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EPA InSight

NOVEMBER 1992 EPA-175-N-92-009 NEWS FOR, ABOUT AND BY

EPA EMPLOYEES

Superfund Sets New Record For Cleanups In FY'92

FY'92 was a landmark year for Superfund cleanups. More sites on the National Priorities List were completed during that time than in the 11 previous years in the program's history.

From 1980, when Superfund was created, through FY'91, 63 NPL sites had been completed. When FY'92 came to a close, the total climbed to 149. This achievement exceeded by 15 percent the goal Administrator Bill Reilly set for completing 130 sites by the end of FY'92.

The pace at which all construction is being completed at NPL sites is now **one site per week**. Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response Don Clay said he expects this pace to continue for the foreseeable future. "At the rate we're going," Don predicted, "we are confident we'll reach the Administrator's goal of completing 200 sites by the end of FY'93 and 650 sites by the end of FY 2000."

Other accomplishments in FY'92:

- From those responsible for site problems, EPA obtained commitments of almost **\$1.5 billion** to pay for site work. That's a new record. FY'92 is also the third consecutive year that EPA surpassed the \$1 billion mark.
- With regard to **Superfund contracts**, program management costs decreased from nearly 30 percent in FY'90 to about 14 percent.
- The Agency also took a more active role in **matching clean-up needs with vendors of at least 150 innovative technologies**.



Don Clay
AA for OSWER

Employees Invited to Participate EPA To Pilot New Type of "Clothes Drive"



Linda Fisher
AA for OPPTS

On Monday, November 16 at Waterside Mall, we will be kicking off an exciting demonstration project—a "clothes drive" that's unlike any you've ever seen before.

Along with the Neighborhood Cleaners Association and the International Fabricare Institute, EPA's Design for the Environment Program (OPPTS) has arranged to have two local dry cleaners help collect clothes for a process that **does not use traditional dry-cleaning solvents**. This process, called **wet cleaning**, could substitute for some dry cleaning done in the U.S. at this time.

Wet cleaning relies on heat, steam, pressing, and biodegradable soaps to clean clothes. Increased use of wet cleaning would result in less exposure to chlorinated solvents.

How can you help make a difference? Between **November 16-December 16**, you may drop off and pick up your clothes at either **Senate Dry Cleaners in Waterside Mall** or **Elite Dry Cleaners in L'Enfant Plaza**. The cost of wet cleaning will be comparable to dry cleaning.

For this project to work, the dry cleaners will need to collect about **1,500 garments a week**. The results of this effort should help us to answer the following questions:

- Is wet cleaning cost effective?
- Are there ways to improve the wet cleaning process?

As we get closer to the November 16-December 16 project, please look for flyers giving you further details.

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Heads Up

A QUICK LOOK AT EPA NEWS AROUND THE NATION

EPA LABORATORIES

■ *Environmental Research Laboratory, Duluth, MN*—ERL-D is working with the **Fond du Lac Indian Reservation** and the **Center of American Indian and Minority Health** to develop American Indian student programs. The purpose of these programs is to stimulate interest in the sciences and to provide research opportunities for high school students and K-12 teachers. ERL-D also plans to develop a pre-collegiate program with the **Fond du Lac Community College**, one of only 27 tribal colleges in the U.S. (Contact: **Sherry Linder**, 218-780-5543.)

■ *Office of Administration and Resources Management, Cincinnati, OH*—**Bill Henderson**, OARM Director, EPA-Cinci, was recently appointed Chairman of the **Greater Cincinnati Federal Executive Board** for the 1992-93 term. At the annual FEB awards ceremony on September 22, Judge Arthur Spiegel administered the oath of office. Executives from 60 federal agencies serve on the Board, which represents more than 15,000 employees. (Contact: **Tish Newland**, 513-569-7913.)



Bill Henderson

■ *Stennis Space Center, MS*—More than two dozen employees from EPA's Environmental Chemistry Laboratory and EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program Office participated in the "Take Pride/Gulf-Wide Beach Cleanup" on September 19. Organized by **Anna Gaule**, Gulf Program Office, the clean-up drive took place on Horn Island, a barrier island off the Gulf of Mexico. The "catch of the day": 29 large bags of trash, a 6-foot long unbroken fluorescent bulb, and a 50-gallon gas tank from a car. (Contact: **Trudy Oliver**, ECL, 601-688-3217.)

