

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



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

MAR 23 2001

THE ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Advancing EPA-State Performance Partnerships

TO: Assistant Administrators
General Counsel
Inspector General
Chief Financial Officer
Associate Administrators
Regional Administrators
Office Directors

Improving how EPA and the States work together to solve environmental problems is one of the most important ways to meet the nation's goals to protect public health and the environment. Several years ago, we created performance partnerships to focus on environmental results and make more effective use of our collective resources. Today, the framework and principles of the National Environmental Performance Partnership System (NEPPS) provide a solid foundation, and we can already see many benefits. EPA and many States have negotiated agreements to set priorities, direct resources where they are needed most, create work-sharing arrangements, and improve performance measures. Our goal now is to achieve the full potential of performance partnerships.

Within the limits of our statutory and regulatory authorities, we want to provide the States with as much flexibility as they need to achieve the greatest environmental results. We want to encourage all States to take advantage of the opportunities available through negotiation of performance partnership agreements (PPAs) and grants (PPGs). As soon as possible, each Regional Administrator should meet with State leaders to:

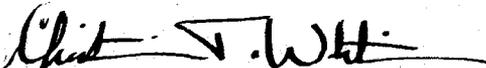
- find out how we can make performance partnerships more attractive to the States;
- highlight the flexibility that is available; and
- encourage testing of new measures of program performance.

To help both the Regions and States in their PPA and PPG negotiations, each Assistant Administrator (AA) should prepare a summary of the flexibility already in current program guidance and identify additional areas where flexibility can be provided to States. Special emphasis should be paid to identifying areas where measures of performance could be improved by innovation. Each AA should also identify a lead contact who the Regions and the States can call regarding other flexibility proposals and establish procedures for responding quickly.

This is an ambitious agenda, but the success of public health and environmental protection programs is dependent on an even stronger partnerships between EPA and the States. It will take all of our leadership to break down the barriers.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss next steps in more detail, please contact Ed Krenik, Associate Administrator Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (OCIR) at 202-564-5200 or Michelle Hiller, Acting Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Relations of (OCIR), at 202-564-3702.

I look forward to hearing about the results of your efforts.



Christine Todd Whitman