

Environmental Management Systems in the Federal Sector



DOE -Order 450.1 Implementation Workshop

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EO 13148 - Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management



THE DRIVERS

- Agencies' experience with "root cause" for poor program management
- EPA experience with "root cause" for non-compliance
- Recognition of corollary, non-environmental benefits of management systems

EO 13148



- Establishes EMS as environmental policy for the entire Federal government
- Requires agencies to incorporate EO goals - including EMS into agency environmental directives and policies
- Requires facilities to incorporate EO requirements and implement EMS

Benefits of an EMS



- Positive effect on compliance and performance
- Improved environmental awareness, involvement and competency across organization
- Better communication of environmental issues - internal and external

Benefits



- Improved efficiency, reduced costs, greater consistency in environmental program
- Continual improvement aspect allows flexibility, and opportunity to correct imperfections
- Better relationships with regulator
- Identification of risk and prevent problems outside of regulatory - e.g., aging infrastructure

Barriers



- Organizational change - natural resistance to change in any organization
- Lack of top management involvement and visibility - beyond the policy statement
- Organizational issues - “that’s an environmental responsibility” or
- “That’s my responsibility” from the environmental manager

Keys to success



- Top management commitment and support
- Build on existing procedures and processes
 - connect the dots
- Build a robust implementation team with effective leadership

Keys to success



- Ensure employee awareness, understanding and involvement across the facility
 - employees should understand their role
- Training - first step in the process to get buy-in at all levels

What's happening to support EMS in the Federal Sector ???

- CEQ and OFEE are involved - pressing agencies at the highest levels
- OMB is getting involved - CEQ/OMB letter to agency heads and A-11 budget guidance
- EPA and states are supporting EMS - Performance Track, Oregon Green Permit
- Agencies are accepting that EMS is here to stay - developing policies (e.g., DOE)

EPA Launching Major EMS Push



- Position Statement - external
- Policy for EPA Facilities - internal
- Implementation Plan for EMS
 - Implement at EPA
 - Promote widespread use
 - Promote learning
 - Build Capacity

Assistance

What's available??

↻ Environmental Management Reviews

↻ Voluntary facility-level review of system

↻ Can be basis for facility EMS

📞 WEB based compliance assistance

📞 www.epa.gov/ems - DENIX - OFEE.GOV

★ FedEnviroNews-Online - listserve

📁 Interagency Workgroup products - training, guidance, resources