

STATEMENT OF
LURITA A. DOAN
ADMINISTRATOR
U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MAY 11, 2007



Good morning, Chairman, Ranking Minority Member and Members of the Committee. I am Lurita Doan, Administrator of General Services (GSA), and I am pleased to have this opportunity to appear before you today to discuss GSA's Energy initiatives. Part of our mission is to help our client agencies meet their environmental obligations by providing responsible choices. Our offerings include the construction and leasing of energy efficient, sustainably-designed buildings, the procurement of renewable utility services, environmentally friendly telework and other alternative workplace arrangements, a selection of the latest Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFV's), and a wide range of environmentally preferable office products. From the space and services provided by our Public Buildings Service (PBS), to the products and services provided by our Federal Acquisition Service (FAS), I am proud of the leadership we demonstrate and the assistance we provide to the Federal community to meet or exceed the targets set by Congress in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and by President Bush in his new Environmental Executive Order 13423, Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy and Transportation Management. I am also proud that our efforts to achieve energy efficiency through good practices, new technologies, and innovation have helped us not only reduce our energy consumption but our operating costs, as well.

Today I'd like to talk about 1) our leadership in energy efficient, green buildings; 2) our offerings of environmentally responsible products and services; and 3) our government wide telework initiative including our telework centers that relieve Federal employees from daily traffic snarls and also reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Public Buildings Service

GSA's Public Buildings Service (PBS) is the steward and custodian of most civilian Federal buildings. We provide workplace solutions to more than 100 Federal agencies representing over a million Federal civilian workers in 2,000 American communities.

Buildings in this country consume about 40 percent of the total energy used in the United States and 70 percent of the electricity. GSA has an opportunity—and a responsibility—to lead the Federal Government by example and to demonstrate how we can reduce energy consumption by intelligently integrating energy efficiency into building designs while still creating places where people can work effectively.

We have made significant investments in energy saving solutions. In fact, between 1985 and 2005, GSA achieved the 30 percent reduction in energy consumption target set by the Energy Policy Act of 1992. We continue to reduce energy consumption in our buildings consistent with the President's new Executive Order 13423, which requires another 30% reduction from a 2003 baseline by the end of FY 2015.

We currently operate our buildings at costs that are five percent below comparable buildings in the private sector, and we pay 12 percent less for utilities. At the end of Fiscal Year 2006, GSA had reduced the overall energy consumption of its inventory by 4.7 percent compared to 2003 in line with the President's new Executive Order. Some of this reduction is directly attributable to the investments Congress authorized and GSA made in building modernizations and stand-alone energy conservation projects over the past 15 years, as well as the concerted efforts of GSA property managers working closely together with our tenants.

Lighting

Of the energy used in buildings today, nearly 30 percent is consumed for lighting and office equipment. GSA recognized this opportunity and during the early 1990's we extensively retrofitted existing buildings with new energy efficient lighting systems. In fact, we met our early goal of 20 percent energy reduction between 1985 and 2000 primarily through these retrofits. Since then, GSA has

moved towards using a new generation of integrated lighting products. While these new efficient lighting products are initially more costly and technologically challenging, they provide greater energy savings in the long run since they not only reduce the amount of energy used for lighting, they also reduce the amount of heat produced by the lights. This reduces the amount of air conditioning needed to cool the building, reducing the size of the mechanical system needed, resulting in even greater energy savings. Although a simple concept to understand, this approach demands an integrated, whole building approach.

As we move toward the future, GSA is incorporating numerous lighting initiatives in our workplaces that take advantage of sophisticated strategies, such as daylight harvesting, and commercial products that differentiate between task specific and ambient lighting requirements.

The Alfred A. Arraj U.S. Courthouse in Denver is an excellent example of how to use daylight harvesting and other sustainable design strategies to achieve energy and lighting efficiency. The public corridors of the building are oriented to the southeast to maximize solar exposure. Oversized windows provide visitors with a connection to the outdoors and magnificent views of downtown Denver. High efficiency triple-glazed windows minimize the need for heating and cooling. Internal light shelves bounce daylight onto light-colored surfaces so that it is then reflected deep into the interior of the building. Fluted glass panels bring diffused

daylight into the interior courtrooms and other spaces. Even the light-colored limestone floors contribute to the day lighting. Overall, natural light is available throughout 75 percent of the building.

