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Insight

June 1992

NEWS FOR, ABOUT, AND BY

EPA EMPLOYEES



President to Attend "Earth Summit" U.S. Prevails in Climate Treaty Language

by Dick Morgenstern, Acting Assistant Administrator, OPPE

President Bush is scheduled to arrive in Rio de Janeiro in mid-June to attend the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development, popularly known as the "Earth Summit." The President will

join more than 140 other heads of state to sign a series of non-binding treaties on pollution prevention and resource conservation. With over 8,000 participants expected, this event may well be the largest top-level political gathering in history, as well as the biggest United Nations conference.

The most complex and controversial negotiations leading up to the conference involved the drafting of the **global climate treaty**. The U.S. position was that the treaty should **limit greenhouse gas emissions without specific targets or timetables** and it should **require national action plans appropriate to each nation**. This position was agreed to last month after 15 months of negotiations.

The treaty, which President Bush called a "historic step," is subject to modification as more is learned about the extent and effects of global climate change. This provision has a precedent in the **Montreal Protocol**,



the international agreement limiting ozone-depleting substances, which was recently modified to reflect new information on the extent of ozone loss. Modifications to the global climate treaty would be based on the best available scientific, technical, social, and economic information. The U.S. and other developed countries have agreed to take the lead in implementing the treaty and in providing financial assistance for projects that would fulfill its specific terms.

In February 1991, the U.S. hosted the first negotiation session on the climate treaty in Chantilly, Virginia. Negotiations were concluded at the United Nations in New York early last month.

Update on 90-Day Moratorium and Review

Last January the Administration asked all Federal agencies to undertake a 90-day review of their regulations and programs. The purpose of this review was to speed up initiatives that would eliminate unnecessary regulatory burdens or promote economic growth. The Agency recently completed the *Report To The President On The 90-Day Review of Regulations*. In the report, EPA commits to 88 actions that will reduce the costs of complying with environmental regulations by \$4 to 8 billion per year without harming the environment. EPA will be implementing these actions over the coming months.

The Administration has extended the moratorium on certain new regulations for an additional 120 days.

Inside

Heads Up	2
In the News	3
1992 Awards Announced	4
Classifieds	5
On the Hill	6
TQM	7
Calendar	8

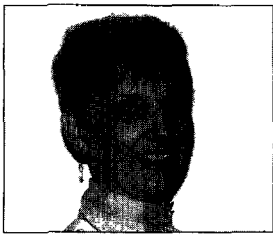


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EPA LABORATORIES

✓ *Environmental Research Lab, Duluth*—ERL-D is conducting and supporting research to determine how “invading” species brought into a new ecosystem, such as the zebra mussel in the Great Lakes, interact with vulnerable ecosystems and what effects this interaction produces. The research is in response to the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990. (Contact: **Dave Yount**, FTS-218-720-5752)

✓ *EPA, Cincinnati*—In 1989, EPA-Cinci established its prestigious “**Secretary of the Year**” Award. Sponsored by the local Secretarial Advisory Council, the honor includes a \$1,000 cash award. The 1992 winner is **Nancy Bauer** from the Environmental Criteria Assessment Office (ORD). (Contact: **Cindy Bultman**, SAC Chair, FTS-513-569-7905, STEVENS.ALAN)



Nancy Bauer

✓ *National Air and Radiation Environmental Lab, Montgomery*—Last month, representatives of 22 countries met at NAREL to continue their work on the **Global Environmental Radiation Monitoring (GERMON) Program**. GERMON was initiated in 1987 in response to the nuclear accident in Chernobyl. The meeting was sponsored by the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Pan American Health Organization, and EPA’s Office of International Activities and Office of Radiation Programs. (Contact: **Dr. Charles Petko**, FTS-205-270-3411)

