



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

DEC 29 2008

In Reply To:
ER 08/994

Mr. David Kling
Director
Federal Facilities Enforcement Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2261 A)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Kling:

This letter is in response to a request by the Federal Environmental Executive for Fiscal Year 2008 environmental management systems (EMS) data in accordance with Executive Order (E.O.) 13423, "Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management."

The enclosed report is in the required format as specified in the instructions received from the Federal Environmental Executive dated September 15, 2008. This is the first year that the Department required its bureaus and offices to use FedCenter for reporting its EMS data. The Department is firmly committed to the implementation of EMS in its many activities and functions.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Ortiz, of my office, at 202-208-7553.

Sincerely,

for

Willie R. Taylor
Director
Office of Environmental Policy and
Compliance

Enclosure

cc: Deputy Secretary
Solicitor
Chief of Staff
Associate Deputy Secretary
Deputy Assistant Secretary – Policy and Program Management
EO 13423 Senior-level Officials
DOI EMS Council
Regional Environmental Officers
HazMat Contacts

DOI
Environmental Management System Status Report for Fiscal Year 08
Pursuant to Executive Order 13423

Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management

Introduction

This report provides a summary of the progress of DOI facilities and organizations in implementing the Environmental Management System (EMS) requirements of Executive Order (EO) 13423. In addition to the tabulation of EMS responses, the report contains an extensive summary of responses to the narrative questions on DOI experiences with EMS implementation. The report was prepared in accordance with the guidance provided in the letter from the Federal Environmental Executive to Agency Senior Officials, dated 15 Sep 2008.

I. Appropriate Facilities/Organizations
a. Number of EMS "Facilities/Organizations"

The total number of EMS "facilities/organizations" responding to the FY08 metrics is 477.

The total number of additional EMS "facilities/organizations" identified after the date of the signature of EO 13423 is 70.

The following table describes changes to the Department's "Appropriate Facilities" list occurring since the 2007 EMS report submission.

FY 2008	FY 2007
477 Appropriate Facilities/Orgs Total	491 Appropriate Facilities Total (originally listed as a total of 695 appropriate facilities). **
377 Pre-EO 13423 EMSs Identified*	389 Pre-EO 13423 EMSs Identified*
70 Post-EO 13423 EMSs Identified	Not Applicable
Comments: *Reflects consolidation of bureau facility EMSs.	** Comments: Both BIA and BIE originally reported a total of 293 appropriate facilities that was subsequently adjusted downward to 86 appropriate facilities. Corrected FY 2007 Appropriate Facilities Total: BIA (86) + BLM (2) + BOR (10) + FWS (63) + NPS (303) + USGS (27) = 491.

II. Environmental Management System Scorecard Metrics

Based on facility/organization responses to *Part II EMS Scorecard Metrics*, DOI facilities/organizations scored as follows:

Score	Number of Facilities/Orgs *	Percent of Facilities/Orgs *
Green	132	35%
Yellow	123	33%
Red	56	15%

* Only includes those EMSs that were identified prior to signature of EO 13423 (January 24, 2007) and/or those identified prior to signature of EO 13423 that have since been consolidated into an organizational EMS.

III. Environmental Management System Effectiveness Questions

a. Responses to Questions on the Benefits of EMS on the Facility/Organization

	A great deal	Quite a bit	Somewhat	A little bit	Not at all	Does not apply
Reduced risk to facility/organization mission	23	75	87	19	7	180
Improved fiscal efficiency or cost avoidance	15	44	92	41	16	183
Greater understanding of environmental issues at all levels of the organization	53	91	59	15	2	171
Greater empowerment of individuals to contribute to improving the organization's environmental footprint	44	81	63	25	4	174
Greater integration of environment into organizational culture or operations	41	81	74	16	3	176
Greater integration of environment into real property asset management	30	63	87	22	7	182

