



PEF/encon Position Paper concerning Compressed Pay Period & Telecommuting

Submitted as part of June 11, 2003 LM Meeting

In support of the goal to expand telecommuting and compressed work week to all DEC employees, PEF/encon wishes to share the following information which provides examples of successful programs nationwide and reasons why DEC would benefit from offering these programs. Numerous studies have revealed various advantages of telecommuting and compressed work week such as a reduction in air pollution, traffic congestion and energy consumption, an increase in productivity and a reduction in the need for office space due to office sharing.

The Governor of Arizona signed an Executive Order this year which mandates that all state agencies offer teleworking to their employees with the goal of a 20% participation rate. A very informative website, with the Executive Order, is found at the following link: www.teleworkarizona.com/. The site provides information regarding related studies, debunks myths about telecommuting, provides an analysis tool which helps identify which workers are best suited for telecommuting, training information, etc. It is apparent from the Arizona program that telecommuting and compressed work week have been successful programs.

The Federal EPA Commuter Choice program promotes the benefits of telecommuting and other emissions_reduction initiatives, such as compressed work week, (www.commuterchoice.gov/pdf/telecommute.pdf) and shows how those programs can be used to meet Clean Air requirements. Calculation sheets for using emission reduction credits for the SIP (www.epa.gov/otaq/transp/comchoic/sipguide.pdf) are included in the website. The Commuter Choice program also provides examples of how telecommuting is being used in the Washington, DC area to help meet regional air quality standards and how Bellcore Company in NJ discovered that of all the available commute options offered to employees, in order to reduce VMTs, employees were most interested in telecommuting and compressed work week.

When viewing the results of existing telecommuting and compressed work week programs, it is apparent that they can be a successful, low-cost strategy that can realize environmental benefits and improve productivity. Additionally, the fears associated with the implementation of these programs have been proven unfounded.