✓ *EPA, Las Vegas*—The Treasury Department recently presented its first annual “Vanguard Award” to **Alan Lewis**, Director of EPA’s Financial Management Center in Las Vegas. For developing a cost-effective alternative to Treasury’s Letter of Credit payment system, Alan—along with **Eileen Brasier, Paula McElroy, Shelly Norland, Kechi Slocum, and Thomas Wilson**—also received Treasury’s Award for “Distinction in Financial Management Improvements,” which included a cash award. (Contact: **Bill English**, FTS-202-260-3317)

✓ *Atmospheric Research and Exposure Assessment Lab, RTP*—**Philadelphia** has been selected to be the first of six major metropolitan areas in which human exposure to **aerosol acidity** will be studied (the remaining areas have not yet been selected). Health assessment studies of respiratory illness and daily

death rates will also be conducted. The results of these studies, which began last month, could lead to a National Air Quality Standard for aerosol acidity. (Contact: **William Wilson**, FTS-919-541-2551, WILSON.WILLIAM)

EPA REGIONS

✓ *Region 3*—**Christine Chulick**, a Superfund Remedial Project Manager, is working on a project to **recycle hazardous waste**. This project is the first of its kind for Superfund in two ways: instead of transferring the waste off site, Region 3 is proposing to construct a recycling facility on site (Hometown, PA). And once recycled, the waste product would be sold to manufacturers. (Contact: **Christine Chulick**, FTS-215-597-8186)

✓ *Region 5*—EPA’s 850-ton vessel, **Lake Guardian**, is monitoring toxicants and nutrients in all five Great Lakes for the first time during its spring survey cruise. The vessel began its spring cruise in March and is scheduled to return to port by July 3. (Contact: **John Rapsys**, FTS-312-353-6693)

✓ *Region 6*—“**Evac-Chairs**” were recently installed and assigned to individual Assistance Monitors on each floor of the regional office. In an emergency, the chairs will help disabled employees evacuate the building. A five-minute demonstration video is available on request. (Contact: **Jerry Stokley**, FTS-214-655-6560)

✓ *Region 8*—Together with the Air Force, Region 8 has developed a training course that will be presented in every EPA region during FY 1992. Entitled “Air Force/EPA’s Team Approach to Environmental Clean Up and Risk Communication,” the course aims at educating employees on the technical, legal, and community involvement aspects of CERCLA (Superfund). (Contact: **Marilyn Null**, FTS-303-294-1141)

✓ *Region 10*—On June 5, **Idaho** is expected to become the only state in the Pacific Northwest to administer the “corrective action” program, the federally-mandated effort to clean up contamination at facilities that manage hazardous waste. According to Regional Administrator **Dana Rasmussen**, “Idaho should be proud. Only seven other states in the country have been given this authority.” (Contact: **Mark Masarik**, FTS-208-334-9506)

Cooling Our Communities

Tucson, Arizona has become the first community to sign up for the new, voluntary **Cool Communities Program** jointly sponsored by EPA and American Forests. The program is designed to encourage the planting of trees to shade buildings and the use of light colors to reflect sunlight. These actions will help reduce the "urban heat island effect," which can raise the temperatures of many cities 2 to 8 degrees F higher than their rural surroundings. "Urban heat islands" result in increased use of electricity for air conditioning and higher smog levels.

U.S. Department of Energy research has shown that planting trees and shrubs next to buildings can reduce summer air conditioning costs by 15 to 35 percent. Using light surface colors has the potential for even greater energy savings. In March, EPA, DOE, and the Electric Power Research Institute published a guidebook, "Cooling Our Communities,"

which describes the benefits of these measures and explains how they can be implemented.

EPA and American Forests will work with up to seven communities to implement the measures from the guidebook. In addition to Tucson, four other communities have already signed on: **Frederick**, Maryland, **Austin**, Texas, **Tulsa**, Oklahoma, and **Dade County**, Florida.

