

The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

December 21, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIAL OFFICERS
 AND OPERATIONS OFFICE MANAGERS

FROM: HAZEL R. O'LEARY /s/

SUBJECT: Land and Facility Use Policy

Today, I issued an innovative Departmental policy that strengthens the stewardship of our vast lands and facilities and encourages the return of some of these national resources to their rightful owners -- the American public. The policy will stimulate local economies, cut costs and redtape. and ensure public participation in our planning processes. The new policy states:

It is Department of Energy policy to manage all of its land and facilities as valuable #national resources. Our stewardship will be based on the principles of ecosystem management and sustainable development. We will integrate mission. economic. ecologic. social and cultural factors. in a comprehensive plan for each site that will guide land and facility use decisions. Each comprehensive plan will consider the site's larger regional context and be developed with stakeholder participation. This policy will. result in land and facility uses which support the Department's critical missions. stimulate the economy, and protect the environment.

The. new policy is highlighted in the attached book, *DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY - STEWARDS OF A NATIONAL RESOURCE*. The book describes how we are changing the way we manage our lands and facilities. It also describes some of our recent successes in finding new uses for our surplus land and facilities. These successes range from new leases at the former Mound facility and the use of an idle reactor for brain cancer treatment at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory to the creation of an urban park adjacent to our headquarters and the development of the National Wind Technology Center at the Rocky Flats plant. The book provides information about our major sites and contact numbers for each public affairs office. It encourages businesspeople, public officials, citizen organizations, and our site neighbors to provide their ideas for new site and facility uses.

This new policy has already undergone the initial directives review process and will be incorporated in the Department's broader Corporate Facilities Management Directive initiative that I have commissioned to respond to the National Performance Review.

I know you share my excitement about the opportunities we have in finding new uses for our

lands and facilities. I look forward to working with you to fulfill the responsibility entrusted to us by the citizens of the United States for managing these valuable national resources.

7-9-96

SUBJECT: Land and Facility Use Planning

LAND AND FACILITY USE PLANNING

Managing the life-cycle of sites requires the ability to rationally anticipate change. The Land and Facility Use Planning process provides a way to guide future site development and reuse based on the shared long-term goals and objectives of the Department, site, and its stakeholders. Under this planning process, DOE's land and facilities will be holistically managed through the integration of missions, ecology, economies, and cultural and social factors in a regional context.

PURPOSE

Anticipating the future uses of land and facilities given their current condition and constraints is essential for the Department to be able to sustain its national assets over time. Land and Facility Use Planning is a formal, integrated planning process for ensuring that the Department can understand what development is possible, when it is possible and where it is possible. To do this, the Department must also look beyond the boundaries of each site to the surrounding region to integrate the site with the values and needs of its surrounding communities.

SCOPE

The comprehensive land use planning process identifies the current condition of existing land and facility assets and the scope of constraints across the site and in the surrounding region. Long-term sustainable development goals are needed for focusing efforts to steward these assets. The process uses these goals to identify the possible land and facilities use options. The options considered would take advantage of opportunities and mitigate constraints in support of the site or programmatic strategic plan's mission needs and scenarios. When carried out, it will remain a current and living process by using adaptive management techniques that adjust management practices and direction to changes in environmental, mission, economic, cultural and social factors.

The comprehensive land use planning process relies on stakeholder involvement to provide diverse ideas and values in all its phases. The involvement of the public, Local, State, and Tribal governments, and other Federal Agencies in its development and application enables the Department to improve decisions while building trust with the public it serves.

Furthermore, it is to be more than just another stand alone process. Land and Facility Use Planning is intended to complement, utilize, link, support, and should be fully integrated with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Environmental Justice, and the many other separate processes required by law and regulation.

To achieve its full potential, Departmental sites are given, under the life cycle asset management approach, the responsibility of tailoring the process to local conditions and many existing activities which impact on the planning for the Department's land and facility assets. These include, but are not limited to the NEPA process, site planning and asset management, public participation, economic development under community re-use organizations, privatization of assets, site strategic planning, Environmental Justice, cultural asset management, historic preservation, and natural resource management.

POLICY

It is Department of Energy policy to manage all of its land and facilities as valuable national resources. Our stewardship will be based on the principles of ecosystem management and sustainable development. We will integrate mission, economic, ecologic, social, and cultural factors in a comprehensive plan for each site that will guide land and facility use decisions. Each comprehensive plan for each site will consider the site's larger regional context and be developed with stakeholder participation. This policy will result in land and facility uses which support the Department's critical missions, stimulate the economy, and protect the environment.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY:



ARCHER L. DURHAM
Assistant Secretary for
Human Resources and Administration