



MEMORANDUM FOR Secretarial Officers
Heads of Operating Units

FROM: Gary Locke *G.L. 12/9/2010*

SUBJECT: Department Statement of Environmental Management Policy

The purpose of this memorandum is to establish the Department of Commerce's commitment to environmental stewardship principles and to inform you of plans to develop a Department-wide environmental management system to reduce our impact on the environment. Our mission to advance economic growth and job opportunities for the American people must be undertaken in an environmentally responsible manner.

Executive Orders 13423, Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management, and 13514, Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance, require Federal agencies to use EMS as the primary management approach for addressing environmental aspects of agency operations and activities. We have committed to fulfilling this mandate by implementing a Department-wide environmental management system applicable to all operating units, staff, and contractors by December 30, 2010. As the first step to achieving this goal, I am issuing the policy statement below on behalf of the Department.

The Department is committed to continually improving its environmental performance through the following actions:

- Complying with all Federal, State, and local environmental laws and applicable Presidential Executive Orders
- Considering environmental impacts in all planning, purchasing, operating, and budget decisions; and giving preference to products designated by Federal programs for green purchasing preference
- Promoting resource conservation and pollution prevention by encouraging employees and contractors to reduce their use of energy, water, and fuel; and promoting reuse, recycling, and diversion of waste from landfills whenever possible
- Providing a safe and healthy work environment for our employees
- Conducting regular audits and self-assessments of our conformance with this policy
- Communicating and reinforcing this policy throughout the Department

The Department will develop an administrative order that translates this vision into meaningful, measurable goals and further articulates the roles and responsibilities required of each operating unit to achieve the Obama Administration's intent. I am relying on your leadership to help our agency fully implement a comprehensive and proactive program in energy efficiency, sustainable development, and environmental care.

The full support of all offices and operating units is essential to implement and maintain the Department's environmental management system. Please ensure that we all give this initiative the priority and attention needed to ensure the Department's commitment to environmental stewardship.