

SBAP/SBO National Steering Committee (NSC)
Conference Call
August 12, 2003

Members present on call:

EPA Small Business Division: Elsa Bishop and Angela Suber

EPA Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards: Gilbert Wood, Lalit Banker, and David Painter

National CAP: Glenn Heilman

National Steering Committee Chair: Mark Shanahan

Region 1: Ron Dyer

Region 2: Maria Rivera, Jim Coyle

Region 3: Terry Polen

Region 4: Tony Pendola, and Willie Morgan;

Region 5: Phyllis Strong, and Renee Lesjak Bashel

Region 6: Darren Morrissey

Region 7: Dan Nickey

Region 9: Rob White

Region 10: Sally Tarowsky

#1 Highlights from EPA Small Business Regional Coordinators Conference –
Discussion flagged issues raised at this annual meeting.

A. Point of Contact for Compliance Assistance

Challenges were identified. These include coordination within EPA and between our 507 programs and the EPA Regions.

Karen Brown, Chuck Kent, and Jay Benforado focused on how to go about improving our 507 programs and improving our coordination with EPA.

Chuck Kent, Karen's direct boss, is Director of the Office of Business & Community Innovation.

Chuck Kent reports to Jay Benforado; Jay is the Director of the National Center for Environmental Innovation.

Karen expressed concern with confusion. Confusion has occurred because Christine Todd Whitman identified Karen's office as the key single point of contact within EPA for compliance assistance with small businesses at the National Summit on Small Business and the Environment last spring; and yet, since that time OECA has identified their programs as the key single point of contact within EPA for compliance assistance. At this point, resources go more to OECA's claim than to our 507 programs' claim.

Our 507 programs started with strong working relationships with EPA at Research Triangle Park. These relationships faded. We are now rebuilding to return to the roots of our program in technical issues.

B. Multimedia Legislation

Reimer von Kalben did an excellent job representing the National Compliance Advisory Panel (NCAP).

Input from the August meeting was to have our group, the NSC, work with the NCAP to push for authorizing legislation for state programs to be multimedia, if they choose to do so, and to include the funding to do so. The NSC and the NCAP would encourage the state programs to go

multimedia. Discussion during this conference call clarified that the NCAP could support this legislation. The NSC will need to discuss this issue and come to a consensus, but there should not be any problems. This process may begin with Ron Dyer working with the NSC on this issue. There is a great deal of complexity when trying to start a campaign when you do not have a presence in Washington. This legislation may not get support from Karen Brown's top senior management. It may take 2.5 to 3 years to pull this together. It does mesh with the MOU signed at the national meeting between the NSC, the Association of Small Business Development Centers, and the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable. The initial suggestion was to ask for \$5,000,000. Each state would get \$100,000. This may not make sense; consideration would have to be made as to where programs were operating and the level at which they were functioning. This may serve as an incentive for states to come into compliance with all 3 parts of the 507 program. Currently less than 30 programs have all 3 components (an ombudsman, a technical assistance program, and a compliance advisory panel).

The concept is good. It will be presented by Ron Dyer as an agenda item at the 9/16 meeting of the NCAP. The beginning work will be to start to get a consensus and a game plan.

Elsa Bishop cautioned that we must figure out how to isolate the NCAP from the EPA, so that there will not be a misperception that EPA is lobbying on capital hill.

Everyone gave approval to go forward with this work.

C. Roles

On a state, regional, and national level we need to figure out how to improve and negotiate our work with OECA. Our programs cannot afford to get caught in a turf battle.

Coordination of Compliance Assistance needs to develop a business plan. We have lots of tools. Now we need to have roles defined. This would clarify who is to do what piece. Some of the current confusion was reflected at the August meeting in DC as the Regional Liaisons tried to figure out their title for their position description.

In some regions, the Regional Liaison works closely with the state SBAP/SBO and has buy in from the Regional Administrator. In some regions, this is not the case. Relationship of compliance assistance to compliance assurance needs to be clarified. In some cases, enforcement plays in the mix. Assistant Administrator Suarez released a memo that describes how compliance assistance fits into OECA plans. The positive side of the memo is that it looks toward the states for a clear role. The negative side is that it pushes down the responsibility to the states (not specific to SBAP) without providing resources to do it.

D. Measurement

There is an incredible push at EPA on measurement. Mike Stahl said they did not know how to measure compliance assistance. This was after saying they had increased spending on compliance assistance rather than on enforcement.

There needs to be measurement equality. Enforcement data is perceived as being directly related to environmental benefit. Compliance assistance data is not perceived as being scientific. This is a hard issue that will be with us for a long time.

#2 Update on 2004 National SBAP/SBO Conference in Sacramento –

Rob White gave an update. The dates and hotel have changed due to changes in hotel prices and services offered. Conference dates are now Wednesday, 6/2/04 through Saturday, 6/5/04. The

new hotel arrangements are at a Holiday Inn and will provide a better price and more central location. Ending on a Saturday will ensure less work time is lost in travel as most of this travel will be in a West to East direction.

Planning committee work is progressing. Carissa Guess will send an e-mail to NSC about these plans; it will go to Karen Brown and Angela Suber.

#3 Request from Lalit Banker

Lalit sent out a note earlier asking for help locating businesses that use alternative solvents. He has had 3 or 4 responses but would like more. It is part of a Small Business Initiatives where they want to highlight emission reductions and money savings. We need to remind state programs of his request and ask them to respond when possible.

#4 Region 2 - SBAP/SBO representatives

John McKeon is the representative.

Jasmine Blyden is the alternate.

#5 Title 5 Area Source Deferral

SBAP/SBO programs need to send information on why area sources should be exempted from Title 5 permits to Steve Hitte by the end of the summer.

Respectfully submitted:

Phyllis Strong