



ACQUISITION,  
TECHNOLOGY  
AND LOGISTICS

## PRINCIPAL DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3015 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3015

OCT 20 2010

### MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS DIRECTOR, DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY

SUBJECT: Management of Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF6)

SF6 is a reportable greenhouse gas with a global warming potential roughly 23,000 times that of carbon dioxide. Future regulations could limit the availability and/or significantly increase the cost of SF6, which is used in electrical distribution infrastructure and DoD weapons systems and platforms. Although DoD and industry have research underway, suitable substitutes do not yet exist.

The Department's Emerging Contaminants (EC) Governance Council put SF6 on the EC action list in May 2008. Subsequently, my staff developed a Phase II Impact Assessment for SF6 and presented four Risk Management Options (RMOs) to the EC Governance Council. The Council approved all four RMOs. Two of the four RMOs are underway: increased research on DoD-unique applications; and leveraging of the ongoing research by the Electrical Power Research Institute on electrical transmission equipment. This memorandum provides direction for the remaining two RMOs.

The first RMO is designed to ensure the Department makes efficient use (and reuse) of existing supplies of SF6. I direct the Secretaries of the Military Departments to develop and implement procedures for the reduction, capture and recycling of SF6 where it is operationally, technically and economically feasible.

The second RMO is designed to ensure the availability of SF6 for critical military applications. I direct the Director, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), in coordination with the Military Services, to determine the feasibility of establishing a "bank" similar to the one created in 1992 for ozone-depleting substances. The bank would receive captured SF6 from DoD activities for which it is no longer required and maintain a supply based on projected DoD needs. To help inform a decision about whether and when to establish such a bank, I direct the Director, DLA, to monitor the prospects for regulations restricting the use of SF6.

My point of contact is Mr. Paul Yaroschak at 703-604-0641 or [Paul.Yaroschak@osd.mil](mailto:Paul.Yaroschak@osd.mil).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Kendall", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Frank Kendall