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## **NETL Hometown Release:**

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Lilas Soukup, an Information Technology Specialist, at the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), is this year's recipient of the *FE Excellence in Environment, Security, Safety and Health (ESS&H) Award*.

The award was for Soukup's initiative in "Use of NETL's Small Purchasing System to Control Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) Purchases." The Standard Accounting and Reporting System (STARS)/Small Purchasing System (SPS) was modified so that if a purchase does not meet the energy (EPEAT) requirements, it is denied, and an alternate EPEAT-certified product is offered. Moreover, this modification is being adopted into the Strategic Integrated Procurement Enterprise System (STRIPES) and will soon be used throughout the Department of Energy (DOE).

NETL's ES&H division nominated Soukup after she had worked with them on reporting requirements. She then presented a synopsis of her work to a panel of 7 judges who finally selected her as this year's winner.

Soukup, a resident of South Park, PA, received an Associates Degree in Business Management and an IT Certificate from the Community College of Allegheny County (West Mifflin, PA) and from the Pennsylvania State University (McKeesport, PA).

NETL is one of the U.S. Department of Energy's national laboratories. NETL – "the ENERGY lab" – focuses on America's economic prosperity, which requires secure, reliable energy supplies at sustainable prices. Three overarching issues characterize the energy situation in the United States. They are energy affordability, supply security, and environmental quality. The Department of Energy's only government-owned, government-operated national lab, NETL is a research and technology center where these energy challenges converge and energy solutions emerge. NETL implements a broad spectrum of energy and environmental research and development programs through its own research staff and through funded research at other labs, universities, and industry that will return benefits for generations to come.