

EPA InSight

MARCH 1993

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NEWS FOR, ABOUT, AND BY

EPA EMPLOYEES

Administrator Fills Two Top Posts

EPA Administrator Carol Browner has named **Loretta Ucelli** as Associate Administrator for Communications, Education, and Public Affairs. Loretta is also serving as the Agency's chief spokesperson. Born in Staten Island, NY, Loretta began her career in communications after graduating from West Virginia University. Before she worked on **President Clinton's** transition team, Loretta held a number of senior positions in communications, including communications director for a pro-choice organization, vice president for public affairs for the National Association of Broadcasters, and director of communications for the American Federation of Government Employees. "Unlike the Administrator," Loretta told her employees recently, "I don't jog, bike, or knit. But one thing we do have in common: we're happy to be here!"

Administrator Browner has also announced her selection of **Bob Hickmott** as Associate Administrator for Congressional and Legislative Affairs. In this position, Bob serves as the principal advisor to the Administrator on all congressional and legislative matters. A summa cum laude graduate of Boston University, Bob received his law

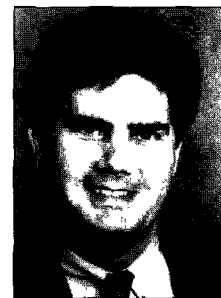
degree from Georgetown University. A native of Wilmington, Delaware, Bob was chief of staff for **former Senator Tim Wirth** (D-CO), political affairs director for Congoleum Corporation, and public affairs counsel for E.I. duPont Company.

As *EPA InSight* went to press, a number of the Administrator's key staff positions had been filled. In alphabetical order, the new employees are:

- **Cathy Chung**, Special Assistant
- **Chuck Fox**, Special Assistant
- **Ann Hardison**, Deputy Chief of Staff
- **Cheryl Holstrom**, Confidential Assistant
- **David Maloney**, Associate Deputy Administrator
- **Allison Rainey**, Special Assistant
- **Leigh Shein**, White House Liaison
- **Mike Vandenberg**, Special Assistant



Loretta Ucelli



Bob Hickmott

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Senator Glenn Convenes Hearing Will EPA Be Promoted To Cabinet Status?

On February 18, EPA Administrator Carol Browner testified before the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs on elevating the Agency to Cabinet status. "It is time," she said, "for a Department on the environment to function as a permanent and equal partner in the President's Cabinet."

The Committee Chairman, **Senator John Glenn** (D-OH), called for a prompt elevation of the Agency and said that his legislation, S.171, would establish a

Continued on page 6



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Heads Up

A QUICK LOOK AT EPA NEWS AROUND THE NATION

EPA HEADQUARTERS

■ **Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response** ◇ The Senior Executive Association Professional Development League recently honored **Rich Guimond**, Acting AA for OSWER. Rich was one of seven winners of the 1992 Executive Excellence Award for Executive Achievement. Only 50 executives have received this award since it was first presented in 1985—Rich is the first winner for EPA. Rear Admiral Guimond is an Assistant Surgeon General in the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) and the highest ranking PHS Officer in EPA. (Contact: **Scott McMurray**, 202-260-4527.)

■ **Office of Information Resources Management, OARM** ◇ **March 10** is EPA's **Computer Security Awareness Day**. From 9 AM to 4:45 PM that day, in the EPA Auditorium, government and private industry experts will discuss computer security issues affecting EPA. EPA employees are invited to attend—first come, first served. (Contact: **Don McGinnis**, 202-260-8671.)

■ **Office of the Comptroller, OARM** ◇ **Al Pesachowitz**, Acting Comptroller, sent a memo to all **Headquarters employees** dated January 22 about the new ATM Travel Advance Program in Headquarters. This program will enable Diners Club cardholders to obtain travel advances before and while they are in travel status through Citicorp's Automatic Teller Machines (ATM). A four percent transaction fee will be charged for each travel advance. (Contact: A designated **Program Office ATM Coordinator** or **Customer Assistance**, Room 3407M, 202-260-5116.)

■ **Office of Civil Rights** ◇ The Black Employment Advisory Council will launch its new "Distinguished Scientist Program" on **March 24** in the EPA Auditorium from 10 AM to noon. **Dr. Kenneth Olden**, Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in RTP, NC, will be the guest speaker. EPA employees are invited to attend—first come, first served. (Contact: **Darlene Watford**, 202-260-7891.)

