Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585
June 20, 2005

MEMORANDUM TO: Distribution

THROUGH: Rosita O. Parkes
Chief Information Officer

FROM: John Spitaleri Shaw
Assistant Secretary for
Environment, Safety and Health

SUBJECT: Federal Electronics Challenge

The Department of Energy (DOE) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Executive Office of the President and representatives of ten other Federal Agencies to promote sustainable environmental stewardship of Federal electronic assets. Under the MOU, DOE headquarters has committed to improving life-cycle management practices of Federal electronic assets (i.e., "green" acquisition, use, and disposition of electronics), and promoting DOE field elements' participation as Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) "partners." A summary of DOE's commitments under the MOU is attached, and the MOU in its entirety is available at: *www.federalelectronicschallenge.net/tools/mou_fec.pdf.*

The FEC was launched in 2003 by the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for Federal facilities that want to advance the development and procurement of "green-labeled" electronic products, and to expand/utilize the infrastructure for reusing and recycling of obsolete electronics. Electronic products include computers, monitors, and peripheral information technology equipment such as printers. DOE headquarters is now an FEC "partner" and, as such, is expected to purchase electronic products that have been designated as energy efficient and considered environmentally preferable because they have been manufactured with less toxic and more recycled/recyclable materials. Additionally, the life cycle use of electronic products is to be extended when possible through software upgrades, and obsolete electronic products are to be reused and recycled versus disposed of in landfills.

Obsolete electronic products often contain toxic materials such as mercury, cadmium, chromium, and certain flame retardants that could be released into the environment if these products are mishandled. This poses challenging management issues and potential liability concerns for DOE and its contractors. I believe DOE's participation in the FEC will enhance mission sustainability and provide a cost-effective means of addressing these issues and concerns by focusing our attention on responsible purchasing, use, and end-of-life management of electronic assets.

Your cooperation will be crucial as my office and the Offices of the Chief Information Officer, and Management, Budget and Evaluation work to ensure the Department's electronic products acquisition strategies and property management practices facilitate DOE headquarters' and field elements' participation as FEC "partners." Our offices will also work with other DOE elements to incorporate FEC goals into the Department's new Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Environmental Stewardship Goals, which are currently being developed, and to update the reporting provisions under the Greening the Government Executive Orders to capture information relevant to FEC "partners" performance.

In my role as the Agency Environmental Executive for DOE, I encourage all field elements' participation as FEC "partners." Information on becoming an FEC "partner" is available at: *http://www.federalelectronicschallenge.net/becoming.htm*. As an FEC "partner," your organization will have access to the tools, training and support being provided by the EPA, and will be eligible for awards being offered by the OFEE to promote sustainable environmental stewardship of Federal electronic assets.

If you have are questions concerning DOE's participation in the FEC, please contact Jeff Eagan of my staff at (202) 586-4598 (email: *jeff.eagan@eh.doe.gov*).

Attachment

cc: Susan J. Grant, Director, Office of Management, Budget and Evaluation, Chief Financial Officer

FEDERAL ELECTRONICS CHALLENGE

Background

- In 2002, the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created the Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC) to promote and support improved energy and environmental management of electronic assets by Federal facilities. DOE sites that have joined as FEC partners, to date, include BPA, LLNL, PNNL, and the Western Regional Office (EE).
- Nov. 15, 2004 – A new MOU *Promoting Sustainable Environmental Stewardship of Federal Electronic Assets* was signed by the OFEE and 11 Federal agencies, including DOE.

Purpose

- The FEC is a purchasing, use and end-of-life management challenge for Federal agencies to:
  - Promote energy efficient and environmentally sustainable electronic equipment development and acquisition,
  - Extend the lifecycle use of electronic equipment, and
  - Promote growth and utilization of the market/infrastructure for the reuse, recycling of surplus electronic equipment.

Benefits

- Reduce life-cycle costs for electronic equipment.
- Reduce environmental liability from disposal of electronic equipment.
- Recognition of FEC partners through programs such as the White House Closing-the-Circle Awards.

MOU Commitments

- Serve on the Federal Electronics Stewardship Working Group (FESWG), which:
  - Coordinates implementation of the FEC;
  - Provides a forum for Federal agencies to exchange information on best life-cycle management practices; and
  - Participate as a DOE headquarters-level FEC "partner".
- Promote participation as an FEC "partner" to DOE field elements.
- Collaborate with FEC "partners" to:
  - Conduct a baseline survey of existing electronic procurement strategies and property management practices at headquarters and in the field;
  - Embed FEC goals within the 2006 DOE pollution prevention goals for waste reduction, recycling, and environmentally preferable purchasing; and
  - Promote:
    - Procurement of "greener" (reduced toxic and increased recycled/ recyclable materials) computers, monitors, and peripheral electronic products.
    - Extension of the useful lifespan and utilization of power management capabilities of computers, monitors, and peripheral electronics.
    - Reuse/recycle/reclamation of obsolete computers, monitors, and peripheral electronic equipment (versus landfill disposal).
  - Facilitate access by DOE field elements to training and other support available through the FEC and/or FESWG.

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