Currently, our regional offices in Atlanta and San Francisco are piloting several types of advanced energy efficient lighting systems for offices such as:

- (1) "Intelligent Lighting" using light ballasts that can be individually controlled by each person's computer, and are tied into advanced controls that monitor activity;
- (2) Combination task-ambient lighting for low ceilings; and
- (3) Fixture retrofits that provide individual light control that do not require re-wiring.

By demonstrating and testing these new technologies, GSA gathers the information necessary to select strategies appropriate for each building in our diverse inventory. For instance, intelligent lighting is initially more expensive and more complex, but offers an unprecedented energy savings, while task/ambient lighting for low ceilings provides an energy effective solution for a lower budget and is simpler to install and maintain.

A major challenge to future improvements in lighting efficiency is the old suspended ceiling system. Newer, high efficiency fixtures do not fit in old

suspended ceilings. GSA can incorporate them in new construction and building modernizations; however, the retrofit of existing systems will require capital expenditures that we will include in future prospectus submissions.

Renewable Energy

GSA is a national leader in the purchase and use of renewable power from utility companies, and we continue to explore opportunities for installing solar and other on-site generated renewable energy technologies as part of our building design and retrofit programs. The President's new Executive Order requires that half of the renewable power purchased by federal agencies be purchased directly from new renewable sources.

In 2006, 4.5 percent of our electricity was generated from renewable sources or bought through renewable energy certificates, compared with the national average of 2.3 percent. We are proud of the progress we have made in this area, but we can do more. We have found more opportunities to buy renewable power at competitive prices as the cost for electricity and natural gas has increased. However, recent State and local regulatory policies and increasing customer preferences are driving increased demand for renewable power. If this trend continues without a corresponding increase in renewable supply, price premiums for renewable power may reach or surpass previous historical highs.

Over the last four years, GSA has purchased almost 950,000 megawatt hours of energy from renewable sources through competitive power contracts and through the use of green power programs offered by local distribution companies. For example:

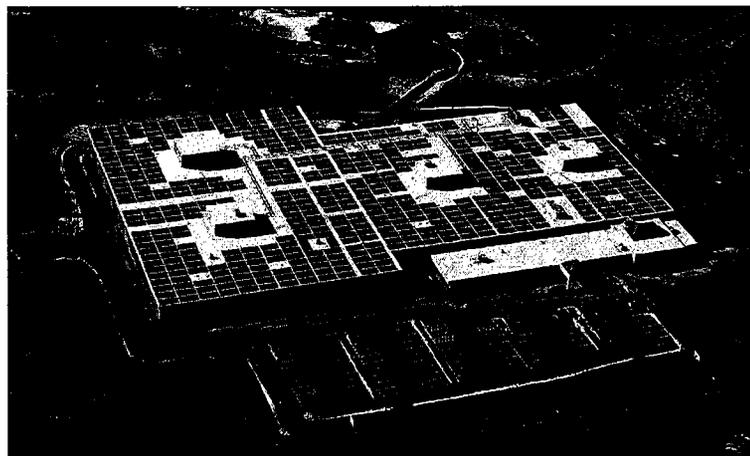
- The Binghamton Federal Building in New York State is the first Federal facility in the nation powered by 100 percent renewable energy. The power flows from a new wind turbine installed at the Fenner Wind Farm in the town of Fenner, New York. This project not only demonstrated GSA's commitment to energy independence and environmental stewardship, but also helped to spur the growth of a new wind power industry in a small community.
- GSA awarded a contract to supply the National Park Service's Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island with electricity generated from 100 percent wind resources. The three-year contract will supply approximately 28 million kilowatt hours of renewable energy to the two landmark sites. The Statue of Liberty is now not only a beacon of freedom to the rest of the world, but also a welcome sign of the future in renewable energy.

