

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ATTN: Deborah Dalton
401 M Street, SW, MC 2136
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Dalton:

On November 30, 1999, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a notice and request for public comment on EPA's Public Participation Policies. An internal EPA workgroup is in the process of evaluating and updating its public participation requirements. One of the primary policies being reviewed is the Final EPA Policy on Public Participation released in 1981. EPA is seeking public comment on two issues regarding this 1981 Policy.

The Department of Energy has no comments on the content of EPA's 1981 Policy. However, the Office of Environment, Safety and Health, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance, has produced two public participation documents that we would like to submit for the workgroup's consideration (see enclosures).

The Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance's experience with implementing the public involvement requirements of the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations (at 40 CFR Part 1506) encouraged the Office to prepare a guidance document, *Effective Public Participation Under the National Environmental Policy Act*. This document discusses activities that are similar to those discussed in EPA's 1981 Policy, particularly Section A.a.1 on "Methods", (e.g., use of fact sheets, press releases). Their experience suggests that EPA should consider other "hard copy" approaches such as visual displays of maps, charts, and diagrams.

The Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance also suggests that EPA consider the use of directories of stakeholders to aid the agency's outreach to its stakeholders, such as other federal agencies, affected states, affected Indian Tribes, and interested non-governmental organizations. *The Directory of Potential Stakeholders for Department of Energy Actions Under the National Environmental Policy Act* is routinely updated. The information in the directory is meant to supplement any distribution or mailing lists of affected or interested parties that DOE offices may have compiled for a particular Departmental project.

Finally, we refer you to the DOE NEPA website at <http://tis.eh.doe.gov/nepa>.

Sincerely,

Thomas T. Traceski
Director, RCRA/CERCLA Division
Office of Environmental Policy and Assistance

Enclosures (2)