



Public Information Center

PIC FOCUS

Premiere
Issue!

Public Access to Environmental Information Through EPA's Public Information Center (PIC)

PIC's New Home Will Be a Public Window to EPA

During the first quarter of FY 1992, the Public Information Center (PIC) will be relocating to new quarters. PIC will move from its current site in the Waterside Mall basement to space occupied by the former National Bank of Washington on the street level.

The new PIC will have several features intended to enhance public access. A 35-seat auditorium will be available for showing films and slide presentations, as well as for lectures and meetings. EPA program offices will have the opportunity to heighten their public accessibility by exhibiting publications, photographs, and three-dimensional materials that can be used to convey EPA activities. In addition, workstations will be available for the use and demonstration of environmental databases.

Because PIC is the only part of EPA seen by many citizens, businesses, students, and community groups, it strives to represent all Agency

programs. PIC attempts to help fulfill a key objective of the Agency's Strategic Direction, by "Conveying clear, accurate, and timely information to the public, and incorporating information from the public in EPA activities." In its new offices, the Public Information Center will be in a better position to promote interaction with the public. PIC will also continue its extensive telephone and letter response and referral functions.



"A Window to EPA"

OIRM welcomes ideas and materials for inclusion in PIC's audiovisual displays. Please contact Brigid Rapp, Chief of OIRM's Information Access Branch, at FTS 260-8710 with suggestions.

What is PIC FOCUS?

This is the first issue of **PIC FOCUS**, a monthly update distributed by the Public Information Center (PIC).

This bulletin will be distributed to Headquarters staff, libraries, Information Resource Managers, and contacts in the Office of Communications and Public Affairs.

PIC FOCUS will highlight some of the valuable services that PIC offers to EPA staff, including:

- Providing materials for display and distribution at conferences
- Assisting program offices with assessment of public demand for information on key topics
- Coordinating distribution and promotion for EPA events, such as Earth Day and National Drinking Water Week.

The **PIC FOCUS** will also alert EPA staff about upcoming events and news about the Public Information Center. To make comments about PIC or this bulletin, please call Kevin Rosseel, LAI/PIC Director, at FTS 260-1755.



**INFORMATION
ACCESS BRANCH
FTS/CML 260-8710**

**Clearinghouses
Databases
Dockets**

**Libraries
Publications
Records**

RECYCLE YOUR PUBLICATIONS TODAY!

We've been doing a great job recycling all kinds of material: scrap paper, bottles, cans, laser printer cartridges. Does your office also recycle EPA documents? If so, please contact the Public Information Center at 260-7751. We may be able to 'recycle' your general-interest publications to others who need or want them. Thank you!



[This column will be a regular feature, providing details about OIRM's National Public Access Program].

ACCESS EPA is a series of directories describing key environmental resources. The titles include:

- Public Information Tools
- Major EPA Dockets
- Clearinghouses and Hotlines
- Major EPA Environmental Databases
- Library and Information Services
- State Environmental Libraries
- Records Management Programs.

A consolidated volume is also published. All directories are updated annually.

ACCESS EPA are available to the public from both the National Technical Information Service at (800) 553-NTIS (order number PB91-151563) or the Government Printing Office at (202) 783-3238 (order number 055-000-00378-5).

If you would like PIC's assistance in distributing general-interest publications, please call Alison Cook, LAI/PIC Manager, at FTS 260-1752.

PIC SUCCESS STORY: **PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS**

Several months ago, OARM's Office of the Comptroller (OC) contacted the Public Information Center to discuss PIC services. OC had published several documents outlining EPA's Public-Private Partnerships (P3) Initiative.

Since the initial contact between these offices, PIC has assisted the P3 staff by distributing thousands of copies of such EPA best-sellers as Paying for Progress, A Preliminary Analysis of the Public Costs of Environmental Protection, and Public-Private Partnerships for Environmental Facilities.

In addition, PIC alerted OC staff to the availability of document storage space at EPA's Publications Clearinghouse in Cincinnati. From this Clearinghouse, PIC distributes bulk orders for program offices. In several instances, PIC has sent publications to OC staff attending P3 conferences, making travel easier while spreading the environmental message.

If you'd like to learn how PIC can help you create your own success story, please call Kevin Rosseel at 260-1755.



Information at
your fingertips...
PIC