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To: OAR-WIDE-EVERYONE
07/20/2005 12:09 PM
Subject: My departure from EPA

After much discussion with my wife and children, I have decided that it is time for me to step down as Assistant Administrator of OAR. Attached below is a letter I sent to the President earlier today submitting my resignation, effective August 30th.

I must say that it is very hard to leave the Agency. This is the most rewarding (and challenging) job I have ever had, and it's hard to imagine another job I could ever enjoy as much as I have enjoyed this one.

On the other hand, my wife and I have come to the realization that we don't have too much time left before our children start leaving for college. We have always wanted to have an adventure together as a family -- something that would give our four children important family memories that would remain with them (and their parents) long after they head out on their own.

So, after a number of family meetings, we came up with a plan. I will be taking a year off, and we will all be heading off to see what it is like to live in other parts of the world. We plan to spend about three months each in Ireland, India, New Zealand, and Guatemala. (Just a typical year in the life of John Beale, I realize, but for us it will be quite an adventure.)

We're not looking at this as a vacation. We will be living in neighborhood homes and apartments, and will be home schooling our kids (which means I'll need to brush up on my high school math, among other things.) We are all very excited about the trip, although Lisa and I are starting to get a little nervous about everything we need to do before we leave in September.

There are still a few things I want to finish before I leave the Agency (this makes Lisa especially nervous as she sees the clock ticking toward our departure date), so I won't give my farewell speech at this point. But I do want to thank you all for the support you have given to me personally and for the skill and dedication you bring to your jobs. I think about all the things that OAR has been able to accomplish over the last four and a half years, and I am very grateful for all you have done -- with integrity, patience, and good humor. As I have said on many

occasions, I consider it a great privilege to work in OAR and to be associated with such a fine group of people.