

memorandum

DATE: March 3, 1994

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Technical Support Div:Kanth:3-4435

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAM

TO: Cognizant Secretarial Officers
DOE Operations Office Managers
DOE Area Office Managers

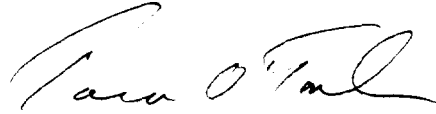
In her January 26, 1994, memorandum to the Cognizant Secretarial Officers and Operations Office Managers, Secretary O'Leary formally announced a new initiative, "The Department of Energy Voluntary Protection Program (DOE-VPP)," which is designed to recognize contractor sites that are providing excellent safety and health protection to their employees.

The Secretary's memorandum was preceded by the January 25, 1994, signing of an Interagency Agreement between DOE and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) initiating a cooperative exchange between the VPP for both agencies. A copy is included for your information (Attachment 1). Under the agreement, DOE and OSHA will initially share resources to conduct several DOE and private sector VPP site evaluations. The agreement further provides for OSHA's sanctioning of DOE-VPP sites, should eventual OSHA oversight of DOE facilities occur under pending congressional legislation and departmental initiatives.

The DOE-VPP is described in a three part document. *Part I, Program Elements*, provides the overall requirements of the VPP program. *Part II, Procedures Manual*, outlines the responsibilities of field and Headquarters offices. Parts I and II are for use by departmental and contractor personnel and advance copies are included with this memorandum (Attachment 2). *Part III, Application Guidelines*, which provides detailed instructions for the preparation, submission, and review of DOE-VPP applications, was distributed earlier to interested parties following a related seminar conducted at the DOE Safety Conference held last October in Chicago.

Operations Offices and Area Offices should begin accepting applications from prospective contractor DOE-VPP participants on March 28, 1994. Each Cognizant Secretarial Office, Operations Office, and Area Office is requested to designate a person to serve as their central point of contact (POC) for DOE-VPP activities. The name, telephone, and fax numbers for each of the POCs should be sent to Sanjeeva Kanth, EH-312, or faxed to 301-903-2582 by March 7, 1994. To assist the POCs and other prospective application or site evaluators, the Office of Environment, Safety and Health is sponsoring a "how-to" workshop on March 23-25, 1994, in the Washington, D.C., area. The POCs and other prospective application or site evaluators should attend this important workshop. Details on the workshop are provided in the accompanying announcement (Attachment 3).

If additional copies of any program documents are desired, or if you have questions regarding any aspect of the program, please contact Sanjeeva Kanth at 301-903-4516.



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

3 Attachments