■ *Environmental Research Laboratory, Athens, GA*—Four international scientists have been doing some interesting research at ERL-A since last year: **Marina Yereschukova**, Russia State Committee on Hydro-meteorology and Environmental Protection, *water quality modeling*; **Dr. Willie Peijnenburg**, National Institute of Public Health, the Netherlands, *redox reaction processes*; **Hans Bouwers**, Wageningen Agricultural University (graduate student), *redox reactions of the iron couple with smectite surfaces*; and **Dr. Gokhan Cayci**, University of Ankara, Turkey, *pesticide transport and modeling*. (Contact: **Bob Ryans**, 706-546-3306.)

■ *Stennis Space Center, MS*—More than two dozen employees from EPA's Environmental Chemistry Laboratory and EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program Office participated in the "Take Pride/Gulf-Wide Beach Cleanup" on September 19. Organized by **Anna Gaule**, Gulf Program Office, the clean-up drive took place on Horn Island, a barrier island off the Gulf of Mexico. The "catch of the day": 29 large bags of trash, a 6-foot long unbroken fluorescent bulb, and a 50-gallon gas tank from a car. (Contact: **Trudy Oliver**, ECL, 601-688-3217.)

EPA REGIONS

■ *Region 4*—The Nation's first governmentally sponsored conference on **environmental equity** was recently conducted by Region 4 and Clark

Atlanta University. **Dr. Kofi B. Bota**, Director, CAU's Center for Environmental Policy, Education, and Research, told the participants that conclusive determinations on the issue could not be made based on available data and that further research is necessary. **Pat Tobin**, Deputy Regional Administrator for Region 4, said he would look at current regional procedures to find opportunities for addressing equity concerns. (Contact: **Norm Black**, 404-347-3004.)

■ *Region 5*—Under a recent agreement with EPA, **Krilich Builders** of Oakbrook Terrace, IL, will pay \$185,000 for illegally filling more than nine acres of wetlands at two sites. For Region 5, this fine is an all-time high for this type of violation. The company has already restored one of the two sites (Lakemoor, IL); the other site (Oakbrook, IL) is expected to be restored shortly. In addition to the fine, Krilich Builders must bear full restoration costs. (Contact: **John Rapsys**, 312-886-6693.)

■ *Region 8*—Thanks to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge Act of 1992, **Connally Mears** will have his hands full. He is EPA's coordinator for the cleanup of the arsenal, an effort that may last until the year 2010. In the meantime, the public's access to the 27-square-mile site is limited to scheduled bus tours. (Contact: **Larry Diede**, 303-294-1977.)

■ *Region 10*—This region is the **first EPA office** to provide monthly subsidies (\$10) to employees who use mass transportation systems. Region 10 is also one of 110 government agencies and companies in the Seattle area to become part of "Pacesetters," an Economic Development Council program that recognizes local efforts to reduce the number of **single-occupant** vehicle commuters. "I'm very proud that we in Region 10 are part of this important effort," said Regional Administrator **Dana Rasmussen**. "To date, 313 out of 604 employees have signed up for the subsidy program." (Contact: **Robyn Meeker**, 206-553-8579.)



Dana Rasmussen

EPA HEADQUARTERS

■ *Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, AO*—Earlier this year, Administrator **Bill Reilly** approved OSDBU's **Mentor-Protege Program** within EPA. Now in effect, the program is intended to increase the participation of small disadvantaged businesses in EPA contracts. Taking the lead in this effort are OSWER and OAR. (Contact: **Margie Wilson**, 703-305-7305.)

In The News

EPA Joins With Major Computer Firms To Promote Energy-Efficient PCs

by Cathy Zoi, OAR

On October 14, EPA and **Intel Corporation**, America's leading supplier of computer chips, made a powerful announcement. Beginning with Intel's "Pentium" series of chips (popularly known as the "586 series"), Intel's breakthrough could save users as much as **\$1 billion** in annual electricity bills. These chips could also save enough electricity to power Vermont and New Hampshire for an entire year.

