



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC - 9 2002

OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Dorothy Bowers
Chair, National Advisory Council for
Environmental Policy and Technology
111 Aberdeen Road
Matawan, NJ 07747

Dear Ms. Bowers:

Thank you for forwarding to the Administrator the August 5, 2002, advice letter of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) regarding the National Environmental Technology Competition (NETC).

First, let me thank you for your personal efforts and those of the Council in advising us on how to implement this new initiative. I especially appreciate the efforts of the NACEPT NETC Workgroup that you assembled to address this issue, and for the leadership of Dan Watts of the New Jersey Institute of Technology and all of the Workgroup members. I also appreciate the efforts of those experts who assisted the Workgroup and the participation of representatives from several EPA offices. I particularly want to thank the staff of the Office of Cooperative Environmental Management for their support and leadership.

The Council's advice letter addresses very thoughtfully the four questions posed by our charge. We recognized that the NETC embodies a unique approach to encouraging technology innovation -- identifying technology needs associated with major environmental goals, challenging technology developers, and rewarding those who best meet those needs. Your advice letter clearly identified the realities of the environmental technology marketplace, and how the NETC could best be designed to be a positive force within that marketplace. We particularly appreciate your insights on the importance of developing long-term performance goals in key environmental areas, and honoring those technologies that make a substantial contribution toward the achievement of those national goals.

The work NACEPT has done has greatly enhanced our overall understanding of how to encourage development and implementation of innovative environmental technologies, and will guide our efforts in this area. I look forward to future collaboration with NACEPT on efforts to support the successful development and application of cost-effective environmental technologies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Gilman".

Paul Gilman, Ph.D.
Assistant Administrator

cc: Governor Whitman
Eileen McGinnis, Chief of Staff
Daiva Balkus, Director, OCEM
Dan Watts, Chair, NACEPT NETC Workgroup