American Forests will work with city officials, utilities, local businesses, and citizen groups to voluntarily plant trees and lighten surfaces. The seven model communities will implement the measures over a five-year period and measure the energy savings and temperature reductions. Once the model program is in place about a year from now, Cool Communities will be expanded to other municipalities.

For more information, contact **Joel Smith**, OPPE, FTS-202-260-9655.

New Risk Assessment Policy Set by EPA's Risk Assessment Forum

by Fred Blosser, ORD

EPA's Risk Assessment Forum recently established a significant new policy for the Agency on **assessing human health risks from environmental exposure to chemicals**.

Based on an extensive scientific review, the Forum recommends **for the first time** that agency risk assessors **not use animal data under specific conditions** for trying to predict whether certain chemicals may pose a cancer hazard for humans.

The Forum's report is based on studies that found chemically-induced kidney tumors in **male rats**. Some of these tumors apparently resulted from a series of physiological processes that are not known to occur in the **female rat or any other animal species**. Consequently, these findings probably are not relevant for trying to determine whether such compounds pose a **human** cancer risk, according to the report.

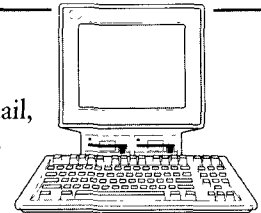
The Risk Assessment Forum is composed of experts from EPA who develop scientific analyses,

guidelines, and methodology for the Agency. The panel's reports are extensively peer-reviewed by scientists from other agencies, academia, scientific organizations, and private industry.

For copies of the report, "Alpha 2u-globulin: Association of Chemically Induced Renal Toxicity and Neoplasia in the Male Rat" (EPA/625/3-91/019F), please call the ORD Publications Office, FTS-513-569-7562.

Don't Forget!

If you want to read *EPA InSight* on Email, just type VTX when the Email menu is on your screen, press the Enter key, then type 2 and press Enter. Enjoy!



1992 Awards Announced



EPA was the first agency to establish this prestigious award, which was authorized by Congress in 1984. The purpose of the award is to recognize supervisors and managers whose vision and leadership skills have produced major results for the Agency. This year the Administrator selected 17 winners:

REGIONS

- Region 1 **Larry Brill**
Water Management Division
- Region 2 **Kevin Bricke**
Water Management Division
- Region 3 **Marcia Spink**
Air, Radiation and Toxics Division
- Region 5 **Elissa Speizman**
Planning and Management Division
- Region 8 **Melvorn McCottry**
Policy and Management Division
- Region 9 **Laura Yoshii**
Hazardous Waste Management Division
- Region 10 **Ronald Kreizenbeck**
Water Division

LABORATORY

Ann Arbor **Gay McGregor**
Certification Division

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..... **Kathleen Knox**
Office of Research and Development
..... **Jay Benforado**
..... **Candace Castillo**
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
..... **Arthur Weissman**
Office of Water **Ephraim King**

*For more information on this award, please contact: **Joe Sullivan**, OARM, FTS-202-260-3317.*



At the third annual Contract Management Awards ceremony last month, Deputy Administrator **Hank Habicht** presented "Outstanding Contract Management" Awards to:

Captain Gene Smith, OAR/RTP
For establishing a contracts infrastructure that would help EPA comply with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1991.

John Gibson, OARM/RTP
For outstanding performance in managing the Agency's mainframe systems contract and the management and application of the GSA Exchange/Sale procedures.

Vicki Bailey, OARM/HQ
For establishing a support group for technical contract managers and for outstanding performance as a project officer.

The Deputy Administrator also presented "Superior Contract Management" Awards to:

Nancy Barmakian, **Sharon Hayes**, and **Diane Kelley**, Region 1
For piloting and implementing the transition from FIT (Field Investigative Team) contracts to ARCS (Alternate Remedial Contracting Strategy) contracts.

Linda Garwood and **Debra Morey**, Region 7
For developing, refining, and implementing numerous contract management procedures in the ARCS program.