GSA is also incorporating solar and other on-site generated renewable energy technologies in our building design and retrofit programs consistent with Executive Order 13423's emphasis on the development of on-site renewable power. In

Fiscal Year 2006, GSA used an estimated 3.3 billion British Thermal Units (BTUs) in energy from self-generated renewable projects. We estimate that:

- 543.7 megawatt hours of the total came from GSA's 12 solar photovoltaic installations,
- 600 million BTUs came from GSA's two solar thermal projects, and
- 830 million BTUs came from the one completed geothermal project.

In Fiscal Year 2006, GSA also began construction of two new photovoltaic (PV) systems: The first is a 40 kilowatt array at the Trenton Courthouse Annex in Trenton, New Jersey. The second is a 377 kilowatt building-integrated photovoltaic system at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) facility in Waltham, Massachusetts. The NARA facility is covered by a completely integrated roof and solar system—the solar panels are the roof. The flexible, flat panel photovoltaic array is heat-welded into the roofing material and qualifies as a "Cool Roof" under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star program.



NARA Facility in Waltham, MA

The project is estimated to save approximately \$204,000 and 5.55 billion BTUs annually. One can view the operation of this project in real time at the following web hyperlink: <http://gsanara.rem-systems.com/>.

Just this year, at the Denver Federal Center, we funded a 1 megawatt pole-mounted solar photovoltaic array on 6.5 acres. This “solar park” will save \$405,000 per year in charges on the electrical bill. The energy obtained from the solar park will both feed directly into the regional electrical grid and will be used at the DFC.

Alternative Financing

As identified in its 2007 Implementation Plan, GSA will maximize use of alternative financing contract mechanisms to reduce energy use and cost. GSA was an early adopter of the use of Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPC's) and developed a business case decision matrix that enables local facility managers to assess the local potential for the use of ESPC's. We continue to work closely with Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy on this important financing vehicle.

Integrating Sustainable Design (Green Buildings)

Sustainable design, often referred to as green buildings, is a holistic, integrated approach to building, modernizing and operating buildings that seeks to balance cost, environmental, social, and human benefits with the mission and functional

needs of the customer agency. The President's new Executive Order requires that Federal agencies incorporate sustainable design practices into all new construction and renovations as well as into 15% of the existing federal inventory by FY 2015.

To help us measure how well we are using this approach, GSA uses the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED® rating system in the design of new construction and major alteration projects. As a leader in sustainable design, GSA has earned a LEED® rating for 19 buildings to date: nine of these are Government-owned buildings and 10 are build-to-suit leased buildings. Of these, six achieved the "Certified" level, five achieved "Silver," and eight achieved "Gold." GSA has registered another 70 buildings under the LEED® building rating system; upon project completion, these will be eligible for certification.

GSA integrates sustainable design principles as seamlessly as possible into the design and construction of our buildings and build-to-suit leases through our Design Excellence program. Through our Design Excellence program, we involve team members from a wide range of disciplines to dramatically reduce energy consumption. Our goals are to improve the quality of the work environment and

create more productive, healthier workplaces and drive down long-term energy and maintenance expenses. We view these goals as complementary. A few examples demonstrating leadership in sustainable design:

- GSA has incorporated green (planted) roofs in some of our projects. These roofs range from small tray systems to entire garden roofs. In Suitland, Maryland, we have built one of the largest green roofs in the country, covering 170,000 square feet—nearly four acres. Green roofs reduce energy costs by both insulating the building and reducing the “heat island” effect that is produced by large buildings in urban areas. Green roofs are also beneficial because they capture rainwater, which serves to reduce water run
- In San Francisco, GSA completed a remarkable new Federal building, the first of its kind in the U.S. to use natural ventilation to cool the building instead of mechanical systems to cool and circulate air. This is a great example of avoiding energy use by taking advantage of the favorable low humidity and moderate temperatures of the local climate. Simply put, its design is a good fit with its location. This new facility was cited in the April 9th edition of Time magazine for its sustainable design.

To the extent feasible, GSA uses biobased products in the construction of its buildings. We also direct lessors to use environmentally preferable products, including biobased products, when leasing space to the government. GSA looks forward to the development of the "USDA Certified Biobased Product" label and will continue to promote the use of biobased construction products as they are added to the designated products list.

Building Modernizations

While we continue to explore, test, and adopt new technologies in our construction program, some of our best opportunities for improving energy efficiency lie in building modernizations. We achieved tremendous efficiencies in the following modernizations:

- At the Charles E. Bennett Federal Building in Jacksonville, Florida, GSA used a holistic design approach and achieved a reduction of nearly 24 billion BTUs in energy consumption, a more than 60 percent drop. This is enough energy to power 208 homes for one year. The project received a U.S. Department of Energy Federal Energy and Water Management Award.

- The John J. Duncan Federal Building in Knoxville, Tennessee underwent a comprehensive building re-commissioning. Improvements included the installation of a new building control system, along with lighting upgrades and motion sensors, resulting in a savings of approximately 1.7 billion BTUs in FY 2005, exceeding the target goal of 33 percent. GSA also pursued a number of water management measures including the retrofit of restrooms with water-saving equipment, saving 400,000 gallons of water a year, and the installation of secondary water meters to reduce water sewage and runoff charges. The building successfully attained an Energy Star rating of 94 out of 100 and qualified for LEED certification.

On-Going Operations

GSA aggressively manages energy consumption in our buildings. As mentioned earlier, we currently operate our buildings at five percent below the costs of comparable buildings in the private sector, and for utilities, we pay 12 percent less. While some of this lower cost is directly attributable to the investments the Congress authorized, and GSA executed, in energy conservation projects over the past 15 years, we have also earned this achievement by strategically positioning ourselves in the energy market.

- **Competitive Energy Procurements** –GSA’s energy experts develop procurement strategies for natural gas, electricity and green power to achieve the best competitive price, taking into account the facility and the customer’s organizational goals—that may include budget stability, energy reliability and security. We provide this service to all Federal agencies, regardless of whether they occupy GSA buildings—it is part of our mission.

- **Public Utilities** – To provide government-wide efficiency in procurement and negotiate the best rates, GSA awards large public utility area wide contracts for electricity, natural gas, steam, chilled water, and water and sewage services thus ensuring Federal facilities receive service at the best tariff rates as regulated by public utility commissions, utility cooperatives or municipal utility companies. In many cases, these contracts include demand side management services and alternative financing for energy projects. In addition, GSA provides leadership in developing contracting vehicles, allowing end-users to meet multiple Federal energy requirements in both public law and executive orders.

- Energy Tracking— We track energy consumption monthly at every GSA facility. Our system provides data on energy trends as they relate to past or future building actions.
- Energy Audits – GSA continuously conducts energy audits and retro-commissioning studies of its inventory to identify life-cycle cost effective energy conservation measures. Approximately 10 percent of our space inventory is audited in any given year.

Pilot Projects

- GSA is piloting a new chiller efficiency monitoring and analysis tool in 14 buildings with 34 plant chillers of varying sizes. If successful, this tool will provide early identification of problems in chiller plant equipment and operations, improve the efficiency and extend the life of existing chillers and related equipment, identify optimal cost effective and efficient remedial actions to repair, replace, and enhance chiller plant operations, provide energy savings, lower carbon emissions, and reduce future capital expenses. Most importantly, this tool can help reduce equipment down time resulting in reliable service to customers.
- We are also working with one of our large customers to integrate power controls into their IT operations—establishing a monitoring system that will

reduce the electricity consumed by computers when people forget to power down as they leave—no work gets lost, but substantial amounts of electricity can be saved. And speaking of computers, our customers can help us dramatically reduce the energy they consume by replacing old TV-like monitors with flat screens. Flat screen (LCD) monitors use only one-third the amount of electricity as the old TV monitors, are better for the worker—less eye strain—and produce less heat that we have to dissipate with air conditioning.

