Conference Spending Report Cover letter

for FOIA request number FOIA-HQ-2017-000066.

Purpose: As required by OMB Memorandum M 12-12, an annual report is submitted to OMB for conferences above $100,000. The reports are attached.

Attached are the reports for:

FY2014, & FY 2015 OMB Conference Spending reports

FISCAL YEAR 2014 CONFERENCE SPENDING REPORT

January 31, 2015

EPA-190-R-15-002

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A. Background

Building on the Administration's efforts to eliminate wasteful and inefficient spending, the Office of Management and Budget issued Memorandum-12-12, "Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations," in May 2012, which established additional controls over conference spending.[1] This memorandum included a requirement for reporting of conference expenses on each agency's website starting January 31, 2013.

This report provides information on conference expenses in excess of $100,000 during the fiscal year.[2] In this report, the agency provides a description of all conferences where the net expenses for the agency, in excess of $100,000 includes:

- the total conference expenses incurred by the agency for the conference;
- the location of the conference;
- the date of the conference;
- a brief explanation how the conference advanced the mission of the agency; and
- the total number of individuals whose travel expenses or other conference expenses were paid by the agency.

In addition, this report provides information on the EPA's overall conference activities throughout the year, efforts taken to reduce conference spending, and the controls the agency has enacted to ensure conference spending is reviewed and approved at an appropriate management level.

Section 3003 of the FY 2013 Continuing Resolution (CR), P.L. 113-6, lowered the reporting threshold on conference spending to $20,000 and included language with new requirements for conference spending. For conferences occurring April 15, 2013 and after, Agencies are required to notify their Inspector General of any conference exceeding $20,000 *within 15 days* from the conclusion date of the conference for any conference taking place in FY 2013 and beyond.

B. Activities and Internal Controls Undertaken by the EPA

1. The EPA requires Assistant Administrator or Regional Administrator approval of all conference-related activities above $20,000. The approval must be completed prior to obligating any funds for a conference-related activity requiring resources above $20,000.

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[1] "Conference expenses" are defined in OMB M-12-12 as "all direct and indirect conference costs paid by the Government, whether paid directly by agencies or reimbursed by agencies to travelers or others associated with the conference, but do not include funds paid under Federal grants to grantees. Conference expenses include any associated authorized travel and per diem expenses, hire of rooms for official business, audiovisual use, light refreshments, registration fees, ground transportation, and other expenses as defined by the [Federal Travel Regulations]. All outlays for conference preparation and planning should be included, but the Federal employee time for conference preparation should not be included. Conference expenses should be net of any fees or revenue received by the agency through the conference and should not include costs to ensure the safety of attending governmental officials."

[2] The EPA uses the same definition provided in OMB M-12-12: a "conference" is defined as "[a] meeting, retreat, seminar, symposium or event that involves attendee travel. The term 'conference' also applies to training activities that are considered to be conferences under 5 CFR 410.404."

2. The EPA's Office of the Chief Financial Officer made a review of conference-related activities part of the annual A-123 review beginning in FY 2012. The FY 2014 review did not uncover any non-compliance with newly implemented approval processes.

3. The EPA requires Senior Resource Officials or their designee to report conferences for their organization with net expenses greater than $20,000 to the OIG within 15 calendar days of the conference conclusion date. This information will include the: name of the conference, conference location, conference date(s), and number of agency employees that attended.

4. For conferences with net expenses greater than $100,000, EPA organizations must track and report the methodology to determine which costs relate to a conference and provide a description of the contracting procedures used.

5. The EPA is utilizing video conferencing in lieu of in person meetings to conserve resources. If in person meetings are required, all EPA organizations are required to attest that no adequate federal space was available prior to obligating federal funds for meeting space.

C. Overall size and scope of conference spending throughout the year

During FY 2014, the EPA spent $2,455,508 for 13 "conferences" above $100,000. Below is a complete listing of conference-related activities above $100,000.

