



# FedFacs

an environmental bulletin for federal facilities

## FedCenter Launched!

*Federal Stewardship and Compliance Assistance Center Debuts*



[www.fedcenter.gov](http://www.fedcenter.gov)

**F**edCenter, the Federal Facilities Environmental Stewardship and Compliance Assistance Center, was launched in October 2004. FedCenter is designed as a one-stop technical and compliance assistance center focused solely on the environmental needs of the 32,000 federal facilities.

FedCenter assists federal facilities, especially domestic civilian agencies, which have significant compliance and stewardship needs but lack adequate resources to meet them.

FedCenter replaces FedSite, the envi-

ronmental compliance assistance center for federal facilities and formerly funded and managed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. FedCenter is an independently managed, web-based environmental compliance assistance site.

The new center contains most of the content from the former FedSite, including the virtual facility tour, but has been vastly expanded and improved with additional resources and information. It is updated daily with new information, and so far has generated nearly 6,000 site visits per month.

The new site is currently underwritten by EPA's Federal Facilities Enforcement Office (FFEO), and is a joint initiative of FFEO, the Army Corps of Engineering Research Development Center/Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (ERDC/CERL) and the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE). EPA's FFEO initiated the idea of an independent center, and worked for over a year with the OFEE and ERDC/CERL to develop and launch FedCenter.

Eventually, FedCenter will be funded and directed by participating federal agencies. This unique operational structure will permit federal agencies to access expanded environmental compliance information.

FedCenter representatives are actively soliciting participation from all federal agencies to join in governing, promoting, financially supporting, and guiding the Center's activities and content. (See related article p. 5)

The Center is designed to leverage the federal government's collective knowledge of environmental compliance and stewardship by linking to and building on existing or emerging resources of its federal partners. *Continued on page 5*

## Environmental Spotlight

### Piñero Plots a Course as Federal Environmental Executive



**I**n December 2002, I began the most fulfilling phase of my career, as a presidential appointee in the administration of President George W. Bush. I joined the

administration as the Deputy Federal Environmental Executive, and since September of 2004 and the departure of former Federal Environmental Executive (FEE) John Howard, as the FEE. It is indeed the ideal job.

First and foremost, it is an honor and privilege to work in public service as a presidential appointee. Secondly, I can use all the experiences and skills I developed in 24 years of working in the environmental field. Last, but by no means least, I help the largest organization in the world, the United States government, move towards more sustainable, and mission-supporting, environmental performance.

The Office of Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE), created by Executive Order in 1993, initially focused on recycling and waste prevention. Its current mission is even broader: promoting environmental stewardship throughout the federal government.

Sustainable environmental stewardship is attained through a commitment to environmental management concepts and strategies, and the promotion and implementation of sustainable practices. Sustainable practices include sustainable buildings, electronics stewardship, green purchasing *Continued on page 6*

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# EPA, Army Corps Sign Watershed Management Agreement

**O**n November 19, 2004, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed the Watershed Management Partnership Agreement to promote watershed health, economic sustainability, and community vitality through effective management of the nation's watersheds. This partnership will foster innovative approaches to the many challenges facing watersheds.

EPA's Acting Assistant Administrator for Water, Ben Grumbles and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, John Paul Woodley, Jr., signed the partnership agreement.

"This partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will foster innovative approaches to finding effective

answers to the many challenges and demands facing the nation's watersheds today and in the future," said Grumbles. "Managing water resources on a holistic watershed basis makes good sense—environmentally, financially, and socially. This agreement will enable EPA and the Corps to work together to try to resolve conflicts and seek consensus among the many different interests within a watershed concerning the future of these critical national resources."

Woodley also praised the agreement. "This partnership agreement is a great example of the benefits that can be created when federal agencies come together to work toward a common goal and share a common vision. By combining the organizational strengths and capabilities of the Corps and EPA's Office of Water as they relate to water-

shed health and management, we create a win-win partnership for the agencies and the nation."

The agreement focuses on sustainable economic development, protection, and restoration efforts in a public inclusive, and collaborative manner at the national, regional and local watershed level. Other objectives include facilitating communication among all stakeholders and interested parties, enhancing data exchange, and promoting the development of innovative approaches to water resource and watershed management.

For a copy of the partnership agreement and more information on wetlands management, visit the Corps' Regulatory Branch website at: <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg/>, EPA's website at: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/>, or the wetlands mitigation website at: <http://www.mitigationactionplan.gov>.

**This partnership will foster innovative approaches to the many challenges facing the nation's watersheds.**

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## EPA PROPOSES TO MODIFY TRI REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

EPA announced the first of two proposed rules intended to reduce the time and resources needed to submit annual reports to EPA's Toxics Release Inventory (TRI). EPA believes the "Toxics Release Inventory Forms Modification Rule" will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the TRI program, while continuing to provide the public with the same high level of information about chemical releases and waste management in their communities.

Comments on the proposed rule are due to EPA by March 11, 2005. For further information on this proposed rule or ways to submit comments on EPA's proposal, visit the TRI Web Site at: <http://epa.gov/tri/tridata/tier3/formsmodrule.html> or contact Ms. Shelley Fudge 202-566-0674, U.S. EPA, Office of Environmental Information, TRI Program Division, Washington, D.C. (EST); [fudge.shelley@epa.gov](mailto:fudge.shelley@epa.gov) or the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Hotline, Washington, D.C., (toll free) 1-800-424-9346 (EST). In Virginia or Alaska, call: 703-412-9810 (EST) or (toll free) TDD: 1-800-553-7672 (EST).

## FEDFACS ON THE WEB

This and past issues of FedFacs can be found on EPA's website at: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/newsletters/civil/fedfac/index.html> or FedCenter at: <http://www.fedcenter.gov/resources/newsletters>

# Federal Agencies Commit to Environmental Stewardship of Electronics

In November 2004, the Executive Office of the President, Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Interior, Justice, Transportation, Veterans Affairs, Environmental Protection Agency and General Services Administration signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to develop and promote common strategies for using environmentally sustainable technologies and practices. The MOU is intended to improve the quality, performance and environmental management of federal electronic assets throughout their life cycle.

The federal government invests significant resources in electronic assets. In FY 2005, it is anticipated it will spend approximately \$60 billion on information technology (IT) equipment, software, infrastructure and services. For computers alone, the federal government represents about seven percent of the world demand. This provides a tremendous opportunity to positively influence the marketplace.

Electronics are also a new and rapidly growing segment of the waste stream. The United States discarded more than 2 million tons of electronics in 2001. Significant quantities of the nation's IT assets are ending up in storage closets, warehouses or landfills, or overseas where there are less rigorous environmental standards for disposal than in the United States.

Most of the federal government's 1.8 million employees have a personal computer. Given a three-year life cycle, the government discards approximately 10,000 computers each week. The eleven agencies and departments which became charter signatories represent approximately \$50 billion, or 83 percent of the total annual IT budget for the federal government.

The combined purchasing power of the government will help transform the

## MOU SIGNATORIES COMMIT TO:

- ▶ Increase demand for more energy efficient and environmentally sustainable electronic equipment that is cost-effective, while maintaining or improving equipment quality and performance;
- ▶ Promote the implementation of best life cycle management practices for electronic equipment and share best practices with those outside the federal government;
- ▶ Reduce the economic and environmental life cycle costs of federal electronic equipment;
- ▶ Promote the market growth and infrastructure for the reuse, de-manufacturing and recycling of obsolete electronic equipment; and
- ▶ Coordinate and cooperate on other public and private sector efforts achieving similar objectives.

availability of IT products and services that are environmentally sustainable in the marketplace.

Signatories are also in the Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC). The FEC is a voluntary partnership program that encourages federal departments, agencies and facilities to purchase more environmentally-sound electronic products, reduce impacts of electronic products during use, and manage obsolete electronics

in an environmentally safe way. In addition to the 11 agencies and departments, 24 federal facilities from seven different federal agencies, together representing more than 25,000 employees, have signed as partners to the FEC.

A list of the participating agencies and facilities is on the FEC website, <http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net>. The MOU is available at: <http://www.ofee.gov/finalmou.pdf>.

## CONTRACTS ISSUED FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT COMPUTER DISPOSAL

EPA awarded its first contracts to help federal agencies dispose of computers and other used electronic equipment in an environmentally responsible manner. The "Government-Wide Acquisition Contracts (GWACs) for Recycling Electronics and Asset Disposition (READ)" provides federal agencies with a dependable method of properly recycling and disposing of excess or obsolete electronic equipment.

The GWAC is composed of eight contracts (three nationwide, three in the eastern U.S. and two in western U.S.) awarded to small businesses. Contractors must maintain an audit trail to the equipment's final destination to ensure reclamation and recycling efforts are documented.

The contracts will also maximize revenues from usable electronic equipment currently in storage through a share-in-savings (SiS) program. Under SiS, the contractor will attempt to identify opportunities to save costs associated with recycling efforts and share those savings with federal agencies to offset the latter's recycling costs.