Future Directions

Currently, GSA is increasing its participation in load curtailment and demand management programs sanctioned by utility companies and system grid operators to further refine its lighting use. As energy use generally peaks in the late afternoon for a short period of time, we try to quickly reduce the major consumer of electricity in our buildings: lights. We are looking at sophisticated lighting systems that reduce illumination levels significantly enough to reduce total building demand and still leave enough light for building occupants to perform their work. In addition, GSA is strategically issuing competitive electricity contracts in deregulated markets with contract language that optimizes our demand limiting capability, thus resulting in lower rates.

The Energy Policy Act directs us to install advanced metering. We will be doing that over the next few years, depending on funding. We started installing advanced meters in the Washington, D.C. and New York areas even before the law required us to do so. In the long run, advanced meters will save money by allowing us to manage power consumption more strategically. For example, GSA was able to contribute to the electrical management in the Washington area last summer by “shedding load” – sometimes allowing buildings to get a little warmer and more humid in the late afternoon – and thus, we helped avert major brown-outs in this area. Perhaps more importantly, advanced metering will help us buy power at better prices, because we will know our use patterns.

GSA is also exploring ways to reduce our dependence on the existing “energy grid.” Combined heat and power (CHP) systems can be a source of both energy security and savings. The Food and Drug Administration Office in White Oak, Maryland is a great case study. Using an energy savings performance contract (ESPC) to install a 5.8 megawatt CHP facility as part of the first phase of the campus build-out, we saved more than 37 million kilowatt-hours, \$1.4 million in energy costs and \$2.1 million in annual operation and maintenance costs (FY 2003 data). The plant provides reliable, uninterrupted on-site electric generation capability for three facilities on campus—a laboratory, an office building and a

multi-use facility. Heat is recovered from the generating process to produce hot water for building use and in the absorption process to produce chilled water for air conditioning. The thermal efficiency of the plant is increased by 30 percent while significantly reducing pollution emissions. Furthermore, we plan to expand this system to support 100 percent power generation for the entire campus once the campus is complete. This will reduce the 25 megawatt load that the local utility would otherwise have to accommodate.

The General Services Administration is undertaking several initiatives to address facility 'survivability' and energy conservation. 'Survivability' addresses a building's ability to maintain critical life-support conditions in the event of extended loss of power, heating fuel, or water. Passive survivability should include such features as cooling-load avoidance, natural ventilation, a highly efficient building envelope, passive solar heating, natural day-lighting, and onsite water collection and storage.

In September 2006, GSA required additional energy analysis and evaluation of alternate energy sources for upcoming land port of entry feasibility studies. This initiative will be fully operational for the FY 2010 program. In partnership with our clients, Customs and Border Protection and the Federal Highway Administration we are looking at the survivability of land ports of entry, including alternate energy sources and the potential for taking remote ports of entry "off the grid". Under

discussion are such survivability technologies as: wind power, photovoltaics, day lighting, rain water collection/storage, micro turbines, passive solar walls, green roofs, and geothermal energy.

GSA has completed projects at land ports of entry using geothermal energy and heat pumps (Oroville, Washington) and a "green" roof (Sault Ste Marie, Minnesota). We will be using day lighting technologies in Champlain, New York. We will continue to explore these survivability technologies in future land port of entry projects.

GSA's Public Buildings Service continues to demonstrate great leadership in reducing energy consumption, purchasing power (including green power) at competitive prices, and integrating environmental and energy concerns in our buildings. As we realize greater reductions in energy consumption, conversely, the challenge in finding quick payback, simple design projects is also greater.

Federal Acquisition Service

The Federal Acquisition Service (FAS) offers Federal agencies a wide array of energy saving products and services to help them comply with the requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the President's new Executive Order 13423, both of which direct agencies to save energy through the procurement and

responsible disposal of alternative fuel vehicles, hybrid electric vehicles, and energy efficient products as well as through reductions in energy consumption in Federal facilities.

Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Hybrid Electric Vehicles

FAS has purchased over 140,000 alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) and hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) for Federal agencies since 1991, of which 120,000 have been for GSA Fleet, which leases automobiles, passenger vans, light, medium, and heavy trucks, buses and ambulances to other Federal agencies. GSA Fleet's current AFV inventory consists of 62,424 AFVs and 351 HEVs—over [31 percent] of the total GSA Fleet.

