

Virginia and DOD Form First Pollution Prevention Partnership In Region III

On October 19, Virginia and EPA joined with twenty DOD representatives to sign the charter for a Pollution Prevention Partnership. The ceremony was held in the Capitol Building in Richmond, Virginia.

Governor James Gilmore signed the charter prior to the ceremony, stating, "I'm very pleased that defense installations and EPA are joining Virginia in this pollution prevention initiative. This cooperative agreement will strengthen the ability each of us has individually to take positive steps that conserve our natural resources and improve the quality of Virginia's environment." Mr. John Paul Woodley, Jr., Secretary of Natural Resources and Mr. Dennis Treacy, Director of the Department of Environmental Quality represented Virginia at the ceremony and also signed the charter. Mr. Treacy commented, "Through this pollution prevention partnership we are not only building a business advantage, but also a military advantage."

All Virginia DOD services were represented and signed the agreement. Many installation commanders from the Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Army, National Guard, Army Reserves, Defense Supply Center Richmond bases and the Pentagon (Real Estate and Facilities) attended. Rear Admiral Cole, the Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic and the DOD Regional Environmental Coordinator for Region III stated, "By sharing information among our members, we can accelerate the spread of good ideas and proven technologies. This partnership provides a tremendous opportunity...". Ms. Maureen Sullivan, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Environmental Security, also attended and signed the charter.

The overall mission of the partnership is to identify opportunities, develop solutions and promote successes in pollution prevention to enhance the missions of the participants, conserve resources, and improve the quality of Virginia's environment. Goals have been developed to review a number of specific practices and processes, initiate cooperative projects, and externally share information through venues such as conferences, publications, and the internet. Through the initiative of the participants, a number of work groups have formed. These work groups are reviewing:

- Affirmative procurement policies and practices
- The decrease or elimination of solvents
- Universal waste management
- Aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) use and disposal
- Hazardous materials management

Cooperative projects have been initiated to increase member participation in the Virginia Naturally 2000 and the Businesses for the Bay programs. Other cooperative efforts involve educating design engineers on sustainable building techniques, technologies, and processes, and an initiative to reduce the discharge of priority chemicals to Virginia's environment.

PWC Norfolk staff provides environmental support to bases in Hampton Roads and serves as the environmental staff to CNRMA. As the DOD Regional Environmental

Coordinator, we are facilitating the development of the partnership, and as technical pollution prevention staff for the region, we serve on several work groups. The partnership presents tremendous opportunities for us to share our successes in pollution prevention with other DOD installations in the state, to learn from their experiences, and to build good working relationships with our regulators.