



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

August 28, 1995

Dear Participants in Cooperative Excellence:

A principal goal of the Department of Energy (DOE) under the leadership of Secretary Hazel O'Leary has been to incorporate the best safety and health practices of the private sector into the high hazard and high risk work at Department of Energy sites. The essence of those practices, that have paid off not only in terms of safety but also in terms of profit, are the following three tenets:

- 0 Work planning, hazard analysis and hazard control are the essence of an effective safety and health program
- 0 Managers must manage health and safety as an integral part of their day-to-day responsibilities;
- 0 Workers must be involved in identifying, analyzing and controlling hazards.

The Department of Energy Voluntary Protection Program (DOE-VPP) partnership with the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has become a critical part of that effort.

The DOE-VPP is also a world-class model of government and industry partnership. To date, more than a dozen operating contractors of major Department of Energy sites and laboratories have volunteered to work with private industry counterparts; their goal is to attain a level of accident prevention equal to the best in this country. Already we have seen significant benefits from the partnership. On average, VPP participant companies have approximately 63 percent fewer injuries and illnesses than non-participants.

The assistance of VPP member companies has been critical to DOE contractors seeking to apply for the DOE-VPP. Their willingness to open their facilities to DOE, to visit DOE facilities, and to share expertise in safety and health programs is a testament to the caliber and expertise of the people involved as well as their commitment to public service.

The Department of Energy is proud to be the first agency of the United States Government to be a member of the VPP Participants' Association. The DOE-VPP is a growing success, due in no small part to the involvement of VPP member companies. On behalf of Secretary O'Leary, I want to thank and commend you for your contributions to the continuing success of the DOE-VPP. May you have a productive and enjoyable conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tara O'Toole".

Tara O'Toole, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Secretary
Environment, Safety and Health