The announcement is a major milestone for EPA's **Energy Star Computers Program**, a partnership with leading computer manufacturers aimed at developing personal computers that power down, or "sleep," when not in use. Research indicates that most of the time the Nation's 30 million PCs are turned on, they are not being used. About 30-40 percent are left running at night and on weekends.

To help reduce this electricity consumption, EPA has signed Energy Star agreements with 12 leading computer manufacturers that together sell 40 percent of all desktop computers in the United States. They are: Acer; Apple Computer

Inc.; Compaq Computer Corp.; Digital Equipment Corp.; EMPaC; Hewlett-Packard Co.; Hyundai; IBM Corp.; NCR Corp.; Silicon Graphics; Smith-Corona Corp.; and Zenith Data Systems.

Later this year, EPA plans to incorporate **printers** into the Energy Star Program.

Administrator **Bill Reilly** called the announcement "a major new chapter in corporate-environmental history." **Bill Rosenberg**, Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, added, "At EPA alone, we could save the taxpayers up to \$400,000 in electricity costs—making it the most cost-effective environmental initiative in federal government history."

For more information about the Energy Star Program, please contact **Brian Johnson**, OAR, 202-233-9114.



Cathy Zoi



New EPA Interest Group Tackles "Infoglut" Problem

Do you sometimes feel you're drowning in information, but starved for knowledge? Do stacks of paper pile up in your in-box every week while you're left in the dark about many things that really matter in your job or your life?

Welcome to the Information Age!

Employee surveys indicate that this type of "information overload" is a growing problem at EPA. It interferes with clear communications within the Agency, causes too much paper to be used and discarded, and creates soaring printing and storage costs for the truckloads of documents that nobody has time to read.

To deal with information overload and other communications issues at EPA, **Bill Henderson**, OARM-Cincinnati; **Charlie Osolin**, OCEPA-Editorial Services; and **Daiva Balkus**, OIRM-IMSD, have formed an **Internal Communications and Publishing Interest**

Group (ICPIG). The group, which held its first meeting on October 21, is made up of communications, publishing, and information technology specialists who will meet regularly to discuss barriers to communication and share tips and ideas on improving EPA's internal communications and publishing practices. An important focus will be on finding ways to promote the use of paperless electronic communications, both within EPA and with external audiences.

Anyone interested in these issues is welcome. Meeting times and places, as well as the minutes of previous meetings and electronic "conversations" about ICPIG topics, will be posted on the EPA NEWS NET Bulletin Board in the ALL-IN-1 "electronic conferencing" system (type BB at any screen to access). Contact: **Kym Burke** (202-260-0336; Email: BURKE.KYM.)

Human Resources Update...

EPA Announces First Winners

Tribal Lands Environmental Science Scholarships

On September 30, EPA announced that 27 winners have been selected in the first national competition for **Tribal Lands Environmental Science Scholarships**. Eligible for the program are full-time college junior, senior, or graduate students who major in an environmental science. Applicants qualify on the basis of academic achievement, knowledge of Indian culture, commitment to improving the environment on Indian lands, relevant work experience, and character.

Each winner will receive \$4,000 to be used at a university of his or her choice for study in an environmental science curriculum during the 1992-93 academic year. To be eligible for a scholarship in the 1992-93 academic year, a winner must work next summer either in EPA or on an Indian reservation. To continue the scholarship, each winner will be re-evaluated annually on a competitive basis.

The awards were made possible by an EPA

grant of \$120,000 to the American Indian Science and Engineering Society of Boulder, CO. AISES has been awarding other scholarships to Indian students for the past eight years, has chapters on the campuses of many colleges and universities, conducts summer camps for Indian students, and helps Indian graduates find jobs.

EPA expects to make the grant program an annual event.

On November 6 in Crystal City, VA, scholarships will be officially awarded to this year's winners, who hail from the following states: **Arizona, California, Colorado, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin.**

For more information about these scholarships, please contact Arty Williams, OPPTS, 703-305-7371.

November Is **National American Indian Heritage Month**

During the month of **November**, EPA will observe **National American Indian Heritage Month**. We are also celebrating the "**Year of the American Indian**," proclaimed by President Bush on March 2 and authorized by Congress in Public Law 102-188.