*For more information on this award, please contact **Susan Sawler**, OARM, FTS-202-260-9476.*

Management, Contracts, Pollution Prevention



Bill Reilly with project coordinators for the Administrator's Awards for Pollution Prevention, **Priscilla Flattery** and **Carol Singer**

For the second year in a row, this award program has been a hit with the public. Last year EPA received about 500 applications; this year, 840. On May 13, the Administrator announced 17 winners:



Environmental, Non-Profit, Community, and Trade Organizations

INFORM, Inc., New York, NY
North Carolina Alternative Energy Corporation
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, Alaska Center for the Environment, and Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Small and Large Business

Kryptonics, Inc., Boulder, CO
Statler Tissue Company, Augusta, ME
Chrysler Corporation, Highland Park, MI
IBM Corporation, San Jose, CA
Mead Packaging, Atlanta, GA
Eastman Chemical Company, Texas Eastman Division, Longview, TX

Local, State, and Federal Governments

Bourne, Plymouth, and Wareham Planning Boards, MA
County Sanitation Districts of Orange County, CA
Municipal Utilities, Osage, IA
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
North Carolina Department of Economic and Community Development
U.S. Air Force, Fairchild Air Force Base, WA
U.S. Navy, Warminster, PA

Educational Institution

Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, Blacksburg, VA

*For more information on these awards, please contact **Carol Singer**, OCEPA, FTS-202-260-4454.*

Classifieds

ROTATION/Full-Time

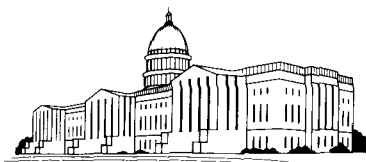
HIQ/OPPTS—Excellent temporary assignments available in support of **33/50 Program**. Employees with good analytical and “people” skills needed to encourage companies to make voluntary commitments in pollution prevention; facilitate flow of information on technical and institutional approaches to pollution prevention; and coordinate efforts with other EPA programs, Regions, states, and non-governmental organizations. Please call **Lee DePont**, FTS-202-260-9499.

RESOURCES/Outside EPA

Graduate Students—If you need research/studies done on any of the Agency's priority environmental and management issues, then the National Network for Environmental Management Studies (NNEMS) Program may be the answer. About 150 universities participate in this program. Please call **Ginger Wandless**, OCEPA, FTS-202-260-5960.

*To list notices of rotations and resources, please contact your Editorial Board Member (see last page) or Editor **Kym Burke**, FTS-202-260-0336, BURKE.KYM.*

On the Hill



by Robin Grove, OCLA

HEARINGS AND MARKUPS

RCRA

Senate — On May 20, the Environment and Public Works Committee (Chairman **Quentin Burdick**, D-ND) completed markup of RCRA and reported out a bill by a vote of 12-5. Senators **Chafee** (R-RI) and **Warner** (R-VA) voted for the bill, while registering reservations to some of its provisions. The major components of the bill include bans on interstate waste transport, recycling goals for industry, and an expansion of the Toxics Release Inventory.

Superfund

Senate — The Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Superfund (Chairman **Frank Lautenberg**, D-NJ) intends to hold a hearing in early June on Superfund liability issues. **Don Clay**,

Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response, will testify.

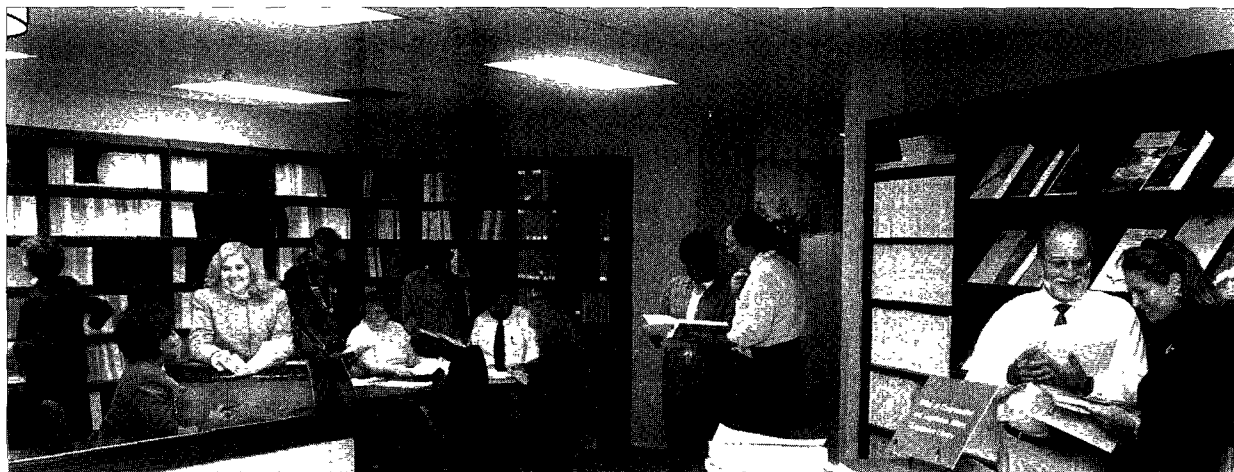
Dioxin

House — On June 10, the Government Operations Subcommittee on Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations (Chairman **Ted Weiss**, D-NY) will hold a hearing on dioxin concerning human health effects and a reassessment of risk. **William H. Farland**, Director of the Health and Environmental Assessment Office, and Dr. **Linda Birnbaum**, Director of the Environmental Toxicology Division, will testify.

Contract Management

House — In early July, the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations (Chairman **John Dingell**, D-MI) will hold a hearing on the final report of the Standing Committee on contract management. Administrator **Bill Reilly** has been requested to testify.

EPA's Legislative Library— Where Customer Service is No Act

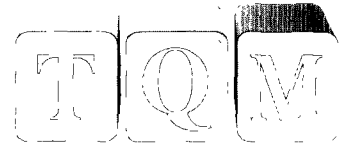


The **Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs** has relocated its Legislative Library to convenient new quarters. **Pat Quinn**, OCLA's Associate Administrator, is encouraging all employees to check it out! The staff provides a wide range of services that are available to employees Agency-wide:

- ✓ abstracts the *Congressional Record* each day Congress is in session and maintains a mailing list for these abstracts;
- ✓ collects and maintains **Congressional documents**,

- including reference materials and periodicals;
- ✓ develops lists and reports on the **status of pending legislation**;
- ✓ prepares **legislative histories**;
- ✓ using **Legi-Slate**, a powerful on-line database, tracks the status of current legislation.

The library is open Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM (EDT) and is located in room 2439M. If you have any questions, please call **Joan Platten** or **Pamela Abraham**, FTS-202-260-5425.



Spreading the Word About Quality

by Herb Sherrow, Region 6

In 1990, Region 6 became the first region to provide Total Quality Management (TQM) training and support to state employees involved in UST (Underground Storage Tanks) programs. State managers received awareness training and state workers received facilitator training so that they could "spread the word" about Total Quality principles. As a result of these efforts, **Louisiana** and **Oklahoma** now have their own success stories to tell...

Louisiana

Louisiana selected its UST Worker Certification Program as its first TQM project. This program certifies the qualifications of workers who install, repair, or close underground storage tanks. The state put a team together to develop a flow chart and procedures for the **desired** process, which incorporated customer requirements (the worker community). After analyzing the data collected, the team found a major conflict between the UST program and another state agency's responsibilities.

As a result, state UST regulations were revised, and on January 20, 1992, Louisiana had a new-and-improved UST Worker Certification Program.

Oklahoma

Oklahoma's TQM project was to improve the state's corrective action process for leaking underground storage tanks. The existing process simply took too long to complete. The biggest delays occurred in initiating clean ups and getting reimbursements from the state clean-up fund.

Using Total Quality tools, state officials worked with their customers (consultants) to identify solutions. Out of these brainstorming sessions came a consensus: **written guidelines** were needed to help both the state and its customers work more efficiently.

The staff then formed further teams to develop guidelines, which have now been in place for more than a year. Although they are well-established in the state's UST community, the guidelines continue to be improved by the users.

International News

EPA Leads the Way In Responding to Global Emergencies

by Karen Shanahan, OSWER

On April 22, a massive sewer line exploded in **Guadalajara, Mexico** killing almost 200 people. The Mexican National Water Commission requested assistance from the U.S., and we quickly responded by sending them an EPA/Coast Guard emergency response team. **Charles Gazda**, Region 6, led a five-member team to evaluate Guadalajara's emergency response system, assess groundwater contamination, and survey potential explosive conditions.

Similarly, in April, EPA sent a team to **Uzbekistan**, a new republic in the Commonwealth of Independent States (the former Soviet Union), to assess the damage resulting from a huge oil well fire. The inter-agency team, led by **Tony Jover**, OSWER, included experts from the **Centers for Disease Control** and the **Coast Guard National Strike Team**. According

to Tony, international emergency response is especially challenging for two reasons: "First of all, you don't have the home field advantage. Secondly, you have an opportunity to represent the U.S. in a mission that directly helps the environment."

In recent years, EPA has been involved in other response efforts such as the Persian Gulf oil fires, a Mozambique oil tanker spill, a Latvian chemical spill, and an oil spill off the coast of Morocco. Administrator **Bill Reilly** has described EPA's emergency response capability as "one of the great U.S. success stories in the environmental field."

Jim Makris, as director of EPA's Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office, coordinates international emergency responses with other EPA organizations and federal agencies.

Calendar

June

American Rivers Month

S	M	T	T	F	S	
	1 <i>Family Day Teachers' Day Congress made American Indians citizens, 1924</i>	2	3 ■ June 3-14 UNCFD "Earth Summit"	4 ■ June 4-5 Contract Management Training for All EPA Executives (Contact Tom Wyvill, OARM, FTS-202-260-3328)	5 <i>World Environment Day</i>	6
7	8	9 <i>Senior Citizens' Day</i>	10 ■ 1st Annual Open House HIERI/RIP	11 ■ EPA InSight Editorial Board Meeting	12	13
14  <i>Flag Day</i>	15 ■ June 15-July 31 Leave Bank Open Season	16	17 ■ June 17-19 National Integrated Pest Management Forum (Contact Steve Johnson, OPPTS, FTS-703-305-7410)	18	19 <i>Civil Rights Bill passed, 1964 8-hour day adopted in U.S., 1912</i>	20 ■ Ohio River Sweep
21 <i>Father's Day Summer's here!</i>	22 <i>Department of Justice created, 1820</i>	23 ■ June 23 "All Hands" Meeting with Bill Reilly, Region 7	24 ■ June 23-24 RA's Meeting with Bill Reilly, Region 7	25	26	27
28 ■ June 29-30 "Buy Recycled Products" Trade Fair & Showcase (Contact Mike O'Reilly, OARM, FTS-202-260-4928)	29 ■ June 29-July 1 EPA Ethics Conference (Contact Eudora Edwards, OGC, FTS-202-260-8070)	30	July 1	July 2 Copy deadline for August EPA InSight	July 3 <i>Federal Holiday Independence Day Observed</i>	4  <i>Independence Day</i>

DID YOU KNOW?...

That the fax machine was invented before the telephone? Created by Alexander Bain in 1842, the first fax machine was able to send both text and simple drawings. After the telegraph and telephone came along, the fax fell out of favor. In the 1920's, many police forces and news agencies started to use the fax for sending pictures, fingerprints, and text. By 1985, the fax was back, jack!



"You wouldn't be hearing squeaks and squawks if you'd just stop dialing fax numbers for phone numbers."

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