

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



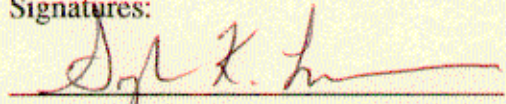
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency –Veterans Health Administration Compliance Assistance Commitment Statement

This document defines the commitments of the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to mutually cooperate on the projects described below. It is the mutual goal of the two parties that these projects will result in improvements to the environmental compliance status of VHA facilities around the Nation. The parties mutually agree to:

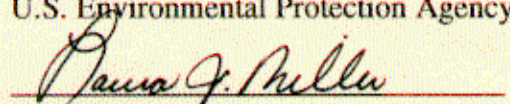
1. Enter into negotiations to develop a mutually satisfactory agreement that addresses: (a) VHA's conducting environmental compliance audits, and (b) the process to be used by VHA for the self-disclosure of violations of environmental requirements discovered by VHA through self-audits so as to properly invoke the benefits available under EPA's *Incentives for Self-Policing: Discovery, Disclosure, Correction and Prevention of Violations* policy, 65 Federal Register 19618 (issued April 11, 2000, effective May 11, 2000) (a/k/a Audit Policy).
2. EPA will conduct Environmental Management Reviews (EMRs) at VHA facilities mutually agreed upon by VHA and EPA. VHA will work with EPA to determine VHA facilities where EMRs will be conducted.
3. VHA will update the environmental compliance auditing protocols in its Safety Automated Facility Evaluation (SAFE) program and/or use alternative environmental auditing protocols to conduct environmental audits.
4. EPA will advise VHA on developing environmental training materials. The first priority is for training of Associate Directors of VA Medical Centers. The purpose of the training is to raise the awareness of Associate Directors and improve their knowledge of environmental requirements applicable to VHA facilities. EPA will also assist VHA with technical expertise or other mutually agreed upon training priorities.

5. OECA representatives shall attend, as mutually agreed, VHA environmental meetings, conferences and training sessions to (1) raise awareness of environmental requirements and (2) mutually exchange information and ideas.

Signatures:


Sylvia K. Lowrance
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Enforcement and
Compliance Assurance
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

6/10/02
Date


Laura J. Miller
Deputy Under Secretary for Health for
Operations and Management
Veterans Health Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs

8/1/02
Date