



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

April 18, 2005

Dear Conference Participants:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association (VPPPA) 21st Annual Conference in Dallas, Texas. The Office of Environment, Safety and Health appreciates your continued dedication to excellence in safety and health. I am encouraged by your willingness to share strategies for strengthening safety and health efforts across our country.

In attending this VPPPA conference you will have an opportunity to network with others, share developments in the field of safety and health, discover new resources, and discuss best practices. Please take every opportunity to both learn and share with others. It is through such events that great advancements have occurred.

Those of us at the U. S. Department of Energy believe that the safety and health of our workforce is our highest priority. We believe that no one should ever think that a choice must be made between working safely and accomplishing a task. All tasks can be accomplished more effectively and efficiently by performing work safely. Accordingly, excellence in safety and health has been proven, time and again, to be a good business practice.

In recognition of this fact, the Department supports the Voluntary Protection Program, the VPPPA, and of course, this 21st VPPPA annual conference. I especially offer my commendation to the VPPPA and its members on their pursuit of excellence in safety and health. That noble pursuit, is precisely what President Bush was referring to in a statement he made to members of the Federal government when he said: *"...all of us should dedicate ourselves to great goals: We are not here to mark time, but to make progress, to achieve results, and to leave a record of excellence."*

With best wishes and hope for your continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Spitaleri Shaw".

John Spitaleri Shaw
Assistant Secretary for
Environment, Safety and Health