D. "Conferences" above $100,000

1. 2013 National Executive Leadership Development Conference

- ***Date:*** 12/3/2013 – 12/4/2013
- ***Location:*** Washington, DC
- ***Cost:*** $296,340
- ***Total Attendees:*** 311
- ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 118 EPA travelers
- ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** The National Executive Leadership Development Conference is an annual meeting for the EPA's senior leaders to hear from the EPA's Administrator, obtain leadership training, and provides an opportunity to network. The NELDC also provides an opportunity for the EPA senior leaders to discuss building strengthened relationships, seeking out diverse views and tools to provide integrated solutions, and aligning understandings of problems to provide synchronized efforts to implement solutions.

2. Science Advisory Board (SAB) Panel Meeting on Water Body Connectivity

- ***Date:*** 12/16/2013 – 12/18/2013
- ***Location:*** Washington, DC
- ***Cost:*** $101,103
- ***Total Attendees:*** 210
- ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 32 (30 EPA travelers, 2 non-EPA travelers)
- ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** This conference is held by the Science Advisory Board (SAB), which is a Federal Advisory Committee established pursuant to the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Act and chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The SAB provides independent advice and peer review to the EPA Administrator on the scientific and technical aspects of environmental issues. The EPA's Office of Research and Development has requested that the SAB conduct a peer review on a draft of the EPA report, *Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters: A Review and*

Synthesis of the Scientific Evidence (September 13, 2013 External Review Draft, EPA/600/R-11/0908B). Due to the complexity of this review, it was necessary for the SAB panel to hold this meeting to discuss and deliberate their comments as required under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

3. **11th Annual EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Workshop**
   - ***Date:*** 3/20/2014
   - ***Location:*** Cincinnati, OH
   - ***Cost:*** $108,252
   - ***Total Attendees:*** 225
   - ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 1 EPA traveler
   - ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** In 2001, the EPA announced an initiative for additional research and development for cost-effective technologies to help small systems meet the new arsenic standard set at 0.010 mg/L and to provide technical assistance to operators of small systems to reduce compliance costs. As a result of this initiative, the EPA's Office of Research and Development began a series of yearly workshops to assist operators of small community water systems and states to comply with the new standard. As a result, this conference has become invaluable in disseminating the EPA's research to state primacy agency personnel responsible for drinking water regulations compliance and treatment. Attendees are able to build strong working relationships which allow the EPA and stakeholders from across the Nation to deliver safer drinking water. Through this workshop, the EPA gains a better understanding of regulatory and compliance challenges that states face, and the states benefit from the in-depth training and updated information the EPA provides.

4. **2014 National Sustainable Design Expo and P3 Awards Ceremony**
   - ***Date:*** 4/25/2014
   - ***Location:*** Washington, DC
   - ***Cost:*** $379,568
   - ***Total Attendees:*** Approximately 5,000 (public expo)
   - ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 8 non-EPA travelers
   - ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** The EPA's People, Prosperity & the Planet (P3) Program is designed to develop the next generation of environmental scientists and engineers. The National Sustainable Design Expo is a public showcase of the designs of the P3 teams which have competitively received a P3 Phase 1 grant coupled with a public expo highlighting sustainable technologies and initiatives from the non-profit, public, and private sectors. The annual National Sustainable Design Expo promotes the agency's mission of developing a world-class science base in the United States for environmental and public health issues and is sponsored by the agency's Office of Research and Development and the National Center for Environmental Research.

5. **2014 Energy Star Partner of the Year Awards Ceremony**
   - ***Date:*** 4/29/2014
   - ***Location:*** Washington, DC
   - ***Cost:*** $163,614
   - ***Total Attendees:*** 833
   - ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 1 non-EPA traveler
   - ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** This is a large showcase event for the ENERGY STAR program and its partners. This conference advances the mission of the EPA to protect the environment by encouraging innovation by honoring private industry partners who have gone above and beyond their commitment to protecting the environment through energy

efficiency. Approximately 800 (out of more than 20K total) partners come together to network and learn from each other about more ways to improve energy efficiency, learn more about ENERGY STAR, and highlight the achievements of the past year. Held since 1993, the annual awards ceremony is a major highlight for many partners, who strive to increase their participation in the program year after year with the hope of receiving this recognition.

