EPA Appeals Board will act as final agency decision-maker

EPA Administrator William K. Reilly has announced creation of an EPA Environmental Appeals Board, a three-judge panel of senior agency attorneys.

Board members are Edward E. Reich, former acting assistant administrator and deputy assistant administrator for the Office of Enforcement, and Ronald L. McCallum, chief judicial officer in the Office of the Administrator. The third member will be named shortly.

The Environmental Appeals Board will act as the final agency decision-maker on an array of appeals from the adjudicatory decisions of administrative law judges, regional administrators, and program officials in some cases.

The board will replace the current judicial officer function in hearing appeals. Reich and McCallum have been with the agency for a number of years and have substantial background in environmental law. As a deputy assistant administrator, Reich was senior career official in the Enforcement Office with responsibility for management and oversight of EPA's enforcement litigation. He has also served as EPA's associate enforcement counsel for reuse and as director of the stationery source compliance division in EPA's air program. He earned his law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1968.

McCallum was appointed chief judicial officer in 1984 after having served as the agency's sole judicial officer for six years. He also served in EPA's Office of General Counsel, beginning as an attorney-advisor in 1974.

Under the previous structure, opinions were issued by a judicial officer or the administrator without the aid of oral argument. Under the new board, the administrator has delegated his authority to decide appeals under all the major statutes governing EPA.

The board will function as a panel in reaching decisions to allow for a broader range of input and debate in the decision-making process. Written opinions of these cases will be published and widely circulated and oral argument may be heard in cases raising important new legal issues.

Administrative actions are direct enforcement actions taken by EPA without first going through the courts. EPA uses administrative actions to order companies to comply with regulations or to take other measures necessary to protect the environment. Administrative actions are also used to assess civil penalties, which are designed to remove the economic benefits gained by the violator and reflect the gravity of the risk the violation poses to human health and the environment.

Penn State names Hamilton head of turf program

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — George Hamilton has been appointed to coordinate the Penn State Agronomy Department's two-year turfgrass management program.

The certification program, which combines four eight-week sessions with a six-month professional internship, is oriented toward training golf course managers and other landscapers.

Hamilton, who has earned bachelor's and master's degrees in agronomy from Penn State, has taught a variety of turfgrass courses and has been in charge of development of the university's Landscape Management Research Center since 1982.

Schukraft super at Huntsville GC

LEHMAN, Pa. — The Huntsville Golf Club has appointed Scott A. Schukraft course superintendent.

Schukraft comes to Huntsville from Rolling Hills Country Club in Wilton, Conn., where he served as superintendent for seven years. While at Rolling Hills, he was responsible for establishing professional turf management standards on the course and in the maintenance operation. Among the construction projects was the installation of a state-of-the-art irrigation system.

Responsibilities in his new position include monitoring construction, growing in the new course, and maintaining the course and surrounding grounds.

A native of Fleetwood, Pa., Schukraft graduated magna cum laude from the Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture in Doylestown, Pa. He received the Outstanding Agronomy Student Award.

In July 1991, Huntsville Golf Club announced plans to construct an 18-hole championship course on 477 acres in Lebanon Township.

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