

ROBERT W VARNEY

Regional Administrator

Environmental Protection Agency - NE Office

Robert W. Varney was appointed Regional Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency's New England Office by Administrator Christy Todd Whitman in August, 2001. In this capacity, he is responsible for managing an agency with over 700 employees and a budget of \$532 million. As head of EPA New England, Mr. Varney is also involved in the NEPA process for various highway projects, marine dredging and disposal projects, as well as wind farm energy projects.

During his tenure as Regional Administrator, Mr. Varney has made energy efficiency, brownfields redevelopment, environmental justice, clean boating, urban issues, enforcement and strong partnerships with state and municipal governments among his top priorities.

With clean air being a key national priority for EPA, Bob has encouraged the region's creative use of supplemental environmental projects (SEPs) to fund diesel retrofit and low sulfur diesel fuel projects. Through this approach, the region has been able to launch projects that will clean up of all the school buses and commuter locomotives in the City of Boston as well as transit buses in Rhode Island. In addition to these great projects, the region's leadership in using SEP funds has enabled them to begin leveraging other resources including CMAQ funds, private funds, and state SEPs for diesel retrofit projects across the region.

Another hallmark of his tenure at EPA New England has been his establishment of a Green Team and an Energy Team in the region. Bob is committed to the region "walking the talk" when it comes to environmental stewardship. Under his leadership, the region has twice been awarded WasteCap's annual Race to Recycle award for their high successful and innovative office recycling programs. In addition, he has challenged the region to develop Environmental Management Systems at the same pace at which the agency is encouraging our corporate and academic partners to get on board with EMSs. He has also encouraged broad regional use of the EPA's laboratory in Chelmsford, Massachusetts both for meetings and educational purposes. The EPA Lab earned a LEED Gold Rating in 2003 – a rating system developed by the U. S. Green Building Council to encourage and facilitate the development of more sustainable buildings.

Prior to joining EPA, Mr. Varney was one of the nation's longest serving state environmental commissioners. Appointed by 3 governors, Mr. Varney served as Commissioner for the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) for 12 years. During his tenure, he is widely credited with instituting many management, program and policy changes that have served as national models. As DES commissioner, he chaired regional and national committees such as the New Hampshire Energy Facility Siting Board Gulf of Maine Council, Ozone Transport Commission, New England Governors Conference Environment Committee and New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission.

Mr. Varney was voted by his peers to serve as President of The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), the national non-profit, non-partisan association of state and territorial environmental commissioners.

Schooled in urban planning, Varney is a former Director of the New Hampshire Office of State Planning. He also served as Executive Director of two New Hampshire regional planning agencies – the Nashua RPC and the Upper Valley -Lakes Sunapee Council.

He holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of New Hampshire and a master's degree in urban planning from Michigan State University.