FAS has ordered over 24,000 additional AFVs and HEVs for fiscal year 2007, of which over 20,000 are for GSA Fleet. By the end of fiscal year 2007, approximately 70,000 AFVs will be in GSA Fleet's inventory.

Moreover, GSA does not send its AFVs and HEV's to the junkyard after they have reached the end of their useful life for the fleet. During FY 2007, GSA Fleet will sell 11,600 used AFVs at public auction.

In addition to leasing AFVs and HEVs, GSA Fleet provides annual acquisition and fuel reports to each of its customer agencies. These reports help Federal agencies track petroleum reduction and plan for future acquisitions and compliance. The reports also assist agencies in preparing their annual vehicle report to Congress. These actions move us closer to the President's Executive Order 13423 goals for reduced petroleum consumption, increased use of alternative fuels, and increased percentages of alternate fuel vehicles in our fleets.

Energy Efficient Products and Services

Through its Multiple Award Schedules (MAS), FAS offers Federal purchasers many products and services that help reduce energy consumption. These include Energy Star and Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) designated compact fluorescent lights; lamps; lighting controls; ballasts; transformers; copiers; computers; printer; fax machines; scanners; ceiling fans; and stoves, to name only a few. The Energy Management Support and Services section of the Facilities Maintenance and Management Schedule is dedicated to assisting Federal agencies increase their energy efficiency. With over 100 contractors on schedule, agencies can find a host of services that help them audit their current usage, properly meter their buildings, and evaluate alternative energy options.

Currently, FAS is developing an implementation plan to meet the requirements of Section 104 of the Energy Policy Act (EPACT) of 2005, which directs Federal agencies to procure an Energy Star product or a Federal Energy Management

Program-designated product when purchasing an energy-consuming product unless the agency finds that the product is not cost effective or not reasonably available. The plan will be completed within three months.

In addition, FAS will soon implement a plan to clearly identify and prominently display energy efficient products in its internet purchasing applications. These electronic tools will give prominence to the EPACT requirements using such methods as pop-ups, which will alert customers to the new requirement and advise them to complete determinations and waivers when buying non-compliant products. The electronic catalog software used by vendors has also been upgraded to ensure proper identification of these products.

Progress on emerging areas also includes:

EPEAT

GSA is developing its Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) action plan. FAS introduced EPEAT requirements to the Alliant Governmentwide Acquisition Contract and FAS plans to introduce EPEAT requirements to Schedule 70. FAS is working with EPA to add a designation for EPEAT products in GSA Advantage, our online purchasing system, to make it easier for ordering activities to locate EPEAT products. EPEAT is an international standard labeling program that rates electronic products on a series of environmental and energy attributes.

Biobased Products

GSA has formed a team to work with the USDA to assist with the procurement of biobased products. The goal is to identify opportunities for GSA to increase the awareness of the USDA Biobased Product Preference Procurement Program.

FAS recognizes that it can play an important role by increasing the availability of biobased products in the federal market.

Telework

GSA leads the development of alternative workplace arrangements for Federal community and, along with the Office of Personnel Management, is a co-lead agency for Federal telework. We actively promote and facilitate government wide environmental efforts through telework and alternative workplaces.

For example, the Patent and Trademark Office, working with GSA, established an alternative workplace program that encourages their employees to work at home. This reduced the agency's use and cost of space, as well as increased the quality of life for their employees. The program resulted in reducing three floors from their requirements, saving the cost of just under 50,000 square feet of space. Other similar examples include arrangements at the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and organizations within GSA.

GSA established a no cost trial use of the GSA Telework Centers in response to President Bush's request for agencies to find ways to decrease energy use including using telework (Memorandum to Agencies in September 2005). A total of **113** Federal employees from 35 agencies took advantage of this offer.