6. **National Training conference on the Toxics Release Inventory and Environmental Conditions in Communities**
   - ***Date:*** 5/7/2014 – 5/9/2014
   - ***Location:*** Arlington, VA
   - ***Cost:*** $164,764
   - ***Total Attendees:*** 314
   - ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 20 EPA travelers
   - ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** Over 20 years ago, the EPA implemented a flagship community right-to-know regulatory program – the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program. The goal of this program is to provide communities with information about toxic chemical releases and waste management activities. Since implementation, the TRI program has been tracking the management of certain toxic chemicals that may pose a threat to human health and the environment. The National Training on TRI and Environmental Conditions in Communities conference augments existing online training provided throughout the year and fosters the exchange of information between the EPA, localities, states, tribes, federal agencies, industry stakeholders, community groups, researchers, and non-governmental organizations.

7. **Air Sensors 2014: A New Frontier Conference**
   - ***Date:*** 6/9/2014 – 6/10/2014
   - ***Location:*** Research Triangle Park, NC
   - ***Cost:*** $114,688
   - ***Total Attendees:*** 291
   - ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 26 (23 EPA travelers, 3 non-EPA travelers)
   - ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** The 2014 Air Sensors: A New Frontier Conference addressed the opportunities and challenges associated with the next generation of air quality monitoring technology and data. This conference brings together a wide range of stakeholders to discus, share, and communicate air sensor monitoring topics in direct support of meeting the EPA challenges by: making a visible difference in communities across the country by actively engaging community representatives, addressing climate change and improving air quality, launching a new era of state, tribal, and local partnerships by engaging stakeholders, and allows the EPA to take advantage of new tools and technologies to embrace next generation tools and processes.

8. **Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) National Training Conference**
   - ***Date:*** 6/9/2014 – 6/13/2014
   - ***Location:*** Denver, CO
   - ***Cost:*** $108,663
   - ***Total Attendees:*** 116
   - ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 49 EPA travelers
   - ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** The PRP National Training Conference is a national training conference conducted by the EPA's Office of Site Remediation Enforcement. This training discusses potentially responsible party search topics, and is held in response to request from the EPA Regional offices and state counterparts. Identifying liable and viable

potentially responsible parties is critical to the Superfund Program's Enforcement First principle that polluters pay for the cleanup rather than the taxpayer.

9. **National Association of Remedial Project Managers**
   - ***Date:*** 6/16/2014 – 6/20/2014
   - ***Location:*** Atlanta, GA
   - ***Cost:*** $407,229
   - ***Total Attendees:*** 439
   - ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 239 EPA travelers
   - ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** The National Association of Remedial Project Managers (NARPM) conference provides annual training for Superfund Remedial Project managers on key skills that support their ability to manage complex environmental cleanups, including the dynamic nature of the technologies, policies, and issues surrounding cleanups, to protect human health and the environment. The training provided at the NARPM conference also fulfills the EPA's statutory responsibility for technology transfer and training, as well as the requirements under the National Contingency Plan to train Remedial Project Managers, and fulfills certification and training requirements, such as training to maintain Contracting Officer Representative certification.

10. **Science Advisory Board and Board of Scientific Counselors Strategic Research Action Plan Meeting**
   - ***Date:*** 7/24/2014 – 7/25/2014
   - ***Location:*** Washington, DC
   - ***Cost:*** $110,825
   - ***Total Attendees:*** 163
   - ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 78 (76 EPA travelers, 2 non-EPA travelers)
   - ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** The Science Advisory Board (SAB) is a Federal Advisory Committee established pursuant to the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Act and chartered under the Federal Advisory Act Committee. The SAB provides independent advice and peer review to the EPA Administrator on the scientific and technical aspects of environmental issues. The EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) requested the SAB to hold a joint public meeting with ORD's Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) to provide advice to guide the development of six Strategic Action Plans for ORD's six major research programs for 2016-2019. A joint SAB and BOSC meeting provides BOSC with the benefit of SAB's strategic thinking, allows the SAB to better understand ORD's operational challenges and the BOSC perspective, gives ORD advice on shaping new directions for the six research programs, and addresses questions of integration across all ORD programs.