For more information on the READ program visit: [http://www.epa.gov/oamhpod1/admin\\_placement/0300115/fact.htm](http://www.epa.gov/oamhpod1/admin_placement/0300115/fact.htm)

**Federal Facilities Environmental Stewardship & Compliance Assistance Center**

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**Facility Regulatory Tour**

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**Welcome to FedCenter**

*Welcome, federal colleagues, to FedCenter.gov!*

*FedCenter.gov is your new address for comprehensive **environmental stewardship and compliance assistance** information focused exclusively on the needs of Federal government facilities like yours. FedCenter is a collaborative effort of the U.S. Federal Environmental Executive, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Construction Engineering Research Laboratory and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.*

*FedCenter.gov's mission is to help federal agencies lead more by their own environmental example.*

*FedCenter.gov replaces and will significantly expand on EPA's existing FedSite (www.epa.gov/fedsite.) Through the new FedCenter, government agencies, especially the civilian ones, can better pool their environmental expertise and leverage their financial resources to create an assistance capability much greater than any they could forge alone.*

*At first, FedCenter.gov will offer limited environmental information and services. In the future it will increasingly develop and provide new information capabilities, additional compliance assistance tools and fresh training opportunities in accordance with your emerging needs and interests. FedCenter will also draw heavily upon other government-supported environmental assistance programs nationwide, including existing centers of assistance opportunities supported by EPA and our Armed Forces.*

*While we are very pleased to give it a start, FedCenter.gov will eventually be governed and directed by the various agencies who use and support it. For more information, see About Us.*

*In short, FedCenter.gov offers all federal agencies a great new venue for improving their environmental compliance and performance. It's your Center. Welcome aboard!*

Sincerely,

<i>Thomas V. Skinner</i> Acting Assistant Administrator Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	<i>Edwin Piñero</i> Federal Environmental Executive	<i>The Honorable J.P. Woodley</i> Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) U.S. Department of Defense
		

**Announcements**

- FedFacs articles due November 5
- New FedCenter to be Announced October 27, 2004
- DoD Establishes Green Procurement Program (GPP)

**Upcoming Events**

- 2004 Environment and Safety Conference (11/03/2004)
- Continuous Emission Monitoring APTI 474 (11/08/2004)
- Control of Particulate Emissions APTI 413 (11/09/2004)
- Environmental Excellence Workshops (01/05/2005)
- Good Neighbor Environmental Board (10/27/2004)

More Items...

Shown above is the home page for FedCenter, the new federal facilities environmental stewardship and compliance assistance center. Center information is updated daily, and new content on EMS, green procurement, compliance, energy and other facility information will be added soon.

## FEDCENTER SERVICES: COMPLIANCE TRACKING TOOLS

FedCenter enables users to link to the latest EPA environmental compliance information on individual federal facilities. The Center offers links to compliance tracking tools including the Online Tracking Information System (OTIS) and the Federal Agency Compliance Tracking System (FACTS). OTIS and FACTS can be used for many functions, including planning, targeting, analysis, data quality review, and pre-inspection review.

Check out the latest compliance information on your facility at FedCenter.gov.

Visit: <http://www.fedcenter.gov/resources/complianceauditing/> and click on links on right sidebar.

**FEDCENTER LAUNCHED***Continued from page 1*

By sharing limited resources and costs, federal facilities can use FedCenter to help them meet their growing environmental compliance assistance needs.

The new center is managed under an inter-governmental agreement with ERDC/CERL. ERDC/CERL has previous experience operating similar web-based sites for the Department of Defense and has worked with the federal community in developing its popular environmental audit protocols, the TEAM Guide.

Visit FedCenter at: <http://www.fedcenter.gov>. For further information about FedCenter please contact: Steve Luzzi, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, Champaign, IL 61822, [stephen.t.luzzi@erdc.usace.army.mil](mailto:stephen.t.luzzi@erdc.usace.army.mil); 217-373-5894 or 800-USA-CERL.

**FEDCENTER'S MISSION:**

- ▶ Improve federal agency environmental compliance and promote environmental stewardship;
- ▶ Leverage federal environmental expertise and limited resources to meet regulatory needs;
- ▶ Implement the Presidential Management Council's initiative to improve federal environmental, health and safety compliance and performance; and
- ▶ Meet environmental management system (EMS) commitments under Presidential Executive Order 13148.

**Become a FedCenter Partner!**

FedCenter provides environmental compliance and stewardship services for the U.S. government. The site and its content is exclusively for federal agencies, and over time will be directed and developed by a multi-agency, federal partnership.

