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SUBJECT: Notification of Ending Support for ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 32 – Data Management and Interchange Secretariat in January 2004

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This is notice that EPA will cease support for the Secretariat for ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 32 – Data Management and Interchange at the end of January 2004, which is one year from now. The notice is being sent now, although it is likely that EPA will be able to continue support until January of 2005. This notice is intended to provide time to find new Secretariat funding and possibly a Secretary as required to continue the operation of SC 32.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has provided or arranged support for the SC 32 Secretariat since the planning meeting for the formation of SC 32 in February 1998. Funding covered both personnel and operational costs for the Secretariat. While ending the EPA financial support for the Secretariat does not necessarily impact the staff of the Secretariat, the events are linked in this case. Currently, EPA is providing the Secretariat personnel, by employing the Secretary, Douglas Mann through an Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) assignment. EPA intends to support the SC 32 Secretariat until the termination of his IPA. The IPA is currently set to terminate in January 2004, but may be extended to January 2005. The extension of the IPA must be made before the expiration of the current IPA term, but earlier action will be taken, if possible. At this time, extension is highly likely.

The JTC 1 Directives states

"4.3.1.3 If an NB wishes to relinquish the Secretariat of an SC, the NB shall immediately inform the Secretariat of JTC 1 giving a minimum of twelve months' [sic] notice."

This notice is being given now to the ISO/IEC JTC 1 US TAG so that the process for obtaining offers of Secretariat funding and Secretariat personnel may begin. If funding is not available, this notice needs to proceed to the Secretariat of JTC 1.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has successfully pursued a standards-based approach for data management and interchange and continues to do so. The relationship with SC 32 has proved efficient and productive during these years. The standards produced in SC 32 are recognized throughout industry, governments, and the standards community. EPA staff members expect to continue their involvement as others take on the support and function of the SC 32 Secretariat.

If you have questions, please contact me at (510) 495-2905 or by email at bebargmeyer@lbl.gov.