

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

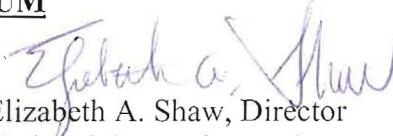


UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 16 2009

OFFICE OF
POLICY, ECONOMICS
AND INNOVATION

MEMORANDUM

FROM: 
Elizabeth A. Shaw, Director
National Center for Environmental Innovation

TO: Renee Page, Director
Office of Administration
Office of Administration and Resources Management

SUBJECT: Close-out of Project XL and Continuing Success of Labs 21 Project

At this time, we wish to extend our thanks to the Office of Administration and Resources Management (OARM) for your ongoing leadership in your joint efforts with the US Department of Energy to promote successful energy efficiency and water efficiencies in the nation's laboratories through the *Labs21* Program. The goal of *Labs21* is to improve laboratory energy and water efficiency, encourage the use of renewable energy sources, and promote environmental stewardship in U.S. laboratories.

On September 7, 2000, OARM and OPEI signed the Final Project Agreement (FPA) (<http://www.epa.gov/projectxl/labs21/fpa.pdf>) which brought the *Labs21* program into the US EPA's Project eXcellence and Leadership (Project XL) program, in order to offer laboratories regulatory or policy flexibility through a customized XL review process as a means to enable laboratories to maximize environmental performance. Under Project XL, EPA offered flexibility in its regulations, policies, procedures, processes and guidance as well as other benefits to encourage companies, communities and other project sponsors to develop and test "cleaner, cheaper and smarter" alternatives to the current system.

Flexibility incentives were already available to laboratories who undertook XL projects through the existing XL program however, through the *Labs21* XL project EPA offered a streamlined application and selection process for *Labs21* participants.

The *Labs21* program was to be part of the Project XL piloting program for five (5) years until September 2005. During the operation of the program, *Labs21* has taken on a life of its own and has continued beyond the project duration identified in the original FPA (<http://www.labs21century.gov/>), with over sixty partners now participating in the program.

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As we complete our process of closing out the Project XL program with the completion of the individual projects, we wanted to take the opportunity to recognize OARM's role and the continuation of Labs21 beyond its test period within Project XL. At this time we would like to officially close out the record on the Project XL phase of the *Labs21* project.

In closing, thank you again for your participation in Project XL and your successful demonstration of excellence and leadership in public health and environmental protection. If we can be of assistance to you in the future, please do not hesitate to contact Gerald Filbin (202.566.2182).

cc: Gerald Filbin, OPEI/ NCEI
Sandra Panetta, OPEI/ NCEI