory mandates. This could include arranging a site visit so you can see firsthand how a member is achieving results, working on a regulatory issue, or simply arranging a briefing so your staff can learn more about how this program can advance your specific mission.

Performance Track is relatively young, and we are continuously looking for opportunities to improve and strengthen the program. Every part of the Agency has contributed to making Performance Track a success. I especially want to recognize the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, the Office of Water, and the Office of Air and Radiation for developing challenge commitments that encourage Performance Track members to address our national and regional environmental priorities. I appreciate the support you and your staff have provided to this program during the past five years. I ask that you continue your collaboration with the Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation to facilitate even better environmental stewardship as an integral part of our nation's business practices. I am confident that with the Agency's robust support of this program, Performance Track will continue to grow and deliver significant environmental results for many years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. L. Johnson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Stephen L. Johnson