EPA REGIONS

■ **Region 1** ◇ EPA recently took its first enforcement actions under a major Clean Air Act requirement (see *EPA InSight*, December 1992): small containers (fewer than 20 pounds) of motor vehicle air conditioning refrigerant containing stratospheric ozone-depleting substances (such as CFCs) may only be sold or distributed to technicians properly trained and certified to operate refrigerant recycling equipment. Region 1 inspectors, who discovered the violations during a series of unannounced inspections at 12 retail outlets, posed as customers. The proposed penalties ranged from \$7,000 to \$30,000. (Contact: **Frank McIntyre**, 617-565-9028.)

■ **Region 5** ◇ On January 10, Region 5 employee **Larry Wimbley** died of a heart attack. Larry was a supply clerk in the region's Facilities Management Branch who joined EPA almost 14 years ago. In "Inside Story," Region 5's employee newsletter, editor **John Rapsys** said, "Larry will be remembered by his friends at EPA as a quiet guy, quick with a smile, and

ready to lend a helping hand...(We) extend sincere condolences to his family, relatives, and friends." (Contact: **John Rapsys**, 312-886-6693.)



Renee Nicholas

■ **Region 10** ◇ Each month, Region 10's **Public Information Center (PIC)** answers an average of 3,000 telephone calls and distributes an average of almost 12,000 brochures. Originally, this operation began in November 1990 with only one person, Region 10 employee **Renee Nicholas**, answering a toll-free number. Now a staff of five uses computerized databases to locate subject

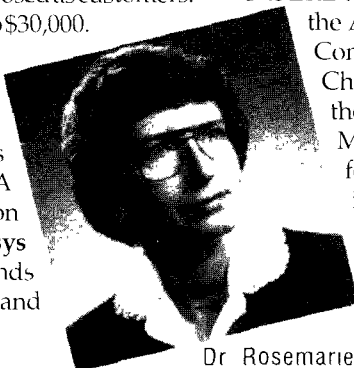
experts, order documents, and answer callers' questions on many environmental subjects. (Contact: **Renee Nicholas**, 206-553-1200.)

EPA LABORATORIES

■ **Environmental Monitoring Systems Laboratory, Cincinnati, OH** ◇ Scientists at EMSL are working on a model to predict the risks of soil contaminants to predatory mammals and birds. The first stage of their research involves earthworms and shrews. The **Least Shrew** is heavily exposed to soil contaminants and accumulates them through a diet of soil-dwelling invertebrates (e.g., earthworms). The shrew then serves as a source of contaminants to larger mammals and birds who prey on them. The research is expected to be completed by 1995. (Contact: **Dr. Bernard Daniel**, 513-569-7401.)

■ **Air and Energy Engineering Research Laboratory, Research Triangle Park, NC** ◇ The Thai Embassy recently requested urgent technical assistance in addressing an air pollution emergency in **Northern Thailand** (see *EPA InSight*, January 1993). The emergency is believed to be caused by 11 power plants burning lignite. AEERL is providing air pollution control technology expertise and leading a five-member Environmental Action Team in Thailand to assess the pollution problems. The team includes an epidemiologist from ORD; two monitoring specialists from the World Health Organization; and a control technology specialist from the Department of Energy. (Contact: **Richard Stern**, 919-541-2973.)

■ **Environmental Research Laboratory, Athens, GA** ◇ The ERL-A Director, **Dr. Rosemarie Russo**, is the new Chair of the Agency's Scientific and Technical Careers Advisory Committee. **Dr. Elizabeth Leovey** of OPPTS is Vice Chair. This committee was established in 1985 to advise the Administrator and the Office of Human Resources Management on ways to improve the quality of worklife for EPA's scientific and technical staff. Committee initiatives include a sabbatical program for non-SES employees and greater outreach to the Agency's scientific and technical employees. (Contact: **Bob Ryans**, 706-546-3306.)



Dr. Rosemarie Russo

Women's History Month At EPA

Up The Ladder With GLO

by Carol E. Glasgow, Ph.D., OPPTS

EPA's GLO Program is alive and well and gearing up for its 11th straight class (see below). What does GLO stand for? **Greater Leadership Opportunities.** That's what the program is designed to provide its graduates, who are primarily female and minority mid-level employees with supervisory potential.

