DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CECW/CEMP

19 May 2003

COMMANDER'S POLICY MEMORANDUM # 11

SUBJECT: Environmental Management Systems in the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

1. In March 2002, a set of broad Environmental Operating Principles (EOP) and Doctrine was adopted to guide us in doing our work now and in the future. Adopting these Principles and Doctrine sends a signal that USACE is embracing both the challenge and opportunity to serve the Army and the Nation in protecting our natural resources upon which our economy and security depend. With increasing frequency, we are integrating the EOP and Doctrine into our business processes and decision-making. A major step USACE is now taking is to establish Environmental Management Systems (EMS). EMS represents a framework through which an organization identifies attainable indicators of environmental performance, continuously seeks to improve its environmental performance in measurable ways, and documents these improvements. Environmental management systems are required by Department of Defense and Department of Army (DA) policy, and by Executive Order 13148 titled "Greening the Government through Leadership in Environmental Management." While these EMS requirements are oriented toward Federal facilities, they do not preclude the eventual development of programmatic environmental management systems. As such, while some EMS will be implemented at Federal facilities for which USACE is accountable, EMS should be integrated into all program areas assuring that USACE planning, design, and construction initiatives incorporate consideration of EMS requirements.

2. Why should the Corps adopt environmental management systems (EMS)? EMS provides an excellent mechanism to fully integrate the EOP and doctrine. EMS provides the framework necessary to support installations within the transforming Army, and support other Federal agencies. As DA has directed, the USACE environmental management systems will be based on the International Organization of Standardization framework, ISO 14001. Fortunately, USACE has many programs and systems in-place that fulfill elements of an ISO 14001 environmental management system and these existing capabilities should continue to be used. Official certification and third-party registration of the use of ISO 14001 standards are not required. Commanders who wish to pursue registration and certification should demonstrate mission benefits.

3. Detailed facility-based implementation guidance and guidance to assist program offices in implementing district or program-wide EMS will soon be distributed. Making systematic environmental management an integral part of our day-to-day decision-making and business process is an important step in enhancing mission performance and effective use of resources, and in telling our story to Congress and the American people. The key to an effective environmental management system is involvement and support by commanders.

ROBERT B. FLOWERS
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding