DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Washington, DC 20585

June 28, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR   THE SECRETARY

FROM: TARA O'TOOLE, M.D., M.P.H.
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND HEALTH

SUBJECT: ACTION: **APPROVAL OF A DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY WORKER HEALTH AND SAFETY VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAM LOGO AND FLAG**

ISSUE: **The Department of Energy Voluntary Protection Program, patterned after the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Voluntary Protection Programs, is a visible symbol of our commitment to worker health and safety at Departmental facilities. One implementation activity remaining is formal authorization for flags to be awarded to sites in the program and permission to use a related logo. Use of a logo other than the official Department of Energy logo requires Secretarial approval. As part of our** 1993 **Department of Energy-wide safety conference, a breakout team chose three designs for award flags. Additional background information on the Voluntary Protection Program flag is in the Attachment.**

Also attached are examples of the STAR, MERIT, **and DEMONSTRATION flags, each of which contains the Department of Energy Voluntary Protection Program logo.**

RECOMMENDATION: **That you approve the attached flags, and use of the flag logo on participating site's letterheads and related promotional items.**
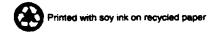
4 Attachments

APPROVE: _____

DISAPPROVE: _____

DATE: **July 1, 1994**

Concurrence: **Human** Resources/Durham/6/27/94

BACKGROUND

The Department's Voluntary Protection Program flag will follow a
tradition established by the Occupational Safety and Health
Administration.   They adopted the concept of providing a flag to
participants in their Voluntary Protection Program based on the Navy's
success with a similar concept during World War II. Private sector
employer participants in the Occupational Safety and Health
Administration's program have noted that displaying the flag is not a
trivial matter.   The flag not only visibly identifies companies who
are industry leaders for excellence in worker protection, but also
serves as a constant reminder of the focus the company must maintain
on the safety and health of its workers.   By building on this
tradition, the Department of Energy Voluntary Protection Program will
maintain its similarities to the Occupational Safety and Health
Administration program, and will receive many of the benefits of that
program's long-fought-for and hard-won credibility. The Department's
flag will serve to mark sites where management, labor, and the
Department are truly engaged in a new era of cooperation to promote
worker safety and health.

The Department of Energy Voluntary Protection Program calls for three
different flags to be awarded to sites depending on whether the site
is accepted under the STAR, MERIT, or DEMONSTRATION program.   STAR
program participants are those contractor sites that have demonstrated
excellence and leadership in protecting the safety and health of their
workers.   They have gone beyond simple compliance and have implemented
comprehensive, continuously improving programs intended to empower and
involve all employees in their safety and health program.   MERIT
program participants are those contractor sites that have also
demonstrated excellence in protecting the safety and health of their
workers, but are lacking complete implementation of one or more areas
required for STAR participation.   These sites are accepted into the
program with the understanding that areas of deficiency will be
corrected within a set timeframe, after which they will be reviewed
and are candidates for full-fledged STAR status. The DEMONSTRATION
program is for contractor sites that are operating at STAR quality,
but are in industries with which the Department has little experience.'
Under DEMONSTRATION, these sites are observed by the Department of
Energy for a set time period, at which time the Department will make a
determination as to whether it is necessary to modify STAR
requirements in order to accept the candidate site.

Department of Energy

VPP

STAR SITE

Department of Energy

VPP

MERIT SITE

Department of Energy

VPP

DEMONSTRATION