Started in 1988, GLO is a year-long training program with several key elements:

- Each participant selects a **mentor**, usually a senior-level Agency employee, to give advice and support, as needed.
- Participants are strongly encouraged to develop **networking skills**, both within and outside the Agency.
- One of the most exciting opportunities offered by the program is a **rotation assignment** to another program office. From this experience, participants can acquire a broader understanding of the Agency's functions.
- Another popular feature for participants is "**shadowing**" a member of EPA's Senior Executive Service.
- Of course, there's **homework**, too. Participants must read at least three books on management, including "*Civil Service 2000*." At least two interviews with EPA executives are also required.

How do I know so much about GLO? I am a graduate of Class #9. Along with 27 other members of my class, I began my GLO training in November 1991. **Region 7** was the host region for our first week of training, which covered management-oriented subjects, such as *effective negotiations* and *cultural diversity*. We also broke into five "focus groups," each of which had six months to complete a project involving leadership.

The GLO Program is open to EPA employees Agencywide on a competitive basis. For more information, please contact **Laurie Remer**, National GLO Program Manager, OHRM, 202-260-4156.



Carol Glasgow
and Laurie Remer

March Is National Women's History Month

As recently as 1977, women's history was virtually unknown as a topic of study in the K-12 curriculum. To address this omission, the Education Task Force of the California Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women started a "Women's History Week" in 1977 for the county's schools. The week of March 8 was chosen to incorporate "International Women's Day," an established event, into the celebration.

In 1981, **Senator Orrin Hatch** (R-UT) and then-**Representative Barbara Mikulski** (D-MD), now a U.S. Senator, co-sponsored the first Joint Congressional Resolution for National Women's History Week. Gradually the idea spread across the country and gained support from many women's organizations, colleges and universities, and state departments of education. As a result, in 1987, the national celebration was expanded to the entire month of **March**.

The theme of this year's event is "**Discover A New World: Women's History.**" EPA is celebrating "National Women's History Month" throughout the Agency. For more information, please contact your local Federal Women's Program Manager.

Program Announcements from OARM...

- *Excerpt of memo from Ken Dawsey, Director, Office of Human Resources Management, to AAs, RAs, etc., dated January 27 - "We are pleased to announce the eleventh class of the Greater Leadership Opportunities (GLO) Program. This program will be hosted by **Region 1** in Boston from April 26-30, 1993.... The final nominations for GLO #11 must be submitted to the National GLO Program Manager, Laurie Remer, by Friday, March 26, 1993.... Over 27% of GLO graduates have been promoted to supervisory positions within EPA. Your personal commitment to the GLO participants from your organization is essential to the continued success of the program."*
- *Excerpt of memo from Clauce Gaylord, Office of Environmental Equity, to all EPA Managers and Supervisors, dated February 12 - "I am writing to invite your participation in the 1993 **Minority Environmental Summer Associate (MESA) Program** and the **Environmental Associate Program (EAP)**.... The (MESA participants) are drawn from a culturally diverse pool of over 200 students... nominated by their institutions based on academic achievement, extracurricular activities and stated interest in pursuing an environmental career. The deadline for project submission is **March 19, 1993**.... The EAP applicant pool includes all applicants to MESA, as well as hundreds of other (mostly majority) candidates. Since this program is available throughout the year, there is no deadline for project submissions for EAP. . If you have any questions about either of these programs, you can call. . Linda Smith (202-260-4604) or Renee Goins (202-260-5745)."*

All The News...

EPA Observes "National Poison Prevention Week"

March 21-27

by Darlene Hill, OPPTS

In 1991, an estimated 79,000 children in the United States were involved in common, household-related pesticide poisonings or exposures. In an effort to educate the public in preventing such incidents, the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) in OPPTS has joined forces with the National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW) Council to support "National Poison Prevention Week" March 21-27. This event has been observed for 32 consecutive years.