Improved community relations	19	27	61	59	29	196
Improved effectiveness in overall mission	17	55	88	47	4	180
Improved cooperative conservation with other groups	14	33	62	50	33	199

b. Responses to Questions on the Benefits of EMS on Environment and Environmental Issues

	A great deal	Quite a bit	Somewhat	A little bit	Not at all	Does not apply
Improved overall compliance management	41	78	58	30	3	181
Improved overall personnel health and safety	32	67	79	28	4	181
Improved overall pollution prevention	35	78	68	27	4	179
Improved water quality	10	32	53	45	22	229
Improved air quality	4	27	48	56	29	227
Improved hazardous material management	51	79	58	16	2	185
Improved hazardous waste management	52	72	54	21	3	189
Improved solid waste management	44	81	61	17	7	181
Improved conservation of natural resources	18	66	65	38	15	189
Improved conservation of energy in facilities	29	38	57	37	12	186
Improved conservation of fuel in vehicles	19	38	73	40	27	194
Improved conservation of water	15	28	62	47	36	203
Reduced number of permits needed to operate	2	6	18	14	74	277

IV. Questions on Environmental Management System Experiences

a. EMS BENEFITS/SUCCESSSES

“The EMS implementation process has started people thinking and opened productive dialogue about the environmental aspects of agency activities in the regional and area offices.” (BOR)

“The EMS implementation process has brought about an increased awareness and understanding of what is involved with an ISO standard.” (BOR)

Some of the successes experienced by the region in the EMS development process to date have been more management involvement, better protection of the environment, and coordination with other regions within BOR on developing an EMS.” (BOR)

“Implementation of the EMS has expanded our recycling program to items such as fish food boxes and bags, fish carcasses, and other items we would not have recycled in the past.” (FWS)

“We found that the EMS has made the staff more aware of utilizing environmentally friendly products and services.” (FWS)

“The staff has become aware of the importance of greening and EMS initiatives. This awareness became most evident when the refuge had to spend \$300 to dispose of chemicals as hazardous waste. Now the staff only purchases what is needed.” (FWS)

“The EMS program has raised environmental awareness among USGS employees and supervisors. As a result, many field centers are making great progress in reducing their environmental footprint. Some of the benefits/success that we have seen includes:

- Centers working with local power companies to look at alternative methods for acquiring renewable energy;
- Better tracking of expired chemicals leading to sharing rather than purchasing more chemicals.
- A 50% reduction of solid/hazardous waste and increased recycling;
- Air pollution is reduced as described in the deactivation of an incinerator.
- More eco-friendly equipment is purchased instead of purchasing products from the lowest bidder.
- Installed programmable thermostats to reduce propane use.
- Converted from 2-stroke outboard motors to 4-stroke outboard motors for pollution control.
- Purchased flex fuel vans for field work.” (USGS)

b. BEST PRACTICES

“The development of a cross functional team in support of Executive Order 13423.” (BOR)

“Use of goats and work release persons to control invasive and noxious plants.” (FWS)

“Some vehicles and all heavy-duty equipment now use biodiesel.” (FWS)

“Installed solar window film to reduce energy consumption.” (FWS)

“Some examples of the best practices resulting from EMS are:

- Working with equipment manufacturers and suppliers in addition to end users to help reduce computer room heat and power levels.
- Monitoring vehicle usage and fuel consumption to optimize vehicle use and track use of alternative fuels.
- Green purchasing and energy savings initiatives that include acquiring programmable thermostats and reducing the number of light bulbs.
- Initiating toner cartridge ordering procedures that ensure that cartridges are sent back for recycling.
- All printer/copier paper is ordered through one source to ensure that recycled paper is used.” (USGS)

c. LESSONS LEARNED

“Some of the EMS terminology has confused the receiving audience because the same term is used differently under other programs (e.g., NEPA) or is not used consistently throughout EMS guidance. In its EMS Directives and Standards, BOR has attempted to clearly define the following terms and used them in a consistent manner: environmental aspects as distinguished from environmental activities; appropriate and significant; and EMS Plans, EMS Programs, and EMS implementation Plans. However, understanding of the terms remains a challenge.” (BOR)

“Some key elements of EMS success are “buy-in” from middle and upper management, funding to support this effort, and having an experienced contractor to mentor the region in the development of [its] EMS.” (BOR)

“When the EMS plan is discussed on a routine basis, more individuals partake in activities that will eventually strengthen implementation of the plan.” (FWS)

“We found that we weren’t as knowledgeable as we thought before we developed our EMS plan. The plan has provided us a good guideline to improve our ability to utilize more environmentally friendly products and to recycle more.” (FWS)

“EMS implementation requires top to bottom organizational “buy-in” to be effective.” (FWS)

“Some of the valuable lessons learned after implementing E.O. 13423 using EMS are:

- EMS is an ongoing continual process.
- It [EMS] needs to be a Center wide effort.
- Annual chemical hygiene training is essential.
- Environmental monitoring helps reduce our footprint on the environment.
- EMS forces the agency to reduce the quantity of toxic and hazardous chemicals acquired, used, and disposed of by the agency; increases diversion of solid waste, and maintains cost-effective waste prevention and recycling programs.
- An EMS will assist environmental regulatory compliance programs.
- Alternatives for conservation of water and electricity are possible.
- EMS requires dedicated time and focused effort to develop and implement. Simple plans or procedures for a small facility are much more likely to be implemented and followed.” (USGS)

d. EMS IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

“Developing an EMS at the organizational level that also captures the various environmental issues and facilitates “buy-in” at the area offices and facility level.” (BOR)

“Balancing competing needs and priorities to provide adequate staff and resources to support EMS implementation.” (BOR)

“Keeping up with the paperwork.” (FWS)

“Getting top-down “buy-in” on EMS implementation requiring expenditure of non-traditional dollars on man hours.” (FWS)

“Providing adequate training for permanent and seasonal employees.” (FWS)

“Implementing EMS poses challenges. Listed below are a few of the challenges that USGS Centers noted:

- Difficulty in finding local companies to recycle materials.
- Cost effectiveness for purchasing renewable energy and supplies.
- Finding resources to help maintain monitoring requirements.

- It is critical for frequent periodic reviews of EMS's from the ground up. It is a new program and no resources are being provided.
- Local staff must utilize collateral duty time for this program.
- A major challenge is to assess funding requirements and to find the resources that will allow us to pursue far reaching goals, such as the use of geothermal, wind, and solar energy sources.
- Staying familiar with the many layers of environmental requirements and laws is difficult for a small facility." (USGS)

e. EMS BENEFITS TO AGENCY MISSION

"Going beyond environmental compliance to address the region's environmental footprint." (BOR)

"Implementation of EMS has had an immediate benefit on encouraging greater interaction with our local community through coordinated recycling efforts. Additionally, we have a greater opportunity to promote environmental awareness and education opportunities to share with schools and community civic groups." (FWS)

"We have already experienced an improved working relationship with not only the EPA and the Idaho DEQ, but also a better relationship with the Corps of Engineers, the Regional FWS staff, and our co-managers in the Nez Perce Tribe." (FWS)

"Provides the public an example of environmental leadership." (FWS)

"Based on the successes of EMS at the USGS, there are several benefits to the USGS mission. Some noted benefits from Centers that reported include:

- Fostered local and state regulatory agency relationships.
- Increased awareness of environmental compliance issues.
- Reduction in water usage, electrical usage, solid waste, hazardous waste. Increased cost savings.
- Better community relations.
- Improved wastewater treatment and spill prevention.
- Environmental compliance may help avoid agency fines by federal and state regulatory agencies.
- Reduced the kilowatt usage in one example by 32% over the previous year.
- Reduced environmental footprint at landfills." (USGS)