



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 16 2006

THE ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: EPA's Commitment to Environmental Management Systems

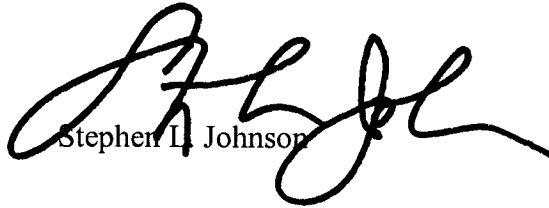
TO: Assistant Administrators
General Counsel
Inspector General
Chief Financial Officer
Associate Administrators
Regional Administrators

Attached is a copy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Commitment to the Integration and Utilization of Environmental Management Systems." While we have already implemented EMS at 34 facilities, this commitment is intended to further integrate the EMS framework into Agency processes to more effectively manage stewardship initiatives and environmental compliance requirements.

Executive Order 13148, "Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management," requires that each federal agency ensure that all necessary actions are taken to integrate environmental accountability into its daily activities. We have already included such "greening" requirements in EPA's 2003 – 2008 strategic plan. In Goal 5, Compliance and Environmental Stewardship, the Agency states its intention to not only reduce pollution and improve its own environmental stewardship practices, but also to lead by example in demonstrating how EPA serves as a good steward. I would like to highlight some of what we have done to lead by example. During mid-2006, EPA achieved a milestone as the first federal agency to purchase 100 percent of our electricity from green power sources. One-third of our Agency-wide fleet is now alternative fuel or other advanced technology vehicles. We have also saved more than three million gallons of water by making changes to our coolant systems and recycled more than 350,000 pounds of electronic equipment last year.

We can do more. The objectives identified in this commitment statement for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, as implemented through EPA's EMS, are integral to this effort. We plan to continue to reduce energy consumption through the use of energy efficient products, technologies and practices in our offices, and achieving a 5.4 percent reduction in our laboratories. We will also continue our water conservation efforts so that we achieve a 15 percent reduction in water usage by 2010 and increase employee participation in alternative transportation and mass transit programs to reduce employee vehicle miles to and from work. The Office of Administration and Resources Management will continue to guide EPA's internal EMS efforts and will soon issue detailed information on specific targets, metrics, reporting, and training.

I am convinced that the Agency's EMS activities provide the right framework for EPA to continue improving its environmental performance, sustaining its role as a leader in environmental accountability, and demonstrating its commitment to leading by example regarding environmental stewardship. I thank you for your support of this important effort.


Stephen L. Johnson

Attachment

**EPA's Commitment to the Integration and Utilization
of
Environmental Management Systems**

EPA's mission is to protect human health and safeguard the natural environment by setting standards for environmental protection, assisting others in reducing or preventing pollution, conducting environmental research and enforcing environmental protection standards in conjunction with other government agencies. In support of this mission, it is critical that we actively manage our operations and activities to prevent, and when necessary, address any potentially adverse environmental impacts they may cause.

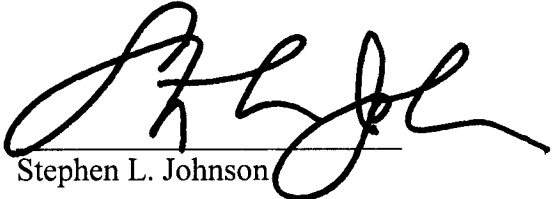
In 2002, EPA committed to being a leader in executing effective Environmental Management Systems (EMS) as a way of making decisions, managing our activities, and planning for the future. This commitment was delineated in "EPA's Environmental Management System Implementation Policy" of May 2002. EPA continues to move forward to integrate and utilize EMS as the framework for enhancing its environmental performance, reducing its environmental footprint to be sufficient to carry out the Agency's mission, and demonstrating its leadership in environmental stewardship.

At EPA, by employing robust and bold EMS, we commit to the goals of: preventing and reducing environmental impacts from Agency operations and activities; compliance with legal and applicable requirements at Agency facilities; and leading by example in the area of environmental stewardship. In order to achieve these goals we will set and strive to meet both facility level and Agencywide EMS objectives and targets. For calendar years 2006 and 2007, the Agencywide objectives encompass Energy Management, Vehicle Use and Transportation Programs, Paper Consumption, Affirmative Procurement, Chemical Management, Electronics Stewardship, Recycling, and Sustainable Design. These objectives and the supporting targets will serve as indicators of the Agency's environmental performance and will include metrics that reflect our commitment to natural resource conservation, environmental compliance, source reduction, pollution prevention and continual improvement of our operations.

Finally, we will demonstrate our commitment to continual improvement through performance and results driven monitoring, tracking and reporting, and making adjustments, as needed, to ensure the successful execution of our mission.

OCT 16 2006

Date


Stephen L. Johnson