



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Information Quality FY 2003 Annual Report summarizes the first year of implementation of a new corrections process created as part of the 2002 *Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity of Information Disseminated by the Environmental Protection Agency* (Information Quality Guidelines or IQGs).

In accordance with the Data Quality Act of 2001, EPA has established a process that enables the public to seek and obtain corrections of information they believe may not comply with EPA's IQGs. If a member of the public believes EPA is disseminating information that does not meet EPA's quality principles for objectivity, utility, and/or integrity, that person may submit a Request for Correction (RFC). Each RFC submitted to EPA is forwarded for response to the appropriate EPA program or region by the Office of Environmental Information with the goal of providing a response within 90 days. If requestors are not satisfied with EPA's decision on the request, they may submit a Request for Reconsideration (RFR) which is reviewed by a three-member IQG Executive Panel consisting of the Science Advisor to the Agency and Assistant Administrator for Research and Development; Economics Advisor to the Agency and Associate Administrator for Policy, Economics, and Innovation; and the Chief Information Officer and Assistant Administrator for Environmental Information.

To ensure transparency of EPA's IQG process, EPA has also launched the IQG Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/oei/qualityguidelines>) that enables the public to view all IQG requests, EPA acknowledgment and response letters, and all other IQG-related correspondence.

EPA is committed to maintaining an open dialog on quality information, and firmly believes that quality information is tantamount to ensuring a sound and effective government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Nelson".

Kimberly T. Nelson
Assistant Administrator and
Chief Information Officer
Office of Environmental Information
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

