THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230
APR 22 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIAL OFFICERS AND HEADS OF OPERATING UNITS

FROM: Donald L. Evans

SUBJECT: Environmental Management Systems

Executive Order 13148, *Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management*, requires federal agencies to develop and implement environmental management systems at appropriate facilities by December 31, 2005. In implementing this initiative, agencies are committed to reducing environmental impacts and the consumption of natural resources at facility operations by means of environmental management systems that focus on compliance, pollution prevention, and public outreach.

Commerce is dedicated to the President's commitment to implement environmental management systems. The involvement of all our operating units is needed to ensure that we manage our processes, materials, people, and facilities in accordance with the following goals: (1) compliance with applicable environmental requirements; (2) striving for continual environmental improvement; (3) employing source reduction and other pollution prevention approaches as practicable; (4) considering environmental factors in planning, purchasing, and operating decisions; (5) establishing, tracking, and reviewing specific environmental performance goals; and (6) sharing information on environmental performance with the public.

During the coming weeks, you will receive information and guidance that will assist in accomplishing these goals. The success of our mission requires a commitment to continual improvement in our environmental management performance. The environmental management system is the tool to assist us in meeting this commitment.