FedCenter's success as a multi-agency partnership depends on the technical expertise and financial support of member federal agencies. FedCenter is looking for more federal partners, and current members will be contacting your federal agency in the coming weeks.



Has your agency developed compliance assistance information that would be of interest to other federal agencies? If so, please let FedCenter know and we may post it and make it available to others.

Do you have an environmental success story? FedCenter plans to periodically showcase environmental initiatives which improved environmental compliance.

By pooling limited environmental resources to direct and support FedCenter, participating agencies will create a more effective compliance assistance resource focused exclusively on their particular environmental needs.

**Join the FedCenter Partnership!**

FedCenter is your compliance assistance center. Help us make it more effective and responsive by becoming a partner. *To join, or get additional information, please contact: FedCenter at <http://www.fedcenter.gov>; or Mike Shields at 202-564-9035, [shields.mike@epa.gov](mailto:shields.mike@epa.gov); or Steve Luzzi at: 217-373-5894, [stephen.t.luzzi@erdc.usace.army.mil](mailto:stephen.t.luzzi@erdc.usace.army.mil).*

While FedCenter is initially being funded by EPA, its activities over time will be determined and directed by participating federal agencies. In order to further ensure the success of FedCenter, and truly make this a federal government-wide partnership, agencies will be asked to contribute and oversee the direction and activities of the Center.

**FEDCENTER SERVICES**

FedCenter.gov offers a wide assortment of compliance assistance tools and information in a number of vital environmental areas:

- Federal and state regulatory requirements for various facility activities
- P2 opportunities and best management practices
- State environmental program links
- Access to DoD and other environmental assistance centers
- Environmental conferences, meetings, training, and workshops information
- Applicable laws and Executive Orders
- Industry sector-specific newsletters
- Federal facility environmental compliance information (OTIS/FACTS) links.

In time and after consultation with its federal partners, FedCenter will develop a variety of assistance services specific to federal agency needs, including:

- EMS training and auditing
- "Ask an Expert" hotline service
- Vendor directories for green products
- Regulatory "watch alert"
- Subject-matter expert discussion lists and various fee-for-service activities.

## CORPS' ERDC/CERL PROVIDES TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR FEDCENTER

When EPA's Federal Facility Enforcement Office reached out to the federal community for help in implementing FedCenter, a central part of its mission to assist, educate, and ensure that federal facility managers have timely access to environmental regulatory information, it turned to the Army Corps of Engineers' environmental information system experts at the Environmental Research Development Center/Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (ERDC/CERL).

For FedCenter.gov, ERDC/CERL is using state-of-the-art technology to ensure the federal community gets environmental information quickly and efficiently. ERDC/CERL's extensive knowledge and use of these tools in the Corps' own information technology environment will provide a sturdy foundation upon which to expand its support and enable federal facilities to have the necessary tools to meet their environmental obligations.

This is not the first time ERDC/CERL has helped the federal environmental community with its information-sharing needs. Since 1974, ERDC/CERL has built a solid reputation of developing and fielding information technology solutions for the federal environmental community. This expertise and experience played a major role in EPA's decision to entrust ERDC/CERL with this important mission.

The ERDC/CERL, located in Champaign, Ill., served for the past 12 years as developer and operator of the Department of Defense's premier environmental resource – the Defense Environmental Network & Information eXchange (DENIX). DENIX serves as the central collaboration platform and information clearinghouse for environment, safety and occupational health news, information, policy and guidance for the DoD community.

Prior to this, ERDC/CERL pioneered one of the first online environmental information systems, the Environmental Technical Information System (ETIS), whose flagship product was the Computer-aided Environmental Legislative Database System (CELDS), a database of federal and state regulatory abstracts. ERDC/CERL, in collaboration with the EPA, Department of Energy and other federal agencies also developed the EnviroText Retrieval System (ETRS), the successor to ETIS.

For more information on the software, document management, collaboration capabilities and other technology used by ERDC/CERL on FedCenter, please contact Steve Luzzi, FedCenter Site Manager at ERDC/CERL, 217-373-5894, [stephen.t.luzzi@erdc.usace.army.mil](mailto:stephen.t.luzzi@erdc.usace.army.mil).

### ENVIRONMENTAL SPOTLIGHT

*Continued from page 1*

and innovative waste prevention.

OFEE, with its small, committed staff, helps the federal government be better environmental stewards by bringing agencies together to discuss common issues and share ideas, raising awareness, and acting as a liaison between agency environmental efforts and the Administration. As John Howard used to say, "OFEE succeeds when we connect the dots."

