

CONFERENCE CALL SUMMARY
Region IV Department of Defense
Pollution Prevention Partnership Steering Committee
April 9, 2001 2:00 p.m.

Conference Call Participants

Mike Witkoski, Interim Director, USC IOPA Center for Environmental Policy
Christine Steagall, Program Coordinator, USC IOPA Center for Environmental Policy
Claire Prince, USC IOPA Center for Environmental Policy
Rusty Harris-Bishop, North Carolina
Melissa McCracken (for Cam Metcalf), Kentucky
Gary Ellis, Alabama P2
George Carellas, SREO
Ed Engbert, SREO
Jamie Higgins, SREO (for South Carolina DoD Partnership)
Randy Bishop, Navy Region Southeast
Tom Sims, AFCEE Regional Office
Dave Glass, AFCEE Regional Office
Bob Donaghue, Georgia P2
Laila Capers, Navy Region Southeast
Michael Ohlsen, Florida P2
Dan Ahern, EPA Region IV
Brian Marshburn, Marine REC

Summary

The first agenda item was introductions. Christine Steagall, Program Coordinator for the Region IV Partnership, introduced herself and asked other participants on the conference call to do the same. Christine explained that she has assumed the responsibilities for coordinating the Region IV Partnership since LeAnn Herren has left the Center for Environmental Policy. Christine has over 9 years experience working with DoD in her position as Section Chief for Hazardous Waste/Pollution Prevention at Shaw Air Force Base.

The next agenda item concerned the need to redefine and provide direction for the Partnership and the Steering Committee. Christine explained that Region IV is the only region in the country that has a regional DoD partnership. She emphasized that her goal is to formalize the partnership and the Steering Committee, and take this initiative to the next level. Currently, the Steering Committee for the partnership is comprised of the five military regional environmental coordinators, eight state P2 representatives and eight DoD representatives (one each from each of the 8 states in Region IV, EPA Region IV, and the 81st Army Reserve Command).

Next, Christine discussed the process for identifying the needs of the Regional Partnership. The Regional Partnership was developed to strengthen the individual state partnerships, address state and regional environmental issues in a coordinated way, and

increase the visibility of these issues in the states and in Washington to influence funding decisions and regulatory changes. The last meeting of the Partnership was held in August, 2000 in conjunction with the Joint Services P2 Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Christine explained that she is now trying to formalize the Steering Committee and its roles and responsibilities.

To do that, a face-to-face working meeting of the Steering Committee is needed. At this meeting, the Steering Committee will develop its organization and responsibilities, develop criteria for the use of potential congressional funding for the Partnership, develop an agenda for the full Partnership meeting in June, and set the overall direction and activities of the Partnership. Tentative meeting dates are May 9-10 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. After some discussion, it was decided that the meeting would be held on **May 10 & 11, 2001** beginning at 1:00 on the 10th and ending Friday at noon. Christine will finalize arrangements for a meeting room, develop the agenda, and other information and send an email to Steering Committee members. She will also check into conferencing in North Carolina and other people who have limited travel funds and will not be able to attend. Tentative agenda items for the meeting are:

- Establish protocols, and structure of the partnership DoD funds
 - How they will be used
 - Define selection criteria
 - Establish execution options
 - Deliverables
 - Selection committee
- Expertise Survey/Issue Survey
- Set Agenda for Full Partnership meeting in June EPA/DoD Region IV conference

The next step after the May meeting is to have a full Regional Partnership meeting in conjunction with the Region IV EPA/DoD meeting, and the State P2 Regional Roundtable meeting in Atlanta, Georgia scheduled for June 26-29, 2001. It was decided that the DoD Regional Partnership meeting would be held on Thursday, June 28 in the morning. The Steering Committee will set the agenda for this meeting at its May meeting in Chattanooga. Ed noted that there are 5 slots available for the P2 track on Wednesday. Melissa indicated that Cam would be willing to serve as a speaker on P2/EMS for one of those slots.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be in conjunction with the National P2 Roundtable meeting that will be held in either October or November, 2001 in Charleston, South Carolina. Christine has spoken with Michelle Russo at the Roundtable, and she is working with Christine to obtain a room for the Steering Committee meeting.

Bob Donaghue provided some background on the EPA funding for the Region IV Partnership. 2 years ago, a P2Rx grant was awarded to Georgia P2 Assistance Division to develop a Best Management Practices Guide for the bases, and to coordinate the

formation of the Region IV DoD Partnership. Under the grant, Georgia is responsible for developing the Guide, South Carolina has the lead on coordinating the Partnership, and North Carolina is serving as the repository of information through the WRRC. Bob noted that input from the state partnerships is needed as to the direction the Regional Partnership should take. The purpose now is to formalize the Partnership, set a course for it, and develop criteria for use of the congressional funds that may be available to support the regional effort.

In response to a question from Rusty about the status of the congressional funds, George provided an overview on his office's efforts to have the funds moved to an Army account where they can be utilized for the regional effort. He noted that when the \$2.0 million was put in, there was no congressional language attached to it. Complicating matters is the fact that the decision makers who were briefed on the original congressional request changed with the change in Administration. George and Ed have succeeded in obtaining approval to move the funds from a DoD, research and development account, to an Army account. George was hopeful this would be in place in the next couple of months, and feels 90-95 % certain that the money will be in place then. He emphasized that while South Carolina will need some resources to manage the project, the goal was to use the funds for specific projects that can show real results. He also noted that the criteria for the use of the funds is limited to what is generally required by law, but there should be some flexibility within those parameters. Ed mentioned that at this point he's only gotten some general feedback. First, it would not be good to use the funds for travel. Second, staff he is working with has indicated they would prefer to see fewer, but more substantial projects of a regional scope. Third, technology transfer is high on their list, and they would like to see the Partnership dovetail with an interstate technology work group that is already established within Region IV. He noted that he is hoping to do a government-to-government transfer of the funds, but there are still a lot of details to work out.

Since several Steering Committee members were not familiar with the South Carolina Small Grants Research Program after which the Regional Small Grants program concept is patterned, she provided an overview of that program. These and other details will be discussed more fully at the May meeting of the Steering Committee.

Finally, Bob asked how many of the state DoD representatives were on the conference call, and a brief discussion took place about the best way to follow up with the base representatives. Christine also needs to verify who the DoD state representatives are. It is very important to have not only the state P2 representatives but also the base representatives at the meeting in May. Brian offered to follow up from the Marine Corps side, and offered to touch base with Kathy Stiles at Parris Island about serving as the South Carolina DoD representative. The other RECs agreed to touch base with their state representatives.

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Finally, under other business, Christine informed the group that the Center is preparing a quarterly newsletter for the Region IV Partnership, and that it should be ready for distribution within the month. She will also compile notebooks for each Steering Committee member for the May meeting. This will include all the pertinent information on the Region IV Partnership as well as a complete list of Steering Committee names and contact information. She requested any changes to address, phone numbers or email be sent to her in order to update the list as soon as possible.

The Conference Call ended at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Encl: Steering Committee list