

**Staff Report on the Activities of the  
Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) – U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)  
Sustainability Work Group (SWG)**

**at its meeting on Friday, March 14, 2008**

**at the Hotel Solamar, San Diego, California**

**by Matthew C. Jones, ECOS Staff**

The ECOS-DOD Sustainability Work Group met in a plenary session beginning at 8:30 am (Pacific time). Chris Russo (North Carolina Dept. of Env.) welcomed everyone and gave opening remarks on behalf of both Co-Chairs, Mr. Bill Ross (North Carolina Dept. of Env.) and Mr. Alex Beehler (Dep. Und. Sec’y. of Defense for Env., DOD). Mr. Russo outlined the tasks ahead for the Work Group’s two (2) Task Groups for when they would meet in break-out sessions later that afternoon. Mr. Russo expressed his desire that natural resources be protected near army bases and facilities [not just human health via the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)].

Dania Rodriguez (ASTSWMO) offered the group an update on the Assoc. of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials’ (ASTSWMO’s) achievements during its recent meeting.

Paul Yaroschak (Dep. Dir. for Emerging Contaminants, DOD) offered an informational update on perchlorate issues to the group.

At 9:45 am (Pacific) the Work Group’s two (2) Task Groups met in separate sessions. These groups met throughout the day in this manner.

The Emerging Contaminants (EC) Task Group met and discussed many issues. Ms. Shannon Cunniff (Dir. for Emerging Contaminants, DOD) was joined with Mr. Eric Noack (Nevada Div. of Env. Protection) to Co-Chair this Task Group. The EC Task Group worked diligently in session in order to finalize its “Resource Triggers Paper.” The group vowed to report on this achievement to the greater ECOS membership at their Spring Meeting in April in New Orleans, Louisiana.

In the meantime, the Compatible Use and Sustainability Task Group met and continued work on its Draft Strategic Plan. Mr. Chris Russo was joined with Mr. James Hartman (Army Northern Regional Environmental Office) in Co-Chairing this Task Group.

Late in the afternoon, the entire ECOS-DOD SWG met again in one final plenary session, and vowed to continue to meet and noted numerous issues that both main parties wish to continue to work on together, including environmental protection efforts for army facilities with more consideration given to ecological resources (in addition to human health considerations), and Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) issues.

The Work Group adjourned at 4:00 pm (Pacific).