At EPA Headquarters, employees are invited to the following activities scheduled for Thursday, November 12:

- Presentation by **Joalyn Archambault**, Director of American Indian Programs, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution.
- Native music and dancing performed by the **Little River Drum Pow Wow**.
- Food samplings provided by the **North American Indian Women's Association**.

Similar programs and activities are planned throughout the Agency. For more information, please contact your local Indian Programs Coordinator or **Mercedes Olivieri**, EPA's new National American Indian Employment Program Manager, 202-260-4569.

Environmental Quote Of the Month

"This we know: the earth does not belong to man: man belongs to the earth... Whatever befalls the earth, befalls the sons of the earth. Man did not weave the web of life: he is merely a strand in it."

—Chief Seathl, patriarch of the Duwamish and Squamish Indians; in a letter to Franklin Pierce, U.S. President, 1855.

New Agency Policy

EPA Streamlines Cash Award Payments

by Jack Shipley, Acting Director, Financial Management Division, OARM



In a move that represents good management, improved service, and source reduction, EPA has shifted to a more efficient method of paying cash awards. Starting on **October 27, 1992**, employees will receive approved cash awards through their biweekly pay **rather than through separate checks**. For those employees who have direct deposit—87 percent of us do Agencywide—the payment will go directly to their banks, along with their biweekly salary.

The benefits of this new policy are many. In FY 1991, for example, EPA issued 12,288 separate award checks. Laid end-to-end, that's over a mile of paper. The new system will not only save the Agency paper, but also hundreds of hours that we typically spend distributing checks. It's safer, too. Last year a number of award checks were misplaced, which meant additional hours of staff time were needed to reissue them.

Supervisors will get several days advance notice of

upcoming awards through a new Cash Awards Report. In this way, supervisors can plan appropriate events for recognizing award winners in their organizations. Also, employees won't have to wait for such events to be scheduled before receiving their awards.

Incidentally, in our survey of 11 Federal departments and agencies, we found that **eight** of them have already discontinued the practice of issuing separate award checks.

One of the people we surveyed said, "It just makes good sense to use a payroll system that works and is already in place." We agree—and we hope you do, too.

For more information about the new policy, please contact **Mike Vale**, FMD, 202-260-5657. Questions about EPA's payroll system should be directed to **Charles McLane**, FMD, 202-260-8124.

Important Dates For You To Know...

by Joe Sullivan and Sandy Williams, OHRM

Here are some dates to remember for November and December:

- **Annual Leave**—By **November 28**, your schedule for using excess annual leave (over 240 hours) must be approved *in writing* in order to support a later request for leave restoration. Such requests must meet stringent conditions, so make every effort to use your excess leave. Otherwise, please consider donating your excess leave to the EPA Leave Bank.
- **EPA Leave Bank**—**December 26** is the final day of the current "open season" for joining this program. Watch for special *Leave Bank Bulletins* that will tell you how to join and how to donate extra leave before the current leave year ends. Incidentally, **35 percent** of EPA's workforce has joined this program.
- **FY'92 Performance Appraisal**—By **November 30**, your FY'92 performance appraisal

should be completed, discussed with your immediate supervisor, and signed by your supervisor, the approving official for your organization, and you. A copy must be sent to your local Human Resources Office, so that it can be included in your Official Personnel File (an OPM requirement).

- **FY'93 Performance Agreement**—Also by **November 30**, your FY'93 performance agreement should be completed and discussed with your immediate supervisor, and signed by your supervisor, the approving official for your organization, and you.
- **EPA Annual Awards Ceremony**—On **December 2** at 10 AM, this year's awards ceremony will be held at the Sheraton Premiere Hotel in Tysons Corner, VA. As in prior years, shuttle bus service will be available at all EPA Headquarters locations.

