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

15 MAY 1992

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CECW-OA

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS, FIELD OPERATING ACTIVITIES AND LABORATORIES

SUBJECT: Environmental Compliance at USACE Facilities

1. In October 1989, Secretary of Defense Richard B. Cheney called on the Department of Defense to be the "Federal leader in agency environmental compliance and protection." The Army is moving forward and developing an environmental strategy, focusing on the four areas of environmental stewardship--compliance, restoration, prevention, and conservation. As the premier environmental engineering agency serving the total Army, the Department of Defense, and other Federal agencies, the Corps plays a leading role in stewardship of the Nation's environmental resources. The Corps is committed to providing environmentally sustainable development--meeting current needs without compromising the future.

2. With such an expansive role in the Nation's environmental program, it is untenable for Corps facilities to be out of compliance with environmental requirements. To determine the status of the facilities, I had the Engineer Inspector General (EIG) conduct a systemic inspection of environmental compliance on lands controlled by USACE. The formal EIG report was distributed to commanders in October 1991. As a follow-up, the EIG recently sent all major subordinate commands and district commands graphic illustrations of some of the typical environmental compliance problems found throughout USACE. All commanders and staff should be familiar with these documents and the EIG inspection report to understand the breadth and importance of an internal environmental compliance program.

3. As a result of the EIG findings, I established the Environmental Compliance Branch within the Operations, Construction and Readiness Division. The Environmental Compliance Branch will coordinate and monitor environmental compliance at all USACE-controlled facilities, including the Corps research and development laboratories. I also directed the Resource Management Directorate to add environmental compliance indicators to the Command Management Review to track the Corps' progress toward our goal of full and continued compliance with all applicable requirements.

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4. I continue to hold stewardship of lands of the United States entrusted to the Corps of Engineers as one of our most critical missions. I expect nothing less than full commitment from all commanders and directors for the care of these lands by ensuring appropriate environmental compliance throughout USACE.

H.J. HATCH
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding