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SUBJECT:: NEWS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

TO:Patricia Haman (CN=Patricia Haman/OU=C&E;Q/O=EOP@EOP [CEQ])

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----- Forwarded by Patricia Haman/DC/USEPA/US on 06/12/02 02:15 PM -----

Mass Mailer

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Subject: NEWS FROM THE

ADMINISTRATOR

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NEWS FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR (Embedded image moved to file: pic01416.gif)

TO: All EPA Employees

FROM: Administrator Christie Whitman

DATE: June 7, 2002

The Department of Homeland Security
Last night, President Bush proposed a sweeping reorganization of many of
the federal government's homeland security functions into a new
Department of Homeland Security. I believe the proposal is a visionary,
thoughtful, and fitting answer to the challenge we face in protecting
the American people from terrorist attacks. The President's proposal
does not include moving any of EPA's resources or personnel to the new
department at this time. I pledge to keep everyone updated as the
proposal moves through Congress.

In the meantime, EPA will continue to perform its important homeland

security mission, along with our Agency's traditional mission to protect the environment and safeguard public health. I want you to know how enormously appreciative I am of all of the hard work you've done since September 11, and for the work you do every day.

Research Triangle Park (RTP) Dedication

EPA's spectacular new campus in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina was officially dedicated on May 29, 2002. I was joined by federal, state and community leaders, and 2,000 EPA employees and contractors for the ceremony that marked the official opening of our \$273 million, 1.2 million square-foot facility.

The campus is located on a 133-acre site and includes an impressive 400 separate laboratories and 2,500 other rooms including offices, conference rooms, classrooms, an auditorium, library and a cafeteria. It also includes EPA's National Computer Center which is located in a separate 100,000 square-foot building. The dedication featured an EPA Science Open House that began with a panel presentation by EPA's AA for Research and Development, and the Agency's Science Advisor, Dr. Paul Gilman, Kim Nelson, AA for Environmental Information, Jeff Holmstead, AA for Air and Radiation, Dr. Stan Meiburg, DRA from Region 4, and Dr. Ken Olden, the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in RTP.

Along with the innovative, environmentally-friendly design and construction, I believe the most meaningful features of the RTP campus are the people and the important work they do. We can all be proud of the difference we have already made and will make for the environment and human health. <http://www.epa.gov>

EPA Science Advisor

As you probably know, J. Paul Gilman was recently sworn in as EPA's Assistant Administrator of the Office of Research and Development, and is responsible for coordination and strategic planning for the Agency's ongoing scientific research efforts. In addition, last week, I announced Paul's appointment to serve as the Agency's Science Advisor. In this capacity, he will be responsible for working across EPA to ensure that the highest quality science is better integrated into the Agency's programs, policies, and decisions. <http://www.epa.gov> (Click on EPA Newsroom)

US Climate Action Report

There have been a number of news reports in the last couple of days concerning the US Climate Action Report. The New York Times incorrectly reported that the report represented "a stark shift" in policy for the Bush Administration. In fact, the Bush administration's opposition to the Kyoto Treaty has been clear and consistent.

The report was submitted by the State Department to the United Nations last week. It consists of an overview document of about 150 pages, and a foundation document of about 600 pages. These documents were the product of the National Assessment Synthesis Team, an advisory committee chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. As such, they are not policy positions or official statements by the US government. Rather, they were produced by the scientific community, and offered to

the government for consideration.

On February 14 this year, President Bush announced his climate change policy, noting that global climate change presents a set of challenges different from those involved in cleaning up air pollution, and that it requires a different strategy. He announced that the US will cut greenhouse gas intensity?the amount we emit per unit of economic activity?by 18 percent over the next ten years. We continue to work together with other departments and agencies to implement that strategy.

EPA Regional Administrators' Meeting

Deputy Administrator Linda Fisher and Chief of Staff Eileen McGinnis attended a very successful RA's meeting in New Orleans on May 29th that covered a variety of issues. My congratulations to Region 6 RA, Gregg Cooke, and Office of Regional Operations Director, Jim Wiggins, on planning this first-ever meeting of its kind. The meeting topics dealt with coordination of General Counsel activities, better alignment for consistent communications on environmental issues of concern, working more closely with other intergovernmental agencies and departments, coordination of activities with elected officials in Regions and on Capitol Hill, and better dissemination of the positive gains made by EPA in protecting our environment.

Acting Associate Administrator for OCEMR, Joe Martyak; General Counsel, Bob Fabricant; and Associate Administrator for OCIR, Ed Krenik also participated in the meetings. The attendees toured the Louisiana endangered wetlands and swamp areas, an important part of the Gulf Coast ecosystem. The work being performed by EPA, USGS, and others is a true example of how intergovernmental relationships can forge common ground to meet the challenge of protecting our environment.

Toxic Release Inventory (TRI)

Ten days ago, we released EPA's annual report of the latest Toxic Release Inventory, which indicates the amount of toxic chemicals released into the environment. The report shows that the total releases of chemicals nationwide has decreased by about 700 million pounds during 2000, the latest year for which data are available. Based on trends since the inception of the TRI, chemical releases have decreased approximately 48 percent since 1988. The TRI is a powerful tool to help citizens assess local environmental conditions and to help them make decisions about protecting the environment. The 2000 TRI data and background information on the TRI program are available at <http://www.epa.gov/tri>.

30th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act

Some of you in EPA's headquarters office may have noticed the "fish" display in the North hallway outside of my office. It's part of EPA's Office of Water's year-long celebration of the Anniversary of the Clean Water Act. Each month, we will feature water programs as part of a nationwide campaign focused on educating the American public about watersheds, water conservation and water monitoring, safe drinking water, non-point source pollution (polluted runoff), and other water-related subjects.

Upcoming themes include:

- ? June?Fishable Waters
- ? July?Safe, Clean Beaches

? August?Water Conservation and Dealing With Drought

For "Fishable Waters" month, EPA has issued a special 30th Anniversary Edition of "A Guide to Healthy Eating of the Fish You Catch." In addition, a poster explaining federal national fish consumption advice, a fact sheet for the public on the National Listing of Fish & Wildlife Advisories, and feature articles on "Are Fish Safe To Eat?" are also available.

The Office of Water's Assistant Administrator, Tracy Mehan, Deputy Assistant Administrator Ben Grumbles, and I will participate in special events all year long, and mark the actual anniversary day, October 18, National Water Monitoring Day. Some very good news to add?Tracy Mehan will return to the office, on a part time basis, starting next week.

On June 26, I will meet with the National Meteorologists Association to encourage them to use weather forecasts to help the public understand about watersheds, and how individual activities affect the watershed.

A series of posters, bookmarks, brochures, feature articles, commentaries, and other printed materials have been printed in honor of the 30th anniversary. Please contact Elaine Wilson in the Water Office at 202-564-5700 to request materials. It's going to be a busy summer!

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