11. **National Conference on Mine-Influenced Waters and Pit Lakes (Hardrock Mining)**
   - ***Date:*** 8/12/2014 – 8/14/2014
   - ***Location:*** Albuquerque, NM
   - ***Cost:*** $106,280
   - ***Total Attendees:*** 269
   - ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 5 EPA travelers
   - ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** The National Conference on Mine-Influenced Waters and Pit Lakes provided a forum for the exchange of scientific information on current approaches for assessing the characterization, monitoring, treatment and/or remediation impacts on aquatics ecosystems, including pit lakes from mining-related contamination in the Western United States. The information exchange serves to improve monitoring approaches that quantify ecological condition and assessment techniques to establishing causality among multiple

stressors. The information provided through this forum will also create a stronger foundation for risk-reduction and habitat restoration decisions by improving the means of identifying and prioritizing aquatic ecosystems impacted by mining and establishing ecologically-credible cleanup goals.

12. National Ambient Air Monitoring Conference

- ***Date:*** 8/11/2014 – 8/14/2014
- ***Location:*** Atlanta, GA
- ***Cost:*** $118,428
- ***Total Attendees:*** 595
- ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 81 (79 EPA travelers, 2 non-EPA travelers)
- ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** The National Ambient Air Monitoring Conference provides a forum for the EPA, state, local, tribal, international, and other federal agencies to discuss implementing criteria and hazardous air pollutant monitoring programs. Attendees also discuss changes to monitoring networks as a result of revisions to the national Ambient Air Quality Standards and ambient air monitoring regulations, and are given the opportunity to share and discuss information learned as a result of data analyses. This conference also provides training on the Air Quality System (AQS), the EPA's repository for all ambient air monitoring data collected across the nation.

13. National Contaminants Forum in Fish

- ***Date:*** 9/22/2014 – 9/24/2014
- ***Location:*** Arlington, VA
- ***Cost:*** $333,838
- ***Total Attendees:*** 201
- ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 84 (6 EPA travelers, 78 non-EPA travelers)
- ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** The National Contaminants Forum in Fish is a national forum hosted by the EPA every two to three years, and demonstrates the EPA's support and commitment to the fish advisory community. This forum provides the opportunity for the dissemination of relevant science, health policy, and public health advice to the fish advisory community. Through this forum, the EPA is able to promote national consistency among state fish advisory programs, help build and maintain relationships between the EPA and state fish advisory programs, and provide a platform for state programs to meet on a regional basis to discuss issues such as approaches to advisory development on shared waters.

FISCAL YEAR 2015 CONFERENCE SPENDING REPORT

January 31, 2016

EPA-190-R-16-001

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A. Background

Building on the Administration's efforts to eliminate wasteful and inefficient spending, the Office of Management and Budget issued Memorandum-12-12, "Promoting Efficient Spending to Support Agency Operations," in May 2012, which established additional controls over conference spending.[1] This memorandum included a requirement for reporting of conference expenses on each agency's website starting January 31, 2013.

This report provides information on conference expenses in excess of $100,000 during the fiscal year.[2] In this report, the agency provides a description of all conferences where the net expenses for the agency, in excess of $100,000 includes:

- the total conference expenses incurred by the agency for the conference;
- the location of the conference;
- the date of the conference;
- a brief explanation how the conference advanced the mission of the agency; and
- the total number of individuals whose travel expenses or other conference expenses were paid by the agency.

In addition, this report provides information on the EPA's overall conference activities throughout the year, efforts taken to reduce conference spending, and the controls the agency has enacted to ensure conference spending is reviewed and approved at an appropriate management level.

Section 3003 of the FY 2013 Continuing Resolution, P.L. 113-6, lowered the reporting threshold on conference spending to $20,000 and included language with new requirements for conference spending. For conferences occurring April 15, 2013 and after, agencies are required to notify their Inspector General of any conference exceeding $20,000 *within 15 days* from the conclusion date of the conference for any conference taking place in FY 2013 and beyond.

B. Activities and Internal Controls Undertaken by the EPA

1. The EPA requires Assistant Administrator or Regional Administrator approval of all conference-related activities above $20,000. The approval must be completed prior to obligating any funds for a conference-related activity requiring resources above $20,000.

