

National Compliance Assistance Providers Forum
“Optimizing Resources for Environmental Results”

December 3-6, 2002
San Antonio, Texas

Transcript of Videotaped Remarks of U.S. EPA Administrator Christie Whitman

Thank you for attending EPA's Compliance Assistance Forum. I'm sorry that I could not be there with you, but I want to thank you all for the important work that you are doing to protect our nation's natural resources and infrastructure.

Compliance assistance is a valuable tool in addressing environmental issues. At EPA, we are working to strengthen that tool, by promoting an integrated approach - an approach that uses compliance assistance and incentives, along with targeted enforcement, to ensure that our nation's environmental laws are followed.

Integral to our success is our work to build partnerships with all providers of compliance assistance, including other federal agencies, states, and industry. A good example of this partnership is the President's Management Agenda for "Expanding Electronic Government." This led to the creation of the Business Compliance Assistance One-Stop, which provides tools and information to help businesses understand and comply with regulations.

In addition, EPA is promoting the role that compliance assistance can play in meeting the challenges of homeland security - a major priority for EPA and all of the federal government. I'm pleased that this will be a topic of discussion during the forum.

Using compliance tools such as pollution prevention, environmental management systems, and other innovative programs is improving our overall environmental performance. As we continue to work together, I'm confident that we will achieve our goal of leaving America's air cleaner, water purer, and land better protected for this and future generations.

Thank you and enjoy the rest of the Forum.