

U.S. Department of Energy  
Environmental Management Systems Assistance Network (EMSAN) Prospectus  
April 11, 2007

Background -

The principal objective of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Order 450.1, *Environmental Protection Program* is to implement sound stewardship practices that are protective of the air, water, land, and other natural and cultural resources impacted by DOE operations. This objective must be accomplished by implementing Environmental Management Systems (EMSs) at DOE sites. DOE program offices were required to implement management system requirements of Order 450.1 for their sites by December 31, 2005.

New Executive Order (EO) 13423 "*Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management*," requires Federal agencies to use EMSs as the primary management approach for addressing the environmental aspects of internal operations and activities, including energy and transportation activities. The EO incorporates existing "environmental" activities, such as pollution prevention, green procurement, and recycling, and also expands the scope of EMS to include energy efficiency, renewable energy, greenhouse gas reductions, electronics stewardship, fleet management, and green buildings. EO 13423 also establishes new EMS requirements and goals, including an external audit prior to declaring an EMS to be in place and an ongoing schedule for independent audits. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is continuing to use its Environmental Scorecard to track and report on EMS progress every six months at major DOE sites. The OMB scorecard results in red-yellow-green scoring for both individual facilities and the Department as a whole.

The Office of Nuclear Safety and Environment (HS-20) is anticipating the need to revise DOE Order 450.1 and its supporting guidance to reflect some of these new requirements and goals. HS-20 is also receiving an increasing number of inquiries and requests for technical assistance on EMS implementation, progress reporting, and OMB's Environmental Stewardship Scorecard improvement issues from program and field elements. No DOE-wide federal forum currently exists for communicating and leveraging EMS policy, guidance, implementation initiatives, best practices, and assistance. Furthermore, instructions for implementing new EO 13423 call for the use of a cross-functional support team to expedite implementation of the EO and to provide the basis for collaboration with other agencies.

Purpose and Objectives -

In response to these needs, HS-20 is initiating an *Environmental Management Systems Assistance Network (EMSAN)*. The objective of EMSAN is to serve as the DOE principal focal point and cross functional support element for EMS coordination and information exchange. The purpose of EMSAN is to provide a DOE-wide forum for:

- Discussing existing EMS policy and guidance;
- Accepting comments and developing consensus on revisions to DOE Order 450.1 and supporting guidance, and newly-proposed guidance, in response to EO 13423;
- Identifying programmatic, site-specific, and cross-cutting EMS implementation challenges, issues, and assistance needs;
- Sharing information on EMS program best practices as models for other programs and sites;
- Creating training opportunities for EMS implementation;

- Raising awareness and participation in awards and recognition programs;
- Exchanging information on EMS performance reporting: procedures, data, and scorecards;
- Strengthening partnerships within DOE and helping coordinate DOE activities with other agencies; and
- Fostering continuous improvement in EMS implementation, including improved scores on OMB's Environmental Stewardship Scorecard and DOE Order 450.1 compliance within DOE operations.

#### Participation and Operation –

EMSAN will be coordinated by the Office of Nuclear Safety and Environmental Assistance (HS-22). Its membership will consist of headquarters and field program representatives who have EMS responsibilities as well as HS-22 and Office of Nuclear Safety and Environmental Policy (HS-21) representatives. Both federal and contractor representatives are welcome. Program and site offices are invited to identify EMS Points of Contact (POCs) and other representatives who can contribute to and benefit from participation. It is envisioned that EMSAN will communicate through monthly conference calls, in-person meetings (e.g., annually or bi-annually in conjunction with other significant sponsored events such as the OFEE Federal Environmental Symposium, or through a DOE program or site sponsor), and through e-mail and a Web page.

EMSAN participants will be asked to share best practices, participate in projects, and support peers who face similar EMS challenges. HS-22 will staff the network, facilitate conference calls, oversee technical assistance and support activities, and coordinate field and in-house training programs. EMSAN will promote partnerships and leverage resources and expertise, using innovative tools and approaches, to help program and field elements effect continuous improvement in EMS implementation.