2. The EPA's Office of Inspector General conducted an audit of conference related events and did not find any significant issues with non-compliance with either OMB or EPA guidance.

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[1] "Conference expenses" are defined in OMB M-12-12 as "all direct and indirect conference costs paid by the Government, whether paid directly by agencies or reimbursed by agencies to travelers or others associated with the conference, but do not include funds paid under Federal grants to grantees. Conference expenses include any associated authorized travel and per diem expenses, hire of rooms for official business, audiovisual use, light refreshments, registration fees, ground transportation, and other expenses as defined by the [Federal Travel Regulations]. All outlays for conference preparation and planning should be included, but the Federal employee time for conference preparation should not be included. Conference expenses should be net of any fees or revenue received by the agency through the conference and should not include costs to ensure the safety of attending governmental officials."

[2] The EPA uses the same definition provided in OMB M-12-12: a "conference" is defined as "[a] meeting, retreat, seminar, symposium or event that involves attendee travel. The term 'conference' also applies to training activities that are considered to be conferences under 5 CFR 410.404."

3. The EPA requires Senior Resource Officials or their designee to report conferences for their organization with net expenses greater than $20,000 to the OIG within 15 calendar days of the conference conclusion date. This information will include the: name of the conference, conference location, conference date(s), and number of agency employees that attended.

4. For conferences with net expenses greater than $100,000, EPA organizations must track and report the methodology to determine which costs relate to a conference and provide a description of the contracting procedures used.

5. The EPA is utilizing video conferencing in lieu of in person meetings to conserve resources. If in person meetings are required, all EPA organizations are required to attest that no adequate federal space was available prior to obligating federal funds for meeting space.

C. Overall size and scope of conference spending throughout the year

During FY 2015, the EPA spent $2,881,782 for 14 "conferences" above $100,000. Below is a complete listing of conference-related activities above $100,000 for events either hosted/co-hosted or sponsored/co-sponsored by EPA.

D. "Conferences" above $100,000

1. ENERGY STAR Products Partner Meeting

- ***Date:*** 10/27/2014 – 10/29/2014
- ***Location:*** Scottsdale, AZ
- ***Cost:*** $156,843
- ***Total Attendees:*** 523
- ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 22 (15 EPA travelers, 7 Non-EPA travelers)
- ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** The ENERGY STAR Products Partner Meeting directly supports the network of partners who leverage ENERGY STAR to improve the energy efficiency of homes and industrial facilities, benefitting the public through enhanced education the value of energy efficiency to all of us, as well as delivering energy and utility bill savings, and related greenhouse gas emissions reductions. The meeting also provides an opportunity to showcase the EPA's environmental stewardship in meeting management, through informing meeting participants about environmental efforts associated with the meeting, and providing opportunities for partners to contribute to these efforts. Additionally, the event is focused on creating an opportunity for partners to take action and deliver results, directly advancing the EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment through increased energy efficiency that reduces energy production and the associated greenhouse gas emissions.

2. National Nonpoint Source Water Quality Index (NWQI) Workshop

- ***Date:*** 11/17/2014 – 11/20/2014
- ***Location:*** Dallas, TX
- ***Cost:*** $115,344
- ***Total Attendees:*** 216
- ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 38 (33 EPA travelers, 5 Non-EPA travelers)
- ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** The workshop was sponsored by the EPA's Nonpoint Source (NPS) Control Branch and EPA Region 6 in Dallas, TX. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together state, tribal, EPA Regional and Headquarters staff and others to help improve implementation of the Clean Water Act section 319 NPS Program and other

programs addressing NPS pollution. NPS pollution is the leading cause of remaining water quality problems in the U.S.; states and tribes have the lead to develop programs to address these problems. The meeting helped attendees to build stronger working relationships which allow the EPA and states/tribes to deliver stronger programs to control NPS pollution. In addition, the last day and a half of the workshop focused on agricultural NPS issues and staff from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service joined the workshop to work toward strengthened collaboration among EPA, state/tribal water quality agencies and USDA on the NWQI and other implementation programs. The 319 NPS Program and the NWQI supports the agency's mission to protect and restore the nation's water quality.

