

FACT SHEET

CECW-ON
12 MAR 02

SUBJECT: Environmental Management Systems (EMS)

1. Purpose. To provide information on EMS implementation at USACE operating facilities.

2. Facts.

a. Presidential Executive Order 13148 entitled 'Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management' requires federal agencies to implement EMS pilot projects at selected facilities, and by December 31, 2005 implement EMS at all appropriate agency facilities. The executive order includes other requirements as well, but implementation of EMS has the most significant impact on organizations. Some of the other requirements are toxic chemical release reduction goals, toxic chemical and hazardous substance use reduction goals and beneficial landscaping practices. The executive order is attached.

b. An EMS is a programmatic approach to managing environmental impacts. It advances the integration of environmental management and all business functions. EMS crosses traditional stovepipes by integrating environmental management with other activities, operations and overall management of an organization. EMS requires an organization to identify and evaluate its activities, operations and processes that impact the environment. It helps an organization address environmental issues proactively and improve compliance with environmental regulations.

c. Two EMS structures are ISO 14000 and CEMP. ISO 14000 standards were developed by the International Organization for Standardization as a tool to develop formal environmental management systems. ISO 14000 consists of one specification, ISO 14001, and numerous guidelines. ISO 14001 addresses the specifications for environmental management systems and is the only part of the 14000 series against which an entity can be registered and certified. ISO 14001 contains management system requirements based on a cyclical process of "plan, implement, check and review". Entities that successfully incorporate the ISO 14000 series of standards may seek certification/registration of its EMS by an external organization.

d. CEMP is the Code of Environmental Management Principles developed by the EPA. CEMP is a set of environmental management principles whereas ISO 14000 is an industry standard. CEMP is a set of five principles and core performance objectives that form a basis for environmental management. CEMP is a compliance based program while ISO 14001 is based on a continuous improvement model.

3. Army Policy. In July 2001, Army military installations were directed to adopt ISO 14001 as a goal and implement the standard incrementally consistent with available funds and requirements of Executive Order 13148. Third party registration or certification to the ISO 14001 standard is not required.

Installations are to begin implementation by fiscal year 2004 and be in full conformance with the ISO 14001 standard by fiscal year 2009.

4. Corps Policy.

a. The Corps has not issued policy guidance or direction to the field on EMS implementation. Civil Works (CECW-O) formed an EMS Task Force in May 2000. The task force includes division, district, ERDC and HTRW-Center of Expertise representatives. The task force will be expanded to include representatives from Military Programs, and other Civil Works elements (Programs, Planning & Policy, Engineering & Construction).

b. Military Programs Environmental Division (CEMP-R) is involved in EMS implementation at Army installations, in support of the Army and AEC. They developed EM 200-1-8, Guide to ISO 14001 in 1997, but it has not been published as of this date. Military Programs is considering recommending ISO 14001 certification/registration for division and district environmental offices. As a minimum ISO 14001 compliance will be a necessity for engineers and contractors providing support to Army military installations.

5. USACE already has strong environmental programs in-place that parallel some of the critical elements of an ISO 14001 EMS. We have not aggregated the elements in formal policy nor tagged it with a system name. Although our environmental programs are mature, they are primarily compliance based and are not well integrated. Implementing an ISO 14001 comparable EMS would provide integrated systematic management of USACE activities that impact the environment.

6. Coordination with CEMP-RI, Malcolm McLeod is ongoing.

Janice Smith/CECW-ON/761-4657
Approved by: Charles Hess, Chief, Operations Division