

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 50-51
NOVEMBER 6, 2007***

***Safety and Environmental
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE***

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

OPR: W/OPS15 (O. Kebis)

Certified by: W/OPS (J. McNulty, Jr.)

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This directive supercedes National Weather Service (NWS) Policy Directive 50-51, dated April 12, 2005. Requirements for reporting of Notices of Violation in accordance with the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrative Order 216-17, NOAA Environmental Compliance Program, October 1998 were added. Additional references to Department of Commerce (DOC) Acquisition Manual, DOC Green Procurement Program, Executive Order 13423, and NOAA National Environmental Policy Act Handbook were included in Attachment 1.

1. This policy directive defines the NWS Environmental Compliance program. This policy complies with applicable Federal, state, and local environmental compliance requirements, Executive Orders, DOC and/or NOAA Administrative Orders, policies, and guidance documents.
2. The objective of this policy is to establish environmental compliance directives, guidelines, and procedures for all NWS employees and contractors.
3. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:
 - 3.1 The Assistant Administrator (AA) for Weather Services is responsible for ensuring implementation of environmental compliance policy NWS-wide.
 - 3.2 The NWS environmental compliance officer is the principal advisor to the AA on environmental issues and is responsible for development, implementation, and administration of the NWS Environmental Compliance program. These responsibilities, at a minimum, include: establishing environmental compliance directives, guidelines, and procedures; defining personnel responsibilities for environmental compliance; determining training requirements; planning and coordinating training courses; ensuring Regional/Center/Office Directors are aware of their responsibilities; ensuring the NWS Environmental Compliance program is implemented and evaluated on an annual basis; incorporating environmental compliance requirements into operational procedures; disseminating technical information; providing technical guidelines, lessons learned, and other assistance as appropriate; obtaining legal assistance from NOAA

Office of General Counsel and other assistance as appropriate; and interacting with NOAA environmental compliance personnel, as required.

3.3 Regional Directors, the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Director, and NWS Headquarters Office Directors have overall responsibility for implementation of the NWS Environmental Compliance program within their organizations and are responsible for: ensuring environmental compliance directives and guidelines are established, implemented and maintained; ensuring personnel understand and carry out environmental compliance responsibilities; designating an environmental compliance officer; providing leadership and support to the environmental compliance program.

3.4 Regional and NCEP environmental compliance officers: ensure applicable NOAA and NWS directives and guidelines are effectively implemented at field offices and NCEP-wide; develop and disseminate regional/NCEP-specific directives, guidelines, and procedures, as necessary; plan and coordinate environmental compliance training of regional headquarters, field and NCEP personnel; maintain an up-to-date list of subordinate organization environmental compliance focal points; research relevant state and local environmental compliance requirements; provide technical advice and assistance; maintain and distribute DOC, NOAA, and NWS environmental compliance policies and directives; and coordinate hazardous waste disposal and environmental remediation projects.

3.5 Meteorologists-In-Charge, Hydrologists-In-Charge, Officials-In-Charge, and NCEP Center Directors are responsible for day-to-day implementation of the NWS Environmental Compliance program and: ensure facilities and operations comply with applicable Federal, state regulations, and local environmental compliance requirements, and NOAA and NWS directives, guidelines, and procedures; designate and provide support to environmental compliance focal points; ensure employees with assigned environmental roles understand and carry out their responsibilities and use pollution prevention measures; minimize hazardous and non-hazardous waste generated by a facility; ensure required permits, test reports, hazardous material disposal certificates, and other pertinent documents are on file; ensure facility or site modifications are evaluated for potential environmental impacts and relevant documentation is kept on file (e.g., environmental impact statements, categorical exclusions; and ensure all Notices of Violation received from Federal, state, and/or local regulating agencies, are reported to the Regional environmental compliance officer, the NWS environmental compliance officer and the NOAA Safety and Environmental Compliance Office within five (5) calendar days of receipt.

3.6 Environmental compliance focal points: assist with day-to-day implementation of the NWS Environmental Compliance program; plan and coordinate environmental compliance training of site personnel; establish procedures to comply with applicable State and local environmental requirements; and promote environmental compliance awareness and pollution prevention behavior among site personnel.

3.7 NWS employees with assigned environmental compliance responsibilities will have a statement included in their personal performance plans addressing these responsibilities.

- 3.8 Every employee is responsible for protecting the environment. Environmental compliance concerns should be reported to an immediate supervisor or environmental compliance focal point.
- 4. Compliance with this policy is measured by tracking the number of environmental compliance findings. The ultimate goal is zero findings.
- 5. This policy directive is supported by references listed in Attachment 1.

Signed by Vicki L. Nadolski for _____ October 23, 2007
John L. Hayes Date
Assistant Administrator for Weather Services

Attachment 1

REFERENCES

Executive Order 12088, Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards, October 13, 1978.

Executive Order 12856, Federal Compliance with Right-to-Know and Pollution Prevention Requirements, August 3, 1993.

Executive Order 13423, Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management, January 24, 2007.

Executive Order 13514, Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance, October 8, 2009.

The Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Protection of Environment.

Department of Commerce (DOC) Environmental Management Manual.

DOC Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan.

Commerce Acquisition Manual 1323.70, Department of Commerce Green Procurement Program.

NOAA Administrative Order 216-17, NOAA Environmental Compliance Program.

NOAA Administrative Order 216-6, Environmental Review Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.

NOAA National Environmental Policy Act Handbook, May 2009.

NWS Environmental Management Manual, NWSM 50-5116, September 2008.