

From: Irene Kropp

To: SRP ALL; SRP Sol Haz Waste

Date: 6/5/2006 3:40:16 PM

Subject: Message from Assistant Commissioner

Since I have started as Assistant Commissioner, the Site Remediation and Waste Management (SRWM) managers and I have begun a series of discussions about potential programmatic and policy changes that we may implement in the future. These potential changes are intended to help achieve Departmental goals as set by Commissioner Jackson for the upcoming years. As a result of these discussions, SRWM managers and staff may be asked to help develop or review draft policy papers or "white papers". The intent of the papers is to outline a specific subject or programmatic change, identify related issues, determine regulatory constraints, evaluate the benefits to moving forward and propose an action plan, or not.

The principal driver for internally distributing draft documents is to solicit recommendations from programs that may be affected by policy changes. I believe it is important to evaluate the personal insights and collective knowledge of impacted SRWM staff and managers, as well as other departmental staff and managers. This request for input may include you and your colleagues. Such feedback is essential to the success of policy changes and their ongoing effectiveness in making our programs and organizations better for our entire team.

When internal materials are inappropriately handled or distributed outside of the DEP, prior to finalization, your valuable contributions for the future can be undermined or, even worse, lost if we are forced to constrain this open dialogue. Updating a given policy is a progressive process, and until finalized and adopted, modifications can occur from initial drafts. Please continue to share your ideas and recommendations with your SRWM managers or me personally. However, it is important that all of us, as responsible professionals, respect and protect the interests of our coworkers by keeping this potentially sensitive information confidential until it is ready for public distribution. There will be opportunity to vet issues with external interested parties through the public review process when appropriate. I appreciate your hard work in protection of the state's resources, I thank you for helping me through this time of transition, and I look forward to maintaining an open dialogue to discuss the future direction of SRWM.

Thank you, Irene

Irene Kropp

Assistant Commissioner

Site Remediation and Waste Management

NJ Dept. of Environmental Protection

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