

# EMS Update

ISO 14001 at EPA's  
Environmental Science Center

July 30, 2002  
Number 02



## ESC Self-Declares ISO 14001 Conformance

**Congratulations ! We're There !**

**A**fter successful completion of an internal audit and a management review meeting, the ESC can now claim completion of the environmental management system (EMS) and conformance to the international standard ISO 14001. Following two years of diligent work by the EMS Implementation Team with assistance from ESC staff and managers, the EMS plan-do-check-act cycle has been completed. This allows us to "self-declare" that we have implemented the system as we prepare for an independent third-party audit. The result of the third-party audit, which begins August 7, will be issuance of a formal certificate of registration around the end of September this year.

***"..in my judgement, the EMS recently implemented at the ESC fully conforms to the requirements of the ISO 14001 standard."***

Joe Cascio in letter to the ESC  
July 18, 2002

This significant achievement will be recognized by many both inside and outside EPA. For sake of perspective, consider the following data: there are approximately 11,500 federal facilities in the US and, according to

John Howard the newly appointed Federal Environmental Executive, only 25 (or so) of these facilities have implemented ISO 14001 EMSs. Even fewer have had their EMSs tested through third party registration. This puts the ESC in an elite group (we already knew that!) and positions ESC staff to help other federal facilities implement EMSs.

### **Other EMS News ...**

- The Phase 1 registration audit will be conducted August 7 and 8 by Quality Systems Registrars of Herndon VA. Phase 2 will be September 4 and 5.
- EMS refresher information can be found at the newly redesigned EMS web page [www.epa.gov/region3/esc/ems.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region3/esc/ems.htm) Reviewing the New Employee Fact Sheet is a great way to refresh on our EMS.
- We've launched one process improvement workgroup (Paper) and more are coming soon - please contribute your talent and energy !