On March 16, the NPPW Council will hold a news conference at Georgetown University Hospital. Representing EPA will be Stephen Johnson of the Communications Branch in OPP. The news conference will stress three important messages:

- Use child-resistant packages properly because they can save lives.
- Keep medicines and household chemicals out of the reach of children.
- In case of poisoning, call the nearest poison control center immediately.

Since 1981, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) has required most residential pesticides to use the word "danger" or "warning" in child-resistant packaging. Such packaging is designed to prevent

Carol Browner To Address Conference Big Turnout Expected For "Watershed '93"

by Janet Pawlukiewicz, OW

Watershed '93 is a major national conference on "holistic watershed management" that will take place March 21-24 in Alexandria, VA.

EPA Administrator Carol Browner, Representative Gerry Studds (D-MA), and Michael Robinson, director of the National Zoo, are among the more than 200 speakers slated to address the conference. Watershed '93 is expected to draw 600-1,000 participants.

Other keynote speakers include nationally-known watershed specialists Warren Fairchild, formerly with the Water Resources Council, and John Cairns, Jr., of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. John Waters, chairman of the board, Tennessee Valley Authority, will also speak.

Field trips are included in the conference, with participants visiting nearby watershed management projects, including the Monocacy River, the Patuxent National Wildlife Research Center, the Potomac River Water Treatment Plant, and the Occoquan, Seneca Creek and Weems Creek watersheds.



Carol Browner

Watershed '93 will take to the airwaves on its final day, concluding with a live national satellite video conference broadcast in miniconferences throughout the country. Participants will observe a panel discussion on the future direction of watershed management from the federal, state, and local levels.

Major conference sponsors include EPA, the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Federal Highway Administration.

For more information, please call 202-833-8317.

most children under the age of five from becoming exposed to the pesticide, or at least delaying the exposure.

Over the last 30 years, the annual total of deaths among children under five from poisonings (including pesticides) has declined dramatically: from 450 in 1961 to 55 in 1989. The NPPW Council and EPA attribute the decline to:

- the effectiveness of child-resistant packaging;
- the availability of 100 poison centers in the United States; and
- the public's increased awareness of the danger of accidental poisons.

For more information, or copies of fact sheets, please contact the Communications Branch, Field Operations Division, OPP/OPPTS, 703-305-5214.

EPA And NOAA Develop Software **“CAMEO:” A Full Partner In Emergency Responses**

by Kathy Bishop, OSWER

Imagine getting a call that there's a chemical spill near an elementary school. Think of the questions you'd need to ask, such as... What chemicals are stored in that area? What type of safety gear do we need? What are the weather conditions there?

In 1988, EPA (through the **Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office**, or CEPPPO) and the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**, Department of Commerce, developed a software system to answer vital questions about emergencies. Called **CAMEO**, this system helps firefighters, emergency planners and responders, chemical safety managers, and others to handle chemical accidents.

Specifically, CAMEO contains the following:

- Response information on **more than 4,000 chemicals** commonly handled in the United States.
- **Mapping capability** to help identify and locate potential hazards to sensitive populations.
- An **air dispersion model** that can be used to evaluate spill scenarios and evacuation options for **700 airborne toxic chemicals**.
- Information on fire and explosion hazards, firefighting techniques, first aid, health effects, and spill cleanup procedures.

CAMEO is quickly becoming a major part of the United Nations effort to assist local governments worldwide with chemical preparedness, prevention, and response. Says CEPPPO Director **Jim Makris**, “What started out as a modest effort to help one U.S. city protect itself from emergencies has now become the most significant system of its type anywhere.”

Recently, EPA and NOAA jointly sponsored the third annual CAMEO workshop in Chicago. **More than 600** CAMEO users attended, including fire chiefs from major metropolitan cities and hazardous materials experts from companies such as **Kodak** and **Dow Chemical**.

For more information, please contact **Melanie Hoff**, CEPPPO/OSWER, 202-260-4514.



