DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

2 MAR 1992

S: 31 March 1992

CECW-OA

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, ALL MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS, DISTRICT COMMANDS, AND LABORATORIES

SUBJECT: USACE Facilities Environmental Compliance

1. In June 1991, Lieutenant General H. J. Hatch, Chief of Engineers, assigned me the mission of assuring that all USACE facilities and associated lands meet environmental standards contained in relevant Federal, DoD, Army, state, and local laws and regulations. In an effort to ensure USACE facilities environmental compliance, commanders are directed to initiate an environmental assessment/deficiency correction program for all Corps property utilizing the Environmental Review Guide for Operations (ERGO). Our overall goal is to complete environmental assessments and develop corrective action plans at all Corps projects and facilities by the end of FY94.

2. ERGO is a checklist of environmental laws and regulations, good management practices, and risk management issues. ERGO was designed as a self assessment tool, but can also be used for formal, or external assessments. Project and facility managers, with technical assistance from district elements, state authorities or private sector contractors, can use ERGO to determine if their operations are being conducted in accordance with environmental laws and regulations. ERGO assessments are a proactive approach to environmental compliance and protection. Findings identified in ERGO assessments should be prioritized and remediation measures performed as routine maintenance work or programmed in the budget process.

3. Civil Works Operations elements are already implementing ERGO, with a goal of completing ERGO assessments at 25 percent of Corps O&M General funded operating projects and facilities this FY. I now ask that you schedule and conduct ERGO assessments at facilities and projects operated with other than O&M General funds (e.g. Mississsippi River and Tributaries funded projects, district motor pools, regional warehouses, Corps operated printing plants and photo labs, etc.).

4. ERGO was initially developed for use at operating projects. Since we are now expanding its application, you may find that some refinement is required to thoroughly assess facilities not considered when preparing the current manual. Contact Dr. Diane Mann of CERL-ENM at (217) 373-6741, for help in dealing with facilities and regulations not currently covered in the manual.

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Recommendations for improving the checklist can be directed to Dr. Mann at Department of the Army, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 9005, Champaign, Illinois 61826-9005. From efficiency and comparative standpoints we are committed to using a single environmental compliance protocol throughout USACE.

5. I encourage all elements to take a teamwork approach, using existing expertise, rather than developing parallel organizations performing the same function, to initiate, develop, and maintain environmental compliance and assurance at all USACE operated and funded projects, facilities, and activities. This teamwork approach will minimize duplicating effort and assessment costs. Commanders, if they have not already done so, should also establish and chair an interdisciplinary Environmental Compliance Steering Committee with representatives from the various affected offices throughout your organization. The steering committee will provide direction and oversight.

6. In January 1991, John Elmore, Chief, Operations, Construction and Readiness Division, directed division and district operations offices to formally designate Environmental Compliance Coordinators (ECCs). Hereafter, these coordinators will be utilized as division or district environmental compliance coordinators. This is a coordination, as opposed to an operative, assignment. The ECCs will support rather than assume environmental compliance responsibilities of the various functional elements (Planning, Engineering, Project Program Management, Logistics, Safety and Occupation Health, and Real Estate). Our objective is to develop and maintain a comprehensive and consistent environmental compliance program, utilizing the existing Operations "stovepipe", since Operations is responsible for the majority of USACE facilities.

7. We will distribute revised ERGO manuals and follow on compliance materials to each currently designated division and district ECC for dissemination to offices involved in environmental compliance throughout your organization. If there are any updates to the current list of ECCs, please forward their name, office symbol, FTS and commercial telephone numbers, Fax number, and Corps Mail I.D. to CECW-OA, ATTN: Jim Wolcott, by 31 March 1992. Field Operating Activities and Laboratories should also designate and provide information on ECCs.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Arthur E. Williams

ARTHUR E. WILLIAMS
Major General, USA
Director of Civil Works