

Deputy Administrator's Listening Post
January 26, 2006

The following topics were discussed at the January 26, Deputy Administrator's Listening Post:

1. Asset Management Program Status:
 - Background: Executive Order 13327 established accountability requirements for real property asset management enabling the agency to assess utilization, operations and maintenance costs, condition, and mission dependency to make decisions on disposition of facilities, renovation vs. replacement, etc.
 - Next steps: collection of data from the locations; data requirements will be provided by Facilities Division
 - Asset Management Website: More information is available on the AFM website under "AFM Looking to the Future," Stewardship of Assets link: <http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/realproperty/assetmgmt.htm>
2. Energy and Water Conservation Tips:
 - Facilities Division (FD) sends email tips to the DAD's, AOE's, and Safety CEP's.
 - A Share Point site has been established by FD to capture all information issued on the subject; will be accessible to LAO's as Share Point is rolled out in the Areas.
3. Status of Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) -12:
 - Revised procedures and a new form will be provided to issue ID's to new employees. HRD and the ARS Office of Homeland Security to brief REE Sr. Staff.
4. Deployment of HRD's Personnel Action Tracking System (PATS) [Web PATS]:
 - all locations will soon be able to view the status of their personnel actions on-line.
5. Authorized Departmental Officers Designated Representative (ADODR) Training Follow-up:
 - EAD finalizing work on 6 web-based modules for ADODR training that will be available on-line via AgLearn.
 - All ADODR's will be required to take the training to obtain their delegation of authority.
6. Status of Agreements Information Management System (AIMS):
 - Based on feedback received from participants at Ft. Collins ADO training sessions, EAD is working with OCIO to update AIMS prior to commencing the pilot.
 - The agency-wide pilot will begin in April.

7. Integrated Acquisition System (IAS):
 - ARS IAS Kickoff meeting was held 1/17/05.
 - Implementation will take 6 months; ARS goes live June '06.
 - The number of requisitioners may be limited due to the cost to the agency.
 - IAS website available on the AFM Homepage, "AFM Looking to the Future": <http://www.afm.ars.usda.gov/initiatives/IAS/>
8. Coming PCMS Update:
 - NFC will soon be updating PCMS to automatically deactivate purchase cards that have not been reconciled within 60 days.
 - Agency discretion to reactivate them.
9. Use of USDA's Corporate Property Automated Information System (CPAIS) for Personal Property Tracking:
 - Convert to CPAIS for personal property tracking by the end of FY-06.
 - Locations will be required to perform physical inventory certifications before data can be transitioned from PMIS/PROP to CPAIS.
10. Status of E-Travel:
 - For the last few weeks, Department and Agency representatives have been reviewing vendors for the replacement for the EDS contract.
 - Award of a new contract anticipated by April.
 - FMD has reformed the REE e-Travel Team with Linda Mooney, NAL, as the Chairperson.
 - New system may not be available to ARS until beginning of FY-07.
11. Status of CRIS Allocation Tracking Systems (CATS):
 - Improvements have been made to the software and performance of the system.
 - FMD to meet with the ABFO's and several LAO's to identify and prioritize additional modifications needed.
 - Plans also being made to move CATS to the ARIS (ORACLE) platform which may take at least 18 months; this would result in all financial management systems being on the ARIS platform.