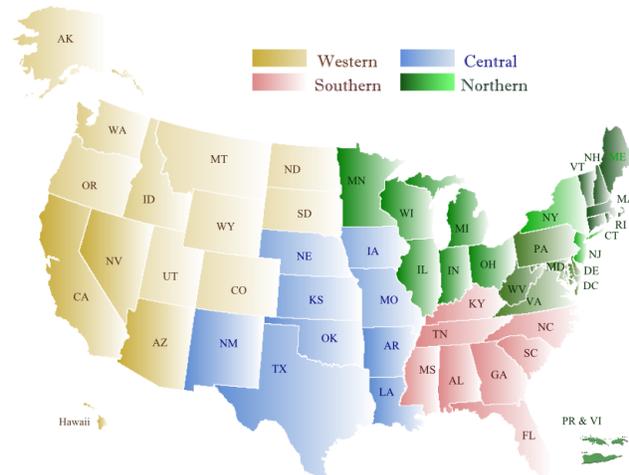


REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL & ENERGY OFFICES



PARTNERSHIPS WITH POWER

March 2013

The Army's Regional Environmental and Energy Offices (REEOs) participate in partnerships established with states and other government agencies in an effort to solve common problems, save money and ultimately, advance the military mission. Partnerships have proven to be valuable for Department of Defense (DoD) installations and states. Here's a look at the power of partnerships across the regions.

In 1996, the Department of Defense (DoD), REEO-Central (REEO-C), and regulatory officials of Texas recognized the value of cooperative efforts in pollution prevention (P2) and recycling and created the Texas Pollution Prevention Partnership (TX-P3). The partnership between the regulatory community, DoD/Army, National Aerospace Administration, Texas National Guard, and Coast Guard became nationally recognized. In 2002, TX-P3 expanded its scope with a new charter to address all environmental matters and became the Texas Environmental Partnership (TXEP). REEO-C is a charter member of both partnerships. TXEP has been highly successful in reducing enforcement actions against DoD facilities, as well as avoiding significant compliance costs. REEO-C has worked closely with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to ensure each installation is evaluated on its own environmental compliance history, versus the record of other installations in the state.

See excerpts from this article in the March 2013 Review publications from the Regional Environmental and Energy Offices

Some partnerships inspire new groups to form. The Region 5 Sustainability Network, chartered in 2007, achieved its goals and no longer meets. But its members, including the REEO-Northern (REEO-N), have formed individual groups in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. These smaller state partnerships now work on maintaining effective dialog with regulatory agencies, providing updates on military priorities, discussing compliance issues, identifying the need for state legislation and regulations, and providing a forum for discussing sustainability opportunities and lessons learned. Participants include senior leaders of state regulatory agencies and representatives from state, active duty, reserve and National Guard military organizations.

The Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group (SENRLG) is a collaboration of 13 regional federal executives who lead agencies with natural resource conservation responsibilities. SENRLG partners have collaborated on issues related to water quality, climate change, the gulf oil spill, and endangered species. The group is committed to fulfilling agency mandates with methods that promote conservation and restoration of important natural resources; wise management and sound stewardship of natural, biological and cultural resources; and ecologically sustainable development. REEO-Southern (REEO-S) recently became a vested SENRLG Principal, and has been afforded the DoD's first opportunity to host the next biannual meeting. The May 2013 meeting at Fort Benning, Georgia, will showcase the Army's environmental program mission, capabilities and current work.

Travel budgets have been reduced across all services, and while installation staff cannot currently attend national environmental workshops for education and information, the workforce still needs forums to share information and leverage resources outside the fence line. In August 2012, the REEO-Western (REEO-W) began hosting a roundtable discussion with Colorado installation environmental and media

managers. Informally known as Front Range Environmental Managers, the group meets in a central location so no one needs to travel overnight. The meeting agendas are flexible and based on what the group wants to discuss. In August, the roundtable topic was Colorado's storage tank and discharge rules. The January 2013 meeting focused on water rights. The roundtables give the group the chance to compare notes. And for the REEO-W, they shine a light on installation challenges that might not have come up in a phone call.

For more information about regional partnerships, contact the Regional Environmental Coordinator in your region, or visit the [REEO program website](#).