3. **Joint Water Quality Standards Meeting**
   - ***Date:*** 03/11/2015 – 03/13/2015
   - ***Location:*** Washington, DC
   - ***Cost:*** $101,584
   - ***Total Attendees:*** 96
   - ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 31 (20 EPA travelers, 11 Non-EPA travelers)
   - ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** The Joint Water Quality Standards Meeting is an annual 3-day meeting of state, regional and EPA headquarters water quality standards staff. The meeting is an opportunity to discuss significant water quality issues and work toward addressing mutual policy concerns. The meeting advances the agency's mission because all meeting participants work to develop and/or implement water quality standards that protect and enhance the nation's waters.

4. **11th National Sustainable Design Expo & P3 Awards Ceremony**
   - ***Date:*** 04/11/2015 – 04/13/2015
   - ***Location:*** Alexandria, VA
   - ***Cost:*** $357,385
   - ***Total Attendees:*** Approximately 1,000 (public expo)
   - ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 14 Non-EPA travelers
   - ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** The EPA's P3 Program is designed to develop the next generation of environmental scientists and engineers. The National Sustainable Design Expo is a public showcase of the designs of the P3 teams which have competitively received a P3 Phase 1 grant coupled with a public expo highlighting sustainable technologies and initiatives from the non-profit, public, and private sectors. The annual National Sustainable Design Expo promotes the agency's mission of developing a world-class science base in the U.S. for environmental and public health issues and is sponsored by the agency's Office of Research and Development and the National Center for Environmental Research.

5. **International Emissions Inventory Conference**
   - ***Date:*** 04/13/2015 – 04/16/2015
   - ***Location:*** San Diego, CA
   - ***Cost:*** $160,068
   - ***Total Attendees:*** 320
   - ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 48 (47 EPA travelers, 1 Non-EPA traveler)
   - ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** This conference advances and supports the EPA's mission by facilitating dialogue between the agency and its stakeholders regarding the latest developments in emissions inventory development, reporting requirements, and associated inventory implementation approaches. It also provides training not otherwise available. The conference also directly supports the electronic reporting, data transparency, and scientific integrity goals and mission of the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards and the agency.

A key objective of this conference is to facilitate dialogue between the EPA, other federal agencies, state, local, and tribal agencies, and other stakeholders regarding the latest developments in emissions reporting requirements and associated implementation approaches. It also provides a major, comprehensive and in-person forum for interactions among and between emission inventory professionals across regulatory agencies and affected entities, industry, and academia. Emission inventory issues are of vital importance for any organization that relies on air quality models and State Implementation Plan development in support of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Without emission inventories, air quality forecasts, NAAQS implementation and other air quality assessments could not be done.

6. **ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year (POY) Awards Meeting**
   - ***Date:*** 04/20/2015
   - ***Location:*** Washington, DC
   - ***Cost:*** $145,510
   - ***Total Attendees:*** 900
   - ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 1 Non-EPA traveler
   - ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** ENERGY STAR POY winners help to transform the market for energy efficiency services and products across the residential, commercial and industrial sectors. The POY Awards are also a positive, affirming experience for partners, demonstrating the EPA's appreciation of all of their hard work in improving energy efficiency and protecting the environment. We receive very positive, enthusiastic partner feedback after each year's ceremony. Organizations leave with renewed enthusiasm for their partnership with the EPA and with more knowledge about the ENERGY STAR brand and our combined benefits for the environment. They also take home key best practices in corporate leadership, individual commitment, problem-solving innovation, cost-effective investments and teamwork that contribute to even greater energy efficiency efforts.

     Due to the recognition ceremony, partners are further encouraged to increase their support of ENERGY STAR and their protection of the environment and public health. Partners work harder to meet energy efficiency goals within their own organizations and increase the outreach they do to educate the public about ENERGY STAR. Also, the positive press from the event increases interest in the brand, resulting in new, active partners that further advance the EPA's mission.

