



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 24 2011

DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Requesting Continuing Support for the National Environmental Information Exchange Network and Incorporation into the FY 2012 State-Grant Work Plans

TO: Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

Gina McCarthy, Assistant Administrator
Office of Air and Radiation

Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Nancy Stoner, Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Water

Regional Administrators

I am requesting your assistance for continued communication about the use of the National Environmental Information Exchange Network and incorporating specific commitments for the exchange network into the state-grant work plans.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, states, tribes and territories will be able to exchange environmental data securely over the Internet using the exchange network. The exchange network facilitates a cohesive and efficient approach to electronic information sharing and the integration and analysis of environmental data, which will make it easier to obtain timely and accurate information that affects our environmental and human-health decision making. Administrator Lisa P. Jackson supports the goal of fully implementing data reporting for the agency's priority national systems by the end of 2012. In her July 7, 2009, memorandum, titled *Achieving the Promise of the National Environmental Information Exchange Network*, Administrator Jackson expressed her commitment to having the exchange network become the preferred mechanism for the EPA, states, tribes and other partners to share and exchange data.

Your commitment and support to date has played an integral role in fulfilling our goal. Last year, the Office of Environmental Information collaborated with the national program managers to

develop language about the use of the exchange network in the *FY 2011 National Program Manager Guidance*. OEI is continuing this collaborative effort through the development of the *FY 2012 National Program Manager Guidance*, which will include specific commitments for using the exchange network for reporting data to the 10 agency priority data systems, a date for phasing out legacy methods for reporting data, and a statement that reporting data using the exchange network for operations and maintenance, for example, is an eligible activity for funding under categorical program grants. I am asking for your continued support for this effort. Assistant administrators should communicate these exchange-network requirements for the *FY 2012 National Program Manager Guidance* to their senior managers, including program office directors and deputies. The regional administrators should coordinate with their deputy and assistant regional administrators and the regional program offices to ensure that state-grant work plans reflect the commitment to use the exchange network.

We have already made significant progress toward achieving the goal of the exchange network. Its ultimate success will greatly depend on the continued effort and commitment of OEI, the program offices at headquarters, the regions and the EPA's partners. I want to thank you in advance for your support and assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bob Perciasepe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B".

Bob Perciasepe

cc: Administrator
Deputy Regional Administrators
Assistant Regional Administrators
Headquarters Senior Information Officials