



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
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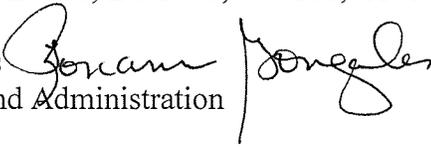
VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

MEMORANDUM

To: Elizabeth Cordova-Harrison
Director, Management Services Office

Mike Gabaldon
Director, Technical Resources

Regional Directors
Attn: PN-1000, MP-100, LC-1000, UC-100, GP-1000

From: Roseann Gonzales 
Director, Policy and Administration

Subject: The Bureau of Reclamation's Interpretation of the Guiding Principles for Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings – Existing Buildings

Reclamation's Sustainable Building Team (SBT) facilitates the development of policy, directives and standards, guidance, recommendations, and training to assist Reclamation offices in accomplishing sustainable building goals required by executive order (EO). The SBT has developed the *Interpretation of the Guiding Principles for Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings – Existing Buildings* (Attachment 1) to provide detailed guidance on Reclamation's requirements for achieving compliance with the *Guiding Principles for Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings* (Guiding Principles) at existing buildings within the sustainable building inventory. This guidance describes sustainable building concepts, challenges, strategies, and resources for achieving the Guiding Principles as well as Reclamation-specific initiatives.

The interpretive guidance ensures a consistent approach to assessing compliance with the Guiding Principles across Reclamation by establishing minimum requirements that must be met in order for a building to claim compliance. The guidance should be used in conjunction with the *Reclamation Guiding Principles Checklist for Existing Buildings*; a tool for assessing, documenting, and certifying compliance (Attachment 2). Regional and office SBT members, building managers and staff, property managers, project managers, contracting officers, sustainable building contractors, and building system designers should apply the guidance to existing building operations, maintenance, and renovations, where applicable, to ensure these activities are conducted in accordance with the Guiding Principles.

Background

The Guiding Principles were first defined in a memorandum of understanding signed by over 20 Federal agencies in 2006, and then codified as the sustainable building standard for all Federal agencies in EO 13423, *Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management* (January 2007). In October 2009, EO 13514, *Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance*, reaffirmed the Guiding Principles as the Federal standard and established a target of 15 percent of a Federal agency's existing capital asset building inventory to meet the Guiding Principles by the end of fiscal year (FY) 2015.

To facilitate the accomplishment of sustainable building goals, Reclamation established the SBT in 2009. The SBT is comprised of regional and program representatives that bring together expertise in property and building management, procurement, energy, environmental management, and sustainable building design. The SBT has facilitated the development of Reclamation's Sustainable Building Implementation Plan, Reclamation Manual Policy, ENV-P08 (*Sustainable Buildings*), and the completion of over 25 sustainable building assessments to date.

SBT efforts to develop similar interpretive guidance for new building construction and major renovations has been on hold due to a Federal interagency workgroup proposing major changes to the Guiding Principle standards for new construction and major renovations. The SBT is in the process of developing internal directive and standards for sustainable building construction, renovation, operation and maintenance, and leasing, and is facilitating the completion of an additional 10 sustainable building assessments in FY 2013.

If you have any questions about the interpretive guidance, please contact Ms. Whitford at 303-445-2949, or email at kwhitford@usbr.gov, or Ms. Ella Mae Herrera at 303-445-2791.

Attachments – 2

cc: 84-27000 (Speck), 86-60000 (Moon), 86-68120 (Bernstein, Dundorf), 86-68410 (Weems) PN-1001 (Kaley), PN-6600 (Stokesberry), PN-6614 (Bronson), MP-101 (Navarro), MP-210 (Booze), LC-1001 (McLeod), LC-6200 (Mann), LC-3327 (Marbut), UC-101 (Hutchinson), UC-866 (Monroe), GP-1000 (Buchholz), GP-2200 (Fischer) (w/att to each)