

December 14, 2009

SUBJECT: Revised Environmental Management System Policy

TO: Location Personnel

FROM: Paul Sebesta, Center Director



In accordance with: Executive Order 13148, Greening The Government Through Leadership In Environmental Management; Executive Order 13423, Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management; the USDA, REE, ARS, Environmental Management System Policy; and the Midwest Area Environmental Management System Policy, the National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research (NCAUR) has established and implemented an Environmental Management System.

*Location Research Mission*

NCAUR invents new industrial and food products from agricultural commodities, develops new technologies to improve environmental quality, and provides technical support to Federal regulatory and action agencies. As the lead technology transfer facility of the USDA, NCAUR maintains a mixed portfolio of interdisciplinary science ranging from fundamental to applied research. Microorganisms and/or their enzymes are being developed to transform raw agricultural materials (starch, proteins, oils) to commercially valuable products such as food additives, fuels, cosmetics, and industrial lubricants. Processing technologies that include extrusion, jet cooking, high pressure reactions, and supercritical extraction are being used to make new value-added products such as biodegradable plastics, edible films, printing inks, novel flavors, and pigments. Modern biotechnology tools are being used to produce new products for many industrial uses, improved food quality, and better human nutrition. The techniques are also being used to control agricultural pests (microorganisms, weeds, insects) that decrease crop yields, pose health hazards, and limit exports for American crops in world trade.

*EMS Goals and Objectives*

Our EMS goal is to systematically identify and actively manage environmental aspects in order to prevent pollution and conserve natural resources at the NCAUR. It is our objective, at a minimum, to fully comply with related Federal, State and local regulations applying to these aspects.

*Specific objectives include:*

- protect the environment;
- reduce, reuse and recycle solid waste;

- reduce hazardous waste disposal quantities and costs;
- minimize releases to the environment;
- improve interaction with environmental regulators; and
- improve community relations.

*Specific activities include:*

- update and follow policies as outlined in the NCAUR Safety Health and Environmental Management Program (SHEM) as endorsed by top management, stating the Location's commitments;
- support the NCAUR Safety Committee;
- develop annual environmental goals and objectives by identifying impacts, legal requirements, objectives, and improvements;
- review and implement new activities and operations (i.e., training, recycling, proactive procurement, and activities documentation);
- monitor and measure the status of program objectives, the system, and procedures; and
- management audit of EMS performance by senior management.

This EMS framework will allow the NCAUR SHEM program to address the effects that research operations may have on the environment. Periodic reviews and updates are conducted to ensure the effectiveness of this policy.