




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

DEC 31 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: William F. Broglie  
Chief Administrative Officer, NOAA

THRU: John H. Dunnigan   
Assistant Administrator

FROM: Gary C. Matlock, Ph.D.   
Director

SUBJECT: Environmental Management System Declaration of Conformance

Executive Order 13423, *Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management*, which replaced Executive Order 13148, requires that all facilities with an Environmental Management System (EMS) be in conformance by undergoing an external audit of their systems and declaring conformance by December 31, 2008. The Department of Commerce's Environmental Management Manual also requires that all locations with an EMS undergo an external audit every three years. The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) was identified as an appropriate organization within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to implement an EMS under Executive Order 13148, *Greening the Government through Leadership in Environmental Management*, and self-declared on December 29, 2005.

I am pleased to inform you that the National Ocean Service's NCCOS has determined that its EMS conforms to the requirements of Executive Order 13423. This determination is based upon an external second-party audit conducted in accordance with the requirements of Executive Order 13423, the ISO 14001:2004(E) Standard, and NOAA EMS Implementation Procedures. The audit was conducted November 3-21, 2008. Onsite audits were conducted at four NCCOS facilities in three locations and telephone audits were conducted for two other NCCOS facilities. The audit included all elements of the NOAA EMS and an extensive review of the existing NCCOS EMS as documented on the NCCOS EMS website (<http://coastalscience.noaa.gov/ems/welcome.html>) and interviews with a variety of personnel at all NCCOS facilities.

The results of the audit indicated that NCCOS operations are in conformance with all seventeen elements of the ISO 14001:2004(E) Standard. There were no non-conformances identified as critical that would prevent NCCOS from "declaring conformance" with E.O. 13423. All identified non-conformances are considered minor and are being addressed through the procedures in the NCCOS EMS Audit Program. A copy of the summary audit report which recommends self-certification of the NCCOS EMS is attached.



If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 301-713-3020 or the NCCOS Environmental Management System Coordinator, Bernie Gottholm at 301-713-3020.

Attachment

cc:

Nx1 - Corso

NCCOS Center Directors

N/SCI3 - Holderied

N/SCI4 - Wood

F -Oliver

F/SEC -Ponwith

F/SEC5 -Hohn

SECO -Verlaque

SECO - Trinh