Teleworkers who took advantage of this offer averaged at least **2** days of telework center use per week which yielded savings in gasoline use, fuel costs, exposure to traffic congestion, and contribution to air pollution. Based on data collected from the 14 telework centers, GSA estimates that teleworkers at these centers annually save nearly 2.8 million travel miles, which, in turn, saves almost 115 thousand gallons of fuel, and avoids 2.3 million pounds of emissions. Not only do our telework centers offer Federal employees relief from the daily stress of rush hour traffic, they also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Telework centers have been characterized as being “pro-productivity, pro-environment and pro-sanity.”

A 1999 study found that telecommuting would have a positive impact on traffic delays. The study estimates that an approximate 3.0 percent reduction in daily total trips in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area can be expected to reduce daily vehicle miles traveled by 2.4 percent, daily vehicle hours traveled by 6.4 percent, and daily delay by 10.0 percent in the region. If telecommuting is calculated at a level of 10.0 percent reduction in trips, the associated reductions are 8.0 percent, 20.8 percent and 30.0 percent respectively.

GSA will continue to work with its customers to promote the value of telework and alternative workplace programs to the Government and to its employees.

Governmentwide Policies and Guidance

GSA provides leadership in developing policies for personal property, motor vehicles, aircraft, travel and transportation, and encourages agencies to use the most cost-effective, energy-efficient, management practices as they conduct their business.

Personal Property

To help reduce the waste stream and to conserve money and Federal assets, our policies require agencies to first acquire excess property from other agencies rather than acquiring new property. Accordingly, items that cannot be utilized or donated should be disposed of using appropriate recyclers. GSA's guidance also encourages agencies to sell or exchange property when acquiring replacement items to increase the rehabilitation and remanufacture of personal property items.

Our policies and guidance encourage agencies to handle computers and other electronic equipment in an environmentally safe manner. GSA is also a participant in the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive's Federal Electronic Challenge that promotes acquiring, using and disposing of electronic equipment while considering environmental impacts.

Motor Vehicles

As a leader in motor vehicle fleet management, GSA issued the Federal Management Regulation (FMR), 41 CFR Part 102-34, instructing agencies to select motor vehicles that achieve maximum fuel efficiency. Last year, we issued guidance on developing and maintaining a structured method for vehicle allocation in motor vehicle fleets. The guidance will help agencies manage their vehicle fleets more efficiently with an optimal number of vehicles of the appropriate type for their agency mission.

GSA, through the interagency Motor Vehicle Executive Council, is developing a strategic plan to address motor vehicle energy mandates that will contribute to the President's National Goal to Reduce Emissions Intensity.

Travel

GSA is publishing policy encouraging agencies to adopt the Environmental Protection Agency's green meeting initiatives. With the goal of minimizing the environmental impact of Government meetings and conferences, this green meetings initiative encourages planners to adopt practices such as relying on technology to reduce the amount of paper consumed at their meetings; reduce the distances that attendees must travel; chose facilities that have recycling or reuse programs in place for metal, plastics, paper and glass items; and develop an

energy management plan with the meeting facilities to turn off the electricity and air conditioning for facilities not being used. In our upcoming FedFleet conference, which will attract over a thousand participants, we will hand out information on flash drives instead of on paper.

Opportunities for Change

As innovative technologies are brought to market, it may be helpful to GSA if there were some flexibility in capital projects (for those with prospectuses submitted) for GSA to incorporate new energy savings technologies that were not included in the design when the prospectus was initially submitted.

Given the requirements in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the requirements in the Executive Order 13423 to increase the purchase of renewable energy coupled with increasing private sector demand, we understand that the amount of new power production needed to meet the new demand will not be available. We understand that in the case of wind power, if the Government were able to purchase power for a longer period than the current statutory limit of ten (10) years, it might be possible to not only obtain very good prices for the Government, but also provide the financial security that would spur the development of new sources (and increased availability) of renewable power.

Conclusion

Mr. Chairman this concludes my formal statement. I look forward to continuing our discussion with you and members of the committee on GSA's initiatives to wisely manage our energy consumption, and the responsible choices we offer to our customers in the products and services they purchase.