As a White House office and task force, OFEE has the luxury of being interagency, and can verbalize policies in the context of daily agency operations. Having a connection to EPA allows OFEE to partner and leverage the immense environmental intellect in that agency to support these efforts.

James Connaughton, Chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), has indicated this Administration will continue to promote environmental stewardship in the federal government as a way to protect natural resources and support mission efficiency. With this reaffirmation of OFEE's priorities and goals, we look forward to achieving the mission we began.

OFEE will continue, with even more

enthusiasm, its ongoing initiatives and efforts. For the near future, we see much development in sustainable buildings, electronics stewardship, and more widespread green purchasing efforts. For example, 2004 saw the launch of the Federal Electronics Challenge, the availability of government-wide green purchasing training, and an exponential growth in green building applications.

OFEE will also continue its strong emphasis on environmental management systems (EMS), now focusing on maximizing newly implemented systems to meet environmental performance goals. We will also work with agencies on verifying their systems as the E.O. 13148 December 2005 implementation deadline nears. To date, there are over a thousand EMS implementations under way in the federal community.

Another very important effort carrying over into 2005 is the compliance management initiative stemming from a President's Management Council (PMC) inquiry on agency compliance performance. Overall, agencies are doing well in regulatory compliance, but there is always room for improvement. We are working closely with agencies to help them integrate compliance considerations into environmental management and agency operations.

OFEE is very excited to be an initial partner on FedCenter, the new online environmental stewardship and compliance assistance center for federal facilities. FedCenter will help agencies find ideas and best practices to meet the intent of the PMC Initiative. FedCenter will eventually be a resource owned, operated and used by the entire federal community. We encourage agencies to become FedCenter partners.

I look forward to working with the entire family of federal agencies, departments, and organizations as we move ahead in our efforts. In the two short years I have been here, I can say with confidence that the federal workforce is committed to stewardship of our resources, as well as looking for ways to accomplish our respective missions effectively.

Visit the OFEE on the web at:  
<http://www.ofee.gov>

*Edwin Piñero was appointed Federal Environmental Executive in September 2004. Prior to joining this administration in January 2003, Piñero was owner of Piñero Consulting, an environmental management firm. He has also served as Director of the Bureau of Environmental Sustainability as well as being the State Energy Director in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under then Pennsylvania governor Tom Ridge.*

## EPA's Johnson and OFEE's Piñero Stress Environmental Challenges at Joint Service Conference

**S**teve Johnson, EPA Deputy Administrator, and Edwin Piñero, the new Federal Environmental Executive (FEE) were keynote speakers at the 9th Annual Joint Services Environmental Management (JSEM) Conference & Exhibition held in San Antonio, Texas in August 2004. Both Johnson and Piñero discussed environmental challenges facing the federal community, and approaches and opportunities for meeting these.

“National security, public health and environmental protection are clearly consistent and reinforcing public values, rather than competing ones,” Johnson said. “We are forever bound in our national security and environmental missions.”

Johnson, who praised the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), its services and the larger defense community for increasingly making environmental stewardship and compliance a core component of its work, also encouraged EPA and DoD officials to communicate frequently and frankly at all levels, share knowledge and technology, and partner to address issues of mutual concern, such as perchlorate contamination, and the need to ensure both safe, effective training at military ranges when they're operating, and necessary clean up when they close. “Together,” he concluded, “we can make America safer, stronger and environmentally sound.”

The JSEM Conference was co-hosted by the U.S. Army Environmental Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, and the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Brooks City-Base. The JSEM brought together 4,000 professionals from military services, industry, academia, local, state, and federal agencies to share ideas, success stories, case histories, current trends, and technologies for pollution prevention and hazardous waste management.



*Joyce Stubblefield, Federal Facility Program Manager of U.S. EPA Region 6 (Dallas) mans an EPA booth at JSEM Conference.*

The next conference will combine two major events - the JSEM Conference and the NDIA's Environment & Energy Division's Annual Symposium. It will be held in April 11-14, 2005, in Tampa, Fla. For information about the upcoming conference, visit <http://www.jsemconference.com>.

## EPA Announces Nationwide Green Power Purchase

**E**PA announced a “green power” transaction involving biomass resources (paper pulp) in Georgia and its Research Triangle Park (RTP), N.C., facilities. This is the largest EPA green power procurement to date.

EPA finalized a three-year contract with Unicoi Energy Services of Marietta, Ga., to provide RTP with 100 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of renewable energy certificates (RECs) annually — equivalent to the energy consumed by 3,680 homes each year. Currently, EPA annually purchases more than 220 mil-

lion kWh of green power for 26 of its facilities, laboratories and offices, across the nation. Green power now accounts for 77 percent of EPA's estimated national electricity consumption.

