

CELRN-OP-T-N (1130)

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL RESOURCE MANAGERS

SUBJECT: Clandestine Laboratory Policy

1. Law enforcement agencies in the United States report a steady increase in the production of the illegal drug Methamphetamine ("Meth") through clandestine laboratories. These clandestine labs have been discovered in public recreation areas and campgrounds. Corps of Engineers Natural Resource Management personnel should be aware of the hazards that these labs pose and know how to protect themselves and members of the public from injury and death. They must also know whom to contact upon the discovery of a laboratory and how the cleanup of these laboratories should be handled to minimize costs and possible environmental hazards.

2. The attached literature from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) contains information on indicators of clandestine laboratory activity and the hazards associated with their operation and byproducts. Byproducts of these operations can be extremely corrosive and toxic, and must be handled only by certified individuals with the proper training and safety equipment. Failure to follow procedures could result in injury or death and may incur cleanup costs to the Corps of Engineers.

3. The following procedures shall be followed when a clandestine laboratory operation is encountered on Corps of Engineers property:

a) If the violators are present, Corps personnel will leave the scene and contact local authorities and the DEA (Tennessee Projects) or the Kentucky State Police and the DEA (Kentucky Projects) immediately.

b) If violators are not present, Corps personnel will immediately contact local authorities and the DEA from the immediate vicinity, and establish a perimeter of at least 50 feet using warning tape. The employee will contact local authorities and the DEA (Tennessee Projects) or the Kentucky

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State Police and the DEA (Kentucky Projects), evacuate member of the public then secure the area until law enforcement or DEA officers arrive. Corps employees will not enter this area nor tamper with any equipment or material that might be present.

c) Local and state law enforcement officers must not enter the secured area or tamper with any materials or equipment without DEA presence and authorization. If this occurs, the DEA will not handle the cleanup of the hazardous materials. The only exception will be when a clandestine lab has caught fire and fire fighters must enter the area to suppress it.

4. The DEA will handle the cleanup of hazardous materials, containers, and lab equipment. The DEA will not take responsibility for trailers or vehicles that may have been used in the production of methamphetamine. Such vehicles will have stickers affixed by the DEA identifying them as being contaminated. Managers will coordinate the removal, decontamination, and disposal of trailers or vehicles used in the production of methamphetamine with a certified contractor such as those included in Annex E of LRNR 500-1-7, *Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan*.

5. After removal of lab equipment, containers, and hazardous materials from a site in a developed recreation area, the manager will determine through visual inspection and discussion with qualified officials whether further testing of the site is warranted. If contamination is suspected, the manager will coordinate the testing and cleanup of any contaminated materials from the site with a certified contractor. If there are further questions of an environmental compliance nature, the manager should contact the District environmental compliance coordinator.

6. Managers should discuss these procedures with each of their employees, park attendants, contract caretakers and inspectors. These procedures should also be discussed with local law enforcement cooperators during the annual orientation for

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officers patrolling the parks as directed by EP 1130-2-550, Chapter 7. Managers and rangers will maintain coordination with local cooperators for continued intelligence on local drug activity.

7. Project personnel should notify the District Security Office by telephone at (615) 736-5567 as soon as possible after the discovery of a laboratory. In addition, an ENG Form 4337, Offensive Incident Report, should be completed with specific details and forwarded to CELRN-SM within three days. The report should list "Dangerous Drugs" as the Title and "5L300" as the Code.

8. The DEA 24 hour telephone number for Tennessee is (615) 736-5988. Kentucky projects should contact the following DEA offices:

Martins Fork - London Office (606) 862-4500
Laurel - London Office (606) 862-4500
Lake Cumberland - Lexington Office (859) 233-2480
London Office (606) 862-4500
Dale Hollow Lake (Kentucky side)- Lexington Office (859) 233-2480
Lake Barkley - Madisonville Office (270) 676-9510

9. The point of contact for these procedures is Mr. Todd Yann, Natural Resources Section, at (615) 736-7831.

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MICHAEL G. ENSCH
Chief, Operations Division

CF:
LM, ATTN: Hardeman