Special Report Issued— IG: “Proliferation of EPA Newsletters Is Uncontrolled”

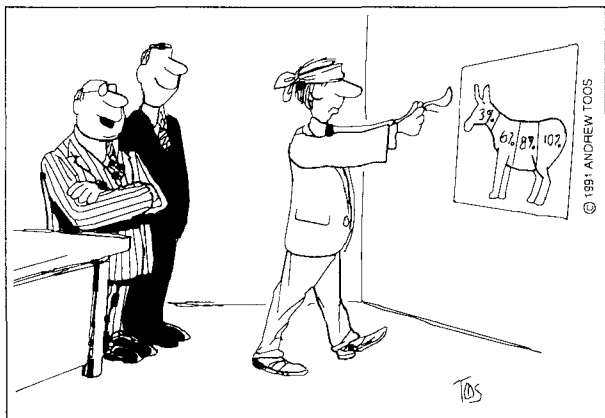
EPA's Office of the Inspector General recently released a **special review report** of printing and photocopying by EPA contractors (Report No. E6AMG2-13-2043-2400068). OIG undertook a “special review” of these activities in response to complaints it had received. (“Special reviews” are short-term studies that OIG conducts to identify issues for top management attention. They are not “audits,” which usually involve more detailed research and which must follow Government auditing standards.)

The report cites several Agency newsletters and other materials that were printed by contractors. The U.S. Joint Committee on Printing, through the Government Printing and Binding Regulations, strictly prohibits the inclusion of *printing* in Government contracts. OARM has the lead in implementing the report's recommendations in this area, which include training and contract reviews.

During its review of the printing issue, OIG raised other questions about EPA newsletters, such as production costs and duplication of information. As a result, the report includes the following recommendations for the **Office of Communications, Education, and Public Affairs**:

- Maintain a complete and current listing of all Agency newsletters.
- Review and approve existing newsletters and requests for additional newsletters to determine whether duplication exists, graphic standards are met, newsletters can be combined or eliminated, and costs are justified.
- Work with the HQ Printing Plant to develop procedures to ensure that the list of Agency newsletters is complete and OCEPA approval has been given prior to printing.
- Initiate the process to make the October 1991 Handbook, “Developing Products for the Public,” a part of the Agency directives system.

Within a few weeks, OCEPA will issue a proposed Agency directive (EPA Order) incorporating these recommendations for Agencywide comment. In the meantime, OCEPA invites all EPA Laboratories and Headquarters and Regional Offices to *review their own newsletters against the issues raised by OIG and take action, as necessary*. If you have any questions, please contact **Kym Burke**, OCEPA, 202-260-0336.



“Beats the hell out of performance reviews.”

Reprinted with permission of Wall Street Portfolio.

Environmental Tip Of The Month

—Stain Remover—

To remove **ballpoint ink**, saturate stain with **milk**.

Rub until stain disappears and launder according to label directions.

Cost of commercial spot remover:

19 cents per oz.

Cost of alternative:

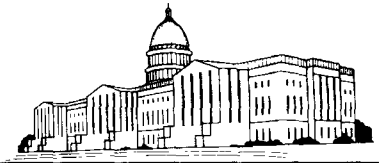
2 cents per oz.

Toxic chemicals avoided:

Petroleum distillates; chlorinated hydrocarbons

(Reprinted from *Clean and Green*, a guide to toxic-free households; published in 1992 by the City of Lake Forest Park, WA)

On The Hill



by Robin Grove, Director, Congressional Liaison Division, OCLA

The **102nd Congress** adjourned on October 9, passing a number of bills affecting EPA, including:

- A comprehensive energy bill.
- The Water Resources Development Act.
- A water reclamation bill (redirecting allocations of water in California for urban, agricultural, and environmental protection purposes).
- The Federal Facilities Compliance Act (waiving sovereign immunity for fines and penalties under RCRA).
- Legislation converting the Rocky Mountain arsenal to a wildlife refuge.
- A bill allowing shipments of radioactive waste to the Waste Isolation Pilot Project facility in New Mexico.
- EPA's FY'93 Appropriations Bill, which was signed into law on October 6.

On the other hand, Congress failed to reauthorize the **Clean Water Act** or **RCRA** (which, when amended in 1984, was authorized

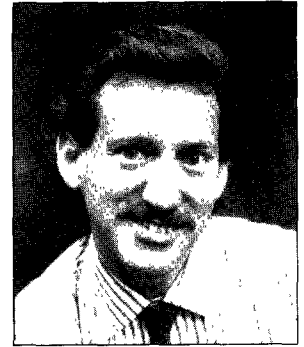
only through 1988). We expect that Congress will take up these important laws next year.

