



September 4, 2007

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in cooperation with the Division of United States Studies at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, wishes to share ideas and discuss potential opportunities associated with integrated permitting as practiced in the United Kingdom (U.K.) under European Union directive. To facilitate receiving your individual input, we cordially invite you to attend this one-day workshop for academia, government, industry, and non-governmental organizations in Washington, D.C., on **October 25, 2007** from **9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

Despite more than two decades of environmental policy and permitting innovation in the United States, there is a widely held view that the effectiveness and efficiency of environmental permitting has significant room for improvement. A variety of state and EPA permitting initiatives have explored ways to encourage multi-media approaches, to foster continual environmental improvement through EMS and other means, and to focus attention on achieving environmental outcomes and sustainability. While some of these efforts have shown significant promise, many also have faced considerable challenges. In an effort to bring fresh perspectives and thinking to these challenges, a network of EPA and state environmental agency representatives has been studying the integrated environmental permitting system in the European Union, specifically focusing on the experience in the U.K. The initial findings of this effort have been intriguing. During this workshop, we will share our findings with you and obtain your individual feedback and ideas for potential application.

The October 25th workshop will be held at the Woodrow Wilson Center, located in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center.

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
1300 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-3027

Workshop participants will be provided a draft report prepared as part of the U.S.-U.K. Integrated Permitting International Collaboration Effort. The draft report will provide information on the U.K. integrated permitting system, as well as initial thinking about potential areas of opportunity for applying integrated permitting concepts, approaches, and tools to improve environmental policy and permitting in the U.S. We believe it is important that the report reflect ideas and insight from a diverse group of stakeholders, including state and federal permit writers and policy experts, and representatives from academia, industry, and non-governmental organizations. Moreover, we hope that this workshop will provide a catalyst for creative thinking that can inform the future of environmental permitting innovation in the U.S. As such, ideas and perspectives raised at the workshop may be reflected in the final report, scheduled for release in late 2007.

To RSVP for the workshop, please click on the following link and you will be directed to a registration web page <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/integratedpermitting>. More information on the EPA integrated permitting effort can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/permits/integrated.htm>. Additional background materials and logistics information, including the draft report and an agenda for the day, will be provided to participants several weeks prior to the workshop.

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you at the workshop.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Benforado".

Jay Benforado
Director, National Center for Environmental Innovation
U.S. EPA

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philippa Strum".

Philippa Strum
Director, Division of United States Studies
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars