

March 6, 2003

Ms. Cynthia Vallina  
Office of Federal Procurement Policy  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Mail Code 1600S  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. Vallina:

This is in response to the memorandum of November 1, 2002, from the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy and the Federal Environmental Executive, regarding agency efforts to implement Section 6002 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

I am pleased to enclose a report of our accomplishments. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is committed to increasing waste prevention, recycling, and the acquisition of recycled and environmentally preferable products and services.

If you have any questions on the information provided, please contact Dennis Turner, NRC Manager for Greening Initiatives, at 301-415-2283, [dmt1@nrc.gov](mailto:dmt1@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Michael L. Springer, Director  
Office of Administration

Enclosure: As stated

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**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
ACHIEVEMENTS IN IMPLEMENTING SECTION 6002  
OF RCRA AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 13101**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is committed to increasing waste prevention, recycling, and the acquisition of recycled and environmentally preferable products and services. We have implemented programs to implement Section 6002 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and Executive Order 13101, "Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition."

The following activities were new NRC program accomplishments for FY 2002:

1. Issued our first "Greening the Government" Strategic Plan. This plan identifies NRC strategies for recycling, waste prevention, and the purchase of environmentally preferable products and services.
2. Issued a revised Affirmative Procurement Plan for EPA-Designated Recycled Content Products.
3. Established the "Green Team." Volunteers from various NRC offices work together to encourage recycling participation, suggest improvements, and identify problems. Regular meetings have been held and valuable suggestions and improvements to our program have resulted.
4. Expanded our recycling program to include ink jet cartridges.
5. Made our first delivery of batteries for recycling. The 905 lbs. of batteries were primarily nicad, lead acid and lithium batteries.
6. Made it easy for employees to recycle by providing special plastic bags in our supply store for collecting cans and bottles at luncheons and other celebrations held at NRC's White Flint Complex.

The following are our continuing program activities:

### **Recycling**

The NRC is proud of its headquarters recycling program. Although NRC is a small agency, our program has achieved tremendous success. We recycle Grade 1 (white) and Grade 2 (mixed) paper, cardboard, newspaper, aluminum, steel and tin cans, plastic and glass bottles, wood pallets, fluorescent light bulbs, laser toner cartridges, ink jet cartridges, and nicad, lead acid, and lithium batteries.

NRC separates and recycles Grade One and Grade Two paper. Grade one paper brings significantly more revenue than Grade Two paper. Over the past five years, we have generated more than \$200,000 in recycling revenue which has been used for employee programs and serves as an incentive for employees to recycle.

Each of our regional offices has appointed recycling coordinators who actively support and promote the recycling programs of GSA and building lessors.

### **Outreach and Education, and Program Management**

Participation by employees is the key to a successful "Greening" program. To stimulate participation, we publicize our recycling and waste prevention programs and provide educational information. The NRC employees' newsletter, **News, Reviews & Comments**, regularly publishes articles on recycling and related environmental topics.

Our internal web site provides information on recycling including information on what can be recycled, recycling container locations and guidance on purchasing recycled and environmentally preferable products.

Each year on Earth Day and America Recycles Day, special exhibits are featured for employees to learn about recycling, public transit and other ways to conserve and protect the environment. Many local organizations participate in our Earth Day and America Recycles Day activities including representatives from transportation providers such as MARC Rail, METRO, Montgomery County, Maryland, and Ride On. In 2002, a special composting display was promoted and many employees purchased composting containers for use at home.

### **Waste Prevention**

NRC has implemented electronic systems for recordkeeping, communications and for providing information to the public. As a result of these and other waste prevention programs, our use of paper continues to decline.

We have a program for the return of unneeded supplies to our supply store for reuse. Containers have been placed throughout our buildings for employees to place unneeded supplies and used laser toner and ink jet cartridges for recycling. Under the Federal "Computers for Schools" program, NRC donated more than 1,500 items of used computer equipment to schools in FY 2002. Also, more than 2,000 items of unneeded furniture and equipment were transferred or sold for reuse by others. Our cafeteria donates unconsumed food to an area food bank.

### **Purchase of Products Containing Recovered Materials**

NRC has an Affirmative Procurement Program for the purchase of products made with recovered materials which are designated by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG). CPG items that are purchased by NRC include paper and paper products, binders, toner cartridges, and paperboard and packaging. All office paper purchased contains 30 percent post consumer paper.

The NRC's Affirmative Procurement Program is also applicable to contractor-provided products acquired under technical support, renovation/construction, facilities management, and information technology requirements. Specifically, our custodial contract requires that contractors furnish paper supplies containing recovered materials in accordance with the CPG.

All 19 NRC headquarters vehicles are regularly serviced with re-refined oil.

## **Purchase of Environmentally Preferable Products**

In 2002, NRC provided refresher training to all Purchase Card holders on the purchase of environmentally preferable products. This guidance is also posted for employee reference on our internal web site.

## **The Future**

The NRC is committed to improving our "Greening" programs each year. Our Program Manager for Greening Initiatives is responsible for maintaining an Action Plan to monitor our current programs and track implementation of new initiatives. We will continue to support the efforts of the Office of Federal Environmental Executive and the Office of Federal Procurement Policy to implement RCRA and Executive Order 13101.

During 2003, we plan to install new colorful recycling signs above our recycling containers. These signs incorporate the artwork from the Office of Federal Environmental Executive recycling poster contests and will attract employees to the container locations. We also plan to increase the number of recycling containers to make recycling more convenient for employees.