SEPT

SEVEN AREAS OF CONCERN FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACT OF 1986 AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 12591

1. Opportunities Provided by the Legislation and Executive Order

- o Take technology transfer seriously via staffing and management action
- o Opens new opportunities for cooperation with industry and for assisting in economic development.
- o Encourages commercialization by removing barriers and providing incentives.

2. Cooperative Research and Development

- o Strength of the mandate
- o Opportunities for expansion
- o Distinct from procurement or assistance regulations (need guidelines)
- o Many attitudes must change

3. Patent-Licensing

- o Provides the opportunity for faster commercialization
- o Creates new property right for Federal lab scientists
- o Much inertia in the system today

4. Research and Development Brokering

- o Offers substantial opportunity to increase "spin-off"
- o A "new" area requiring purposeful action (guidance to labs especially needed to assure "equity")

5. Protecting Proprietary Information

- o Key to obtaining working relationship with industry
- o Need to avoid barriers to flow of information
- o Experience varies widely; guidance needed.

6. Avoiding Conflicts of Interest

- Several areas in the Act raise "conflict" issues

  --generally prohibited conduct (e.g. private gain)
  --outside activities
  --use, protection and release of information

- Great need for early orientation of scientists

7. Agency Oversight

- Need for broad coordination; Tech Transfer cuts across many management/staff functions

- Program implementation requires