Executive Order 13123 “Greening the Government through Efficient Energy Management”, encourages all federal agencies to expand the use of green power by developing renewable energy projects, supporting the development of renewable projects by others on federal land, and purchasing electricity from renewable energy sources. The

Order also requires that federal agencies reduce their greenhouse gas emissions 30 percent from 1990 levels by 2010.

EPA purchases green power through a process utilizing RECs (green tags), which are both cheaper and easier to procure than delivered power. For a more detailed explanation of green tags, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/greeningepa/greenpower.htm#greentags>. For more information about EPA's Green Power program visit: <http://www.epa.gov/greeningepa/greenpower.htm>.

## National Guard Transforming with EMS

As Army National Guard leaders in each of the 54 states and territories put their heads together to learn more about how to embrace mandated environmental management systems (EMS), one common message continues to emerge: It's all about mission readiness.

"Our goal is to enhance our ability to provide quality training lands and facilities to train soldiers," said Lt. Col. Jerry Walter, chief of the environmental programs division for the Army National Guard. "Through EMS, we strive for continuous improvement to reduce mission and environmental impacts."

Executive Order 13148, "Greening the Government through Leadership in Environmental Management" in April 2000, requires, among other things, that appropriate federal facilities have environmental management systems in place by Dec. 31, 2005. The Guard has been actively pursuing ways to meet the requirements of the Order and enhance the training received by soldiers and airmen.

"By adopting EMS and better managing the environmental impacts from our operations, we ultimately enhance mission readiness through the ability to provide realistic training," said Bill Vagt, Environmental Program Manager for the Alaska Army National Guard and chairman of the National Guard Bureau's Environmental Management Committee.

Executive Order 13148 has been the driving force behind the Guard's efforts to integrate EMS into everyday operations and, according to Vagt, if implemented correctly will lead to substantive changes.

In the Army National Guard, each state, territory, and also training facilities in Massachusetts and Idaho are developing an EMS. According to Walter, the National Guard already has many strong environmental programs that include elements of an environ-



*Sgt. Ramon Nichols, an automotive mechanic with the Alaska Army National Guard, gathers used shop rags and prepares them for disposal in the SmartAsh burner which significantly reduces hazardous waste emissions at Camp Denali, Fort Richardson, Alaska.*

*Sgt. Mike Cortez, a heavy mobile equipment mechanic with the Alaska Army National Guard stores used vehicle batteries at the Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) located at Camp Denali, Fort Richardson, Alaska.*

mental management system, but the EMS process allows the Guard to bring all these elements together systematically.

According to Lt. Col. Brian Rogers, strategic planning officer for the Army Guard's environmental programs division, because EMS is a continual cycle of planning, implementing, reviewing and improving, it shifts the environmental focus from a defensive, reactive posture to one that is proactive and based on sound planning and decision making.

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## GUARD TRANSFORMING WITH EMS

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Rogers also indicates that EMS may offer the Guard additional benefits including reductions in environmental compliance costs, increased worker safety, cleaner working environments, increased operational readiness, and improved community relations.

Currently, there is an extensive effort to train state National Guard leaders and require all soldiers and airmen to become aware of the EMS. Training is being offered for key leaders as well as members of teams of soldiers and airmen representing major functional areas such as operations and

**EMS may offer the Guard additional benefits including reductions in environmental compliance costs, increased worker safety, cleaner working environments, increased operational readiness, and improved community relations.**

training, maintenance, logistics and personnel support. Additional training is being developed to reach all Guardsmen.

According to Lt. Col. Janet Noble, Deputy Human Resources Officer with the South Carolina National Guard, the mindset of soldiers and airmen is evolving from “a mission first, dispose of or recycle waste second”, attitude to one that calls for eliminating, reducing, or reusing waste in the first instance—without compromising mission success.

“We’re changing the course and taking out good ideas and applying them,” said Lt. Gen Roger Schultz, Director of the Army National Guard. “In the end, it’s about a soldier — preparing them for

battle focused duty and wartime missions. It’s a balance between our environmental priorities and mission readiness.”

“Environmental management is everyone’s responsibility,” said Eileen Chabot, EMS manager for the New Hampshire National Guard. “We want the ‘e’ on EMS to stand for everyone”.

Submitted by: Rick Breitenfeldt, Office of Public Affairs & Strategic Communications; National Guard Bureau, 703-607-2575; Rick.Breitenfeldt@ngb.af.mil. Walter Debany, NGB-PA, also contributed toward this article.