CAMEO has assisted in responding to many chemical accidents, such as this one

Printers To Examine Alternatives to Chemicals **EPA Presses On With “Design for the Environment”**

by Cathie Ramus, OPPTS

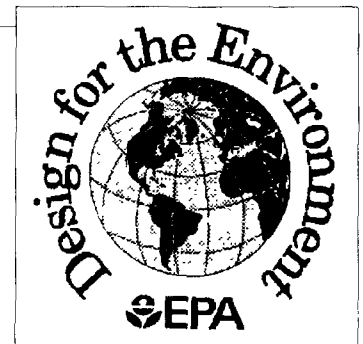
On **March 10 and 11** in Washington, D.C., EPA's “Design for the Environment” (DfE) will take another leap forward in addressing industry environmental problems—in this case, the printing industry. **More than 100** industry representatives, including printers and printing suppliers, will join EPA to look at substitutes for hazardous chemicals used in lithographic blanket washes, flexographic inks, and screen reclamation products.

The March meeting is intended to provide the printing industry with current available data on substitutes and to encourage the industry to look for additional substitutes and product formulations. Participants will also learn about the results of 18 printer focus groups that convened in nine cities over the past few months to identify, among other things, **the factors**

influencing their commitment to change chemicals in the printing process.

Performance testing of substitutes by printers is scheduled to begin in April. Later this year, EPA staff will incorporate the results of these tests into information materials for use in small- and medium-sized printing facilities. The materials are expected to cover performance and risk findings, as well as comparative cost data.

For more information about the March meeting or the DfE Printing Project, please contact the **Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse**, 202-260-1023; U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW (PM-211A), Washington, D.C. 20460.



Earth Day is April 22

Volunteers Needed!

All EPA Employees—Please Volunteer Your Energy and Talent On Earth Day. Contact Your Local Earth Day Coordinator If You'd Like To Volunteer For Activities Such As:

- Speaking at Area Schools
- Planting Trees
- Cleaning Up Neighborhoods
- Biking To Work
- Setting Up/Managing Exhibits
- And Many More!



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Will EPA Be Promoted?

from page 1

Bureau of Environmental Statistics within a "Department of the Environment," a commission to study the management and implementation of environmental laws and programs within EPA's jurisdiction, and an international energy conference. Introduced on January 21, S.171 is nearly identical to S.533, which was introduced by Senator Glenn and passed by the full Senate in 1991.

Senator Bill Roth (R-DE), the Committee's Ranking Minority Member, also spoke of the need to elevate EPA, but said "the issue for us is not whether to elevate EPA, but how." On February 17, Senator Roth introduced S.380, which he described as a "clean bill" that would create a "Department of Environmental Protection."

Administrator Browner told the Committee that the White House is discussing how best to reassign the responsibilities of the Council on Environmental Quality (which President Clinton has proposed to abolish).

As *EPA InSight* went to press, no further hearings had been scheduled in either the House or the Senate.

Editor's Note: Special thanks to Bob Hickmott and Anne Metcalf, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, and Katie Attwood, Office of Administration and Resources Management, for contributing to this article.

People and Progress

Quality Begins With Each Of Us

by Matt Coco, Region 10

We hear a lot about Quality Action Teams. But **quality improvement** begins with the empowerment of individual employees. Each of us brings a unique, first-hand perspective to the work we do. Here in Region 10, **Debbie Larsen** demonstrated this point beautifully...

As a Contracting Officer for Superfund, Debbie found it cumbersome to work with the nine-part Procurement Request Form (this form is used to purchase products or services under \$25,000). Information had to be typed manually on these forms, so any error on one copy automatically became nine errors! When Debbie consulted with her customers, she found out that eight of the nine copies were rarely, if ever, used. "So," Debbie asked herself, "if no one needs these copies, why produce them?"

She then worked with **Paul Steele** in our Comptroller Branch, who taught her how to use Office Forms Facilitator, a software program for preparing purchasing forms. Debbie then developed program guidance for her customers and trained them on how to use the new computerized purchase form.

The customers were delighted. Much of the information required on purchase forms could now be "saved" in a computer and uploaded, when needed, with a single key stroke. The processing time for completing purchase forms was cut by two-thirds. Debbie's achievement is also a good example of pollution prevention and paper reduction.

Region 10 is looking for new ways to improve its contracting operations. If you have any success stories in this area, please share them with **D. J. Lovelady**, Lead Contracting Officer, 206-553-1770.

Where There's Life ... There's Hope

by J. Pekar, AEERL, RTP, North Carolina

I was born with cataracts in both eyes. The world appeared as though I were looking through a window covered with oil. Form and color were barely perceptible.

In 1949, my family emigrated to the United States from the Ukraine. At first, my teachers thought I was retarded because of my poor eyesight and because I didn't speak English at the time. But I did fairly well at a school for the blind and then later in high school.

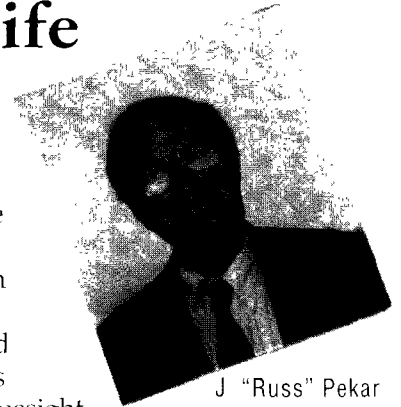
At the University of Pennsylvania, however, the chemistry and physics classes gave me trouble. I couldn't see the blackboard. So I split a pair of mini-binoculars and mounted them on a surgical headband. I looked like a "cyclops," but at least I could see better.

In 1976, I designed a new device that was less obtrusive but equally effective. It's a small flat box which runs across the top of the frame of a pair of glasses. To get a magnified view, the user need only tilt his/her head—similar to wearing trifocals. From concept to reality, the device took ten years to get on the market. Now I run a small company which manufactures and sells them.

In 1986, due to a sight-threatening disease (narrow angle glaucoma), I had eye surgery for the first time. Fortunately, the operation was successful and I have (with glasses) 20/40 vision.

At present, I'm 53 years old, have a Ph.D. in linguistics, and am a full-time Program Analyst at the Air and Energy Engineering Research Laboratory in Research Triangle Park.

Not giving up hope has helped me and, I hope, others.



J. "Russ" Pekar



A Thank You Note To EPA Employees

Thanks to each of you throughout the Agency who so generously supported me through the Leave Bank and who worked to ensure that I received the benefits of the Leave Bank Program. Also, thanks for providing me with a temporary detail to the Houston Laboratory. I have returned to work in Region 6 and I look forward to being in contact again with my friends in other regions and Headquarters.

Maria Daniel, Region 6
Hazardous Waste
Management Division

Calendar Women's History Month 1993

MARCH

7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				OPP/Printers Conference (see p. 5)		
Girl Scout Week						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	1st Presidential press conference, 1913	(see p. 4)	Acid Rain Conference (703-339-2464)		Deadline for MESA Program projects (see p. 3)	First day of Spring! 
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
National Poison Prevention Week (see p. 4)						
Watershed '93 Conference (see p. 4)						
28	29	30	31	March 10 EPA Computer Security Awareness Day (see p. 2) March 11 EPA InSight Editorial Board Teleconference April 2 Copy deadline for May EPA InSight		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	D C gets vote for president, 1961	Alaska purchased, 1867	Daylight Savings Time began, 1918 			

Taking The High Road To Environmental Awareness

On April 12, four EPA employees will begin a 650-mile, pre-Earth Day bike tour from EPA Headquarters to Cookeville, Tennessee. **Ted Coopwood**, **Greg Marshall**, and **Brian Nester** from the Office of Water, and **Jim Lazorchak**, EMSL/Cincinnati, are gearing up for this first-time event. Along the way, the foursome plans to stop in cities like Charlottesville, Virginia, and Knoxville, Tennessee, to promote environmental awareness. How? By talking with students about their responsibilities for protecting the earth's resources.

At the end of the ride, on April 17, Ted, Greg, Brian, and Jim will speak at an environmental fair. Expected to attend are high school students, local county officials, environmental groups, community leaders, corporate sponsors, and local citizens. The fair is being sponsored by, among others, the **Tennessee Technological University**.

The four employees are also trying to raise money for the **Putnam County (TN) Clean Commission**. This Commission is dedicated to preserving and restoring environmental resources through strong volunteer and environmental awareness programs.

Sponsors include **Washington Gas**, which is organizing a "kick-off" event that **Administrator Browner** will attend, and **Performance Bicycles**, which is providing the bikers with equipment and riding apparel.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to volunteer some time to these worthy causes, please contact **Ted** (202-260-8327), **Greg** (202-260-7745), **Brian** (202-260-8317), or **Jim** (513-533-8114).

EPA InSight

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