7. **2015 Budget Technical Training Workshop**
   - ***Date:*** 04/21/2015 – 04/23/2015
   - ***Location:*** Research Triangle Park, NC
   - ***Cost:*** $114,609
   - ***Total Attendees:*** 176 + 50 virtual participants
   - ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 141 EPA travelers
   - ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** The purpose of this training event is to give the budget community a chance to come together to obtain information and hands-on training, discuss current and future budget issues. It allows for those in the budget community to be trained on the latest software through demonstrations and hands-on training. Lastly, this training event will enhance the effectiveness of the EPA's budget community and improve operations.

8. **Office of Administration Training Workshop**
   - ***Date:*** 06/23/2015 – 06/25/2015
   - ***Location:*** Research Triangle Park, NC
   - ***Cost:*** $161,096
   - ***Total Attendees:*** 102
   - ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 97 EPA travelers
   - ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** With the announcement of Executive Order 13693, Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade, and OMB M-12-12 Section 3: Reduce the Footprint, it was necessary that a forum be provided to address these new federal mandates. Additionally, this training workshop allowed the Office of Administration to discuss and disseminate information to the regions that will affect all aspects of Facilities Management, Security Management, and Safety Health and Environmental Management programs.

9. **Community Involvement Training Conference (CITC)**
   - ***Date:*** 08/03/2015 – 08/06/2015
   - ***Location:*** Atlanta, GA
   - ***Cost:*** $436,920
   - ***Total Attendees:*** 881
   - ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 164 (137 EPA travelers, 27 Non-EPA travelers)
   - ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** This conference advances and supports the Administrator's public mission theme: "Making a Visible Difference in Communities across the Country: EPA must work each and every day – hand-in-hand with other federal agencies, states, tribes, and local communities – to improve the health of American families and protect the environment one community at a time, all across the country."

     A key objective of this conference was to train the EPA staff to work effectively with community representatives. The CITC provided a major comprehensive and in-person forum for interactions among and between the EPA and state, local, and tribal community representatives.

10. **Tribal Lands and Environment Forum (TLEF)**
   - ***Date:*** 08/17/2015 – 08/20/2015
   - ***Location:*** Minneapolis, MN
   - ***Cost:*** $113,836
   - ***Total Attendees:*** 530
   - ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 105 EPA travelers
   - ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** The Tribal Lands and Environment Forum is mission critical to the EPA by providing direct interaction and collaboration with tribal co-regulators including tribal environmental professionals and tribal leaders. The TLEF is the only national training and meeting dedicated to bringing tribal co-regulators and the federal, state, local and non-profit organizations together to address the most pressing land-related environmental issues in tribal communities and now is even stronger with the addition of water-related issues. This event brings tribes and EPA together to discuss and learn about protecting and restoring water resources and providing access to safe drinking water.

11. 12th Annual EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Workshop

- ***Date:*** 08/25/2015 – 08/27/2015
- ***Location:*** Cincinnati, OH
- ***Cost:*** $110,020
- ***Total Attendees:*** 259
- ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 68 (55 EPA travelers, 13 Non-EPA travelers)
- ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** In 2001, the EPA announced an initiative for additional research and development for cost-effective technologies to help small systems meet the new arsenic standard set at 0.010 mg/L and to provide technical assistance to operators of small systems to reduce compliance costs. As a result of this initiative, the EPA's Office of Research and Development began a series of yearly workshops to assist operators of small community water systems and states to comply with the new standard. As a result, this conference has become invaluable in disseminating the EPA's research to state primacy agency personnel responsible for drinking water regulations compliance and treatment. Attendees are able to build strong working relationships which allow the EPA and stakeholders from across the Nation to deliver safer drinking water. Through this workshop, the EPA gains a better understanding of regulatory and compliance challenges that states face, and the states benefit from the in-depth training and updated information the EPA provides.