## Got an Article?

If you have an article about an environmental activity or program at your agency or facility, and you'd like us to consider it for publication in the next FedFacs, please contact: Marie Muller at [muller.marie@epa.gov](mailto:muller.marie@epa.gov). FedFacs is published twice a year; **articles should be 500 words or less**. The U.S. EPA reserves the right to edit or decline any article.

## SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS TEAM WINS EXCELLENCE AWARD

The San Antonio Missions National Historical Park's Compliance Improvement Management System (CIMS) Team won the Alamo Federal Executive Board's (FEB) Excellence in Government Awards Program Teamwork award.

The Missions Team was recognized for its implementation of the ISO 14001 international standard for environmental management and the park's subsequent acceptance into the EPA's National Environmental Performance Track Program.

San Antonio Missions is also a member of the Recycling Alliance of Texas, and strives to increase its recycling efforts and support community cleanup projects to reduce dumping incidents and prevent pollution in the park's environs.

Today, the 28 FEBs around the country act as regional hubs for government activity and offices located outside Washington, D.C. Their goals include improving communications and efficiency, reducing government costs and facilitating government services, as well as creating partnerships with community groups. The Excellence in Government Awards Program recognizes federal agency efforts in these areas.

For more information about the San Antonio Missions CIMS, please contact Dan Steed, Chief of Resource Management and Visitor Protection at (210) 534-8875 extension 234 or: [Dan\\_Steed@nps.gov](mailto:Dan_Steed@nps.gov).



*San Antonio Missions Team members: (from left to right) Kurt Schoenberger, Gloria Gonzales, Dan Steed, David Vekasy, James Oliver. Team members absent were Liz Dupree and Mike Johnson.*

## EPA Conducts EMR at the GSA Region 7

**E**PA Region 6 (Dallas) conducted an environmental management review (EMR) at the General Services Administration (GSA) Region 7 Public Buildings Service (PBS) located in Fort Worth, Texas in September 2004.

An EMR is an third-party evaluation of an organization's environmental program and management system, and is conducted to determine how well a facility has developed and implemented an EMS.

The EMR at PBS focused on compliance assurance and pollution prevention, enabling systems, performance and accountability, measurement and improvement, and management commitment.

The EMS for PBS is a cornerstone of its environmental programs and will allow PBS to analyze, control, and

reduce the environmental impact of its activities, products and services.

GSA is developing a nationwide EMS rather than focusing on any particular facility or property. Most GSA properties are office buildings, and in some form or another all of these properties create environmental impacts. However, the

**The EMS will allow PBS to analyze, control, and reduce the environmental impacts.**

environmental impacts of office buildings around the country are virtually identical and it is more efficient to implement one national-level EMS while GSA regional offices design specific functions relevant to their facilities.

The GSA PBS nationwide EMS approach uses the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001 Plan-Do-Check-Act model. GSA previously used the EPA Code of Environmen-

tal Management Principles (CEMP). ISO 14001 will allow GSA to enhance its partnerships with customer agencies also using ISO 14001 for its environmental management systems.

EPA Region 6 will provide an EMR report and a follow-up to GSA within six months after the final report. The report will include observations and recommendations to the EMS.

Larry Rexroat is the Supervisory Environmental Scientist at the GSA PBS Region 7 Fort Worth office and the point of contact for their EMS. Keith Raines, Director, GSA PBS Western Service Center Operations and Nathan Smith, Subject Matter Specialist—Environmental at the GSA PBS headquarters office also participated in the EMR.

For more information, contact: Larry Rexroat, GSA PBS Region 7 at (817) 978-7260 or Joyce Stubblefield, EPA Region 6 at (214) 665-6430.

## DOE's Brent Smith Assists with EMRs

**I**n fiscal years '03 and '04, Dr. Brent Smith, Environmental Manager with the Department of Energy (DOE), Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) Project Management Office, provided leadership and support to the EPA Region 6 (Dallas) Environmental Management Review (EMR) Team.

The Team, with Smith's assistance, reviews federal facility environmental management systems (EMS) at federal facilities and provides compliance assistance to those needing to improve or develop their own EMS. Dr. Smith assisted Region 6 in meeting its requirements for a national EPA EMR initiative with the Veterans Health Administration, and is currently working with EPA on the GSA Public Buildings Service Greater Southwest Region 7 Fort Worth EMR.

Dr. Smith has over 25 years of experience in the environmental field, and an extensive background in EMS. He is a registered Environmental Management Systems Lead Auditor, an Environmental Manager, and a Certified Environmental Professional in Louisiana. He is also an EMS Trainer for AQS Management Systems, and an EMS Lead Auditor for the American Petroleum Institute.