The **Senate** ratified three international environmental treaties dealing with:

- Climate change.
- International shipments of hazardous waste.
- Protection of the Antarctic environment.

Before the **103rd Congress** convenes on January 5, the **Senate** Democrats and Republicans will elect their respective leadership November 9-10. **House** members will meet the second week in December to elect their new leadership and hand out committee assignments.

House Democrats will also vote on a new set of rules that could substantially alter current House structure and procedures.



Robin Grove

Churn—Don't Burn What To Do With Falling Leaves

by Scott Voorhees, OAR, and Hope Pillsbury, OSWER

A magician stands in the yard of a suburban home, next to a large pile of leaves. When he snaps his fingers, the pile ignites spontaneously. "Neat trick, huh? But did you know that every time you burn leaves, you create air pollution and a health hazard?" Draping his cape over the leaves, he changes them into rich humus. "With a little work, you can compost leaves instead of burning them."

This is the message in a video public service announcement that OAR and OSWER recently produced together. As an alternative to burning, the PSA promotes **composting**, the practice of putting yard trimmings and other organic materials into a pile, providing adequate moisture, and turning the pile periodically. Microorganisms break down the yard trimmings into a decayed substance called **humus**, an effective nutrient when spread on gardens and lawns. More than **2,200 communities** in the United States have community-wide composting programs.

Leaf burning produces a number of air pollutants, including particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and hydrocarbons.

Breathing **particulate matter** can increase the chances of respiratory infection, reduce the volume of air inhaled, and impair the lungs' ability to use that air. Particulate matter can also trigger asthma attacks in some people.

Carbon monoxide is an invisible gas that is absorbed into the bloodstream, reducing the amount of oxygen red blood cells can absorb and supply to body tissues. Unborn children, newborn infants, smokers, the elderly, and persons with heart or chronic lung disease are especially susceptible to difficulties caused by carbon monoxide.



Hydrocarbons in leaf smoke can cause irritation of the eyes, nose, throat, and lungs.

For more information, please call us on 919-541-5348 (Scott) or 202-260-2797 (Hope).

Calendar

NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

November

1	2 Sadie Hawkins Day	3  Election Day	4	5	6 Tribal Lands Scholarship Ceremony	7 Lewis & Clark reached Pacific, 1805
8 1st College for Women, 1837	9 Health Benefits "Open Season" begins	10 Copy deadline for December EPA InSight	11 Federal Holiday: Veterans' Day	12 EPA InSight Editorial Board Meeting	13 Friday the 13th!	14
15	16 National Geography Awareness Week (Contact: Mary Lou Soscia , OW, 202-260-5410) OPPTS "Clothes Drive" begins	17 Pres. Youth Env. Awards Ceremony	18 Annual Procurement Training Conference (Contact: Jane Raspberry , OARM, 202-260-6039)	19	20	21 Combined Federal Campaign ends
22 	23	24	25 National Family Caregivers Week DRAs/DAAs Leadership Meeting on Quality	26 Federal Holiday: Thanksgiving	27	28 See Page 5
29	30 See Page 5	Dec 2-EPA Annual Awards Ceremony Dec 4-Copy deadline for January EPA InSight				

EPA Schedules Symposium On Gulf of Mexico

For the second time since 1990, EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program (OW) is sponsoring a major symposium. Located in Tarpon Springs, Florida, the event is set for **December 10-12** and is drawing many participants, especially from the five Gulf states (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas) and Mexico.

Highlights include:

- Deputy Administrator **Hank Habicht** as the keynote speaker.
- A **signing ceremony** in which federal and state officials agree to work towards achieving new environmental challenges for the Gulf of Mexico in the next five years.
- Concurrent sessions for **scientists, students, educators, and citizens.**
- Tours of research vessels operated by the **Florida Institute of Oceanography, U.S. Coast Guard, Florida Department of Natural Resources, and EPA.** (The name of EPA's research vessel is the *O.S.V. [Ocean Survey Vessel] Anderson.*)

The registration fee is \$65 after October 31. For more information about registration, please call 1-800-538-GULF or EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program Office, 601-688-3726.

EPA InSight

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