12. National Brownfields Training Conference

- ***Date:*** 09/01/2015 – 09/03/2015
- ***Location:*** Chicago, IL
- ***Cost:*** $683,671
- ***Total Attendees:*** 2,668
- ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 104 (92 EPA travelers, 12 Non-EPA travelers)
- ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** The National Brownfields Training Conference ties directly to three of the agency's themes established by Administrator McCarthy: (1) making a visible difference in communities across the country; (2) launching a new era of State, Tribal and local partnerships; and (3) working towards a sustainable future. The National Brownfields Training Conference provides opportunities for attendees to learn about enhancing the livability and economic vitality of neighborhoods around brownfields sites, using green infrastructure to manage urban waters, and considering the impacts of decisions on environmental justice communities. The National Brownfields Training Conference provides a multitude of opportunities for the EPA to work with the states, tribes, local governments, and sister federal agencies that constitute our country's environmental protection enterprise, to ensure the efficiency, efficacy, and coordination of our overlapping and complementary efforts.

  Additionally, the National Brownfields Training Conference is a training event and offers over 100 educational sessions designed to provide communities, non-profits, and environmental justice stakeholders the opportunity to learn from the experiences of their peers and from experts in the fields of financing, leveraging public outreach, and brownfields assessment and cleanup. Our educational programming is tailored around several tracks, or general subject areas, that reflect Administrator McCarthy's priorities and the overall needs of our major stakeholders. The biannual National Brownfields Training Conference is the EPA's largest national event focusing on environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment. The Brownfields Program is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields properties. The conference historically serves over 5,000 stakeholders, including community leaders, non-profits, state and Tribal officials, environmental justice leaders, private sector developers and environmental engineering firms.

The Brownfields Conference is one of the only national events that collectively serves government, non-profit, and private sector Brownfields stakeholders and provides stakeholders the opportunity to share success stories and challenges. The conference also provides a unique opportunity for environmental justice stakeholders to caucus and expand their conversations on community revitalization goals. There are no other national conference opportunities that achieve this same purpose.

13. 25th National Tanks Conference and Expo

- ***Date:*** 09/14/2015 – 09/16/2015
- ***Location:*** Phoenix, AZ
- ***Cost:*** $116,968
- ***Total Attendees:*** 767
- ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 84 (83 EPA travelers, 1 Non-EPA traveler)
- ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** The purpose of the national tanks conference and expo is to educate attendees on the best management practices and upcoming issues about protecting the environment and human health from the dangers of release from underground storage tanks. The audience for the conference consists of technical, scientific, and managerial personnel from state, federal, and tribal regulatory agencies and industry in the U.S. The topics presented are of specific interest to this distinct audience.

  This is the only underground storage tanks national forum where states, tribes, EPA, tank owners, equipment and service companies, and other stakeholders can meet to learn about, discuss, and share information on the best management practices, efficient implementation approaches, emerging technologies, and partnership opportunities. The expo also offers an excellent opportunity to build relationships and encourage peer matching for the tank program, where states can shadow other states to directly learn way to improve their tank programs, thereby providing valuable and timely tank education.

14. 1985 Guidelines Revision: Invited Expert Public Meeting

- ***Date:*** 09/14/2015 – 09/16/2015
- ***Location:*** Crystal City, VA
- ***Cost:*** $122,346
- ***Total Attendees:*** 76 + 163 virtual participants
- ***Individuals traveling on agency funds:*** 24 (8 EPA travelers, 16 Non-EPA travelers)
- ***How the conference advances the agency mission:*** The EPA's Office of Science and Technology, Health and Ecological Criteria Division (HECD) provides a scientific foundation to support the Office of Water and the agency's mission of protecting human health and the environment by supporting the protection and restoration of the nation's waters (EPA's theme number 4). HECD develops Clean Water Act 304(a) Ambient Water Quality Criteria (AWQC), which are recommendations of levels of a pollutant or other measurable parameter that allows for protection of human health and the environment. Over 30 years ago in 1985, the guidelines for developing Aquatic Life AWQC were published which describe the overarching scientific approach. Since that time, there have been many advances in aquatic toxicology. OST/HECD has committed to updating the 1985 guidelines to better reflect the use of the best available science in development of criteria recommendations. The 1985 guidelines revision meeting was an invited expert public meeting to solicit information and external scientific expert advice on advances in science that can be used to inform revision the 1985 guidelines to continue to support the agency's mission.