Smith also is a member of several professional environmental organizations in Louisiana, is an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Management at the University of New Orleans, and the author of numerous book chapters, journal articles, web pages, and newsletters. Among his web pages is one dedicated to ISO 14001 and ISO 9001

implementation in Louisiana ([www.iso.louisiana.com](http://www.iso.louisiana.com)).

The DOE's SPR Project Management Office in New Orleans has been involved in EMS efforts for several years. In 2000 it volunteered for an EMR for its sites in Texas and Louisiana, which soon after became ISO 14001 certified. The DOE SPR senior leadership assisted EPA Regions 4 (Atlanta) and 6 in training senior federal managers in New Orleans. The SPR became a charter member of EPA's Performance Track leadership program, is a Clean Texas/Cleaner World Certified National Leaders applicant, and received a White House "Closing the Circle" award honorable mention in 2004.

Dr. Smith can be reached at (504) 734-4970 or [brent.smith@spr.doe.gov](mailto:brent.smith@spr.doe.gov).

## **Robert Gill Is New Director at Dallas Air Force Office**

In August, 2004, Robert M. Gill became the director of the Air Force Regional Environmental Office, Central Region, in Dallas, Texas. The Regional Environmental Offices are part of the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (AFCEE) at Brooks City-Base in San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Gill represents the Air Force to state and federal regional agencies in the 21 states that comprise EPA Regions 5 (Chicago), 6 (Dallas), 7 (Kansas City), and (8) Denver. His duties include environmental program oversight, assistance to major commands in resolving unusual or complex environmental compliance problems, and protection of Air Force

interests in third party hazardous waste sites.

Mr. Gill came to the Dallas Regional Office from the Naval War College, where he recently completed additional graduate studies. His previous positions include Remediation Program Manager at the Massachusetts Military Reservation, and Base Civil Engineer at Brooks Air Force Base. Mr. Gill earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo., and is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Arizona. He also holds a Master's degree in Engineering Management.

## **Enforcement News**

### **RCRA Consent Agreement and Final Order with BIA Blackfeet Agency**

The Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Blackfeet Agency, Facilities Management and Roads Complex in Browing, Mont., entered into a RCRA consent agreement and final order (CAFO) with EPA Region 8 (Denver) in October 2004. The facility is located within the boundaries of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.

EPA's June 2004 complaint issued to BIA alleged various violations of RCRA hazardous waste requirements, including failure to perform hazardous waste determination, failure to inventory property, and failure to comply with used oil requirements. EPA Region 8 also issued a notice of violation (NOV) for Clean Water Act Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) regulation violations at the facility.

The facility was required to pay a \$34,381 penalty and is now in compliance with RCRA. EPA Region 8 continues to offer BIA assistance in developing an acceptable SPCC plan, and has proposed entering into a SPCC Federal Facilities Compliance Agreement to facilitate SPCC compliance at BIA's Blackfeet Agency, Facilities Management and Roads Complex or, more broadly, the BIA Rocky Mountain Regional Office. For more information contact: Andrew Cherry (202) 564-2589 or Amy Swanson (303) 312-6906.

### **EPA Fines DOI Water Treatment Facility For Failing To Maintain Chemical Risk Plan**

In late December 2004, U.S. EPA Region 9 (San Francisco) fined the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) \$7,500 for failing to maintain its plan that outlines how its water treatment plant in Yuma, Ariz. will respond to accidental chemical releases, as required by the Clean Air Act [42 U.S.C. § 7412 (r)(7)].

The DOI's Yuma desalting plant failed to maintain records showing that its chlorine gas system was operating properly and that its employees were properly trained in handling any accidental chemical releases.

The CAA requires all facilities using hazardous substances above specified threshold quantities are required to develop chemical risk management plans. The plan must include an assessment of potential effects of an accidental release, history of accidents over the past five years and employee training. The plan must also include an emergency response program that outlines procedures for informing the public and response agencies, such as the police and fire departments, in the event of an accident.

The DOI has paid the penalty and corrected the violations. As part of a new enforcement policy, the EPA offered the DOI a reduced penalty because the agency acted quickly to correct the problems and pay the fine, and the facility presents a relatively low risk to the public.

## **Upcoming Events**

**FedCenter** has a full listing of upcoming events, trainings, and conferences and is updated daily. Go to [www.fedcenter.gov](http://www.fedcenter.gov) and click on the "Events" tab for a complete listing.

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