

Date: April 12, 2007

To: John Winkler, General Manager

From: Chairperson, PMRNRD

Subj: Environmental Study

1. April brings us into the thought of Earth Day and its deeper meaning, established decades ago, concerning care for our planet and working to improve our direct relationship to our natural resources. As our name explicitly states, natural resources is what we are all about. Consequently, I am directing you to have an environmental review of our own operations, policies, and practices.
2. The intent of this review is to create a "white paper" using our own staff, with appropriate input from necessary external sources. Other than staff time, it is anticipated that no costs will be incurred with this review. Membership of this review team should be inclusive of those who show a unique concern for the long term effect of our existence and the willingness to participate in addition to their regular duties.
3. At a minimum, the following items should be included in the review. Foremost, keep in mind that this list is certainly not all inclusive. I anticipate a process of thinking "outside the box", "pushing the envelope" or whatever other catch phrase that can be applied to seriously establish what this NRD can do to become a greater friend of the environment.
 - + Conduct an energy audit of all NRD buildings. This should not be limited to merely what type of light bulbs we use. Weather stripping, temperature settings, and other elements that can contribute to conservation should be reviewed.
 - + Review the possibility of utilizing solar power for our energy needs.
 - + Review the possibility of utilizing wind power for our energy needs.
 - + Ascertain the most efficient use of our motor vehicles. For example, are trips to different places consolidated to the greatest degree, are large equipment items left running or idling during periods of non-use, etc.
 - + Expanding our Recycling (Section 17.33) to specifically mandate recycling of all appropriate items. This should not only include the obvious such as paper, cans, plastic, but look at other opportunities like scrap metal, fluorescent bulbs, lubricating oils, etc.

+ Expand our Procurement Policy (15.0) to specifically include the purchasing of various products such as copy paper, sanitation products, and any other products to assure these contain a certain percentage of recycled and/or post-consumer waste. This can also include products that are biodegradable and specifically state that ethanol will be used in our motor fleet.

+ Review our contracts to include clauses that would prohibit the burning of trees and mandate that these be chipped and/or left for natural decay. This should be included in any subcontracts as well.

+ The inception of cost-sharing with individuals and/or groups for their efforts in taking positive steps for environmental action.

4. The objective of this in-house review is to establish official policies on different aspects of caring for our environment. Also, it is my goal to set standards for others to follow that will result in becoming a greater friend of the environment. Conservation of our natural resources is the ultimate outcome of this team approach. Again, I need to emphasize that there are no limits to what can be studied.

5. This review is to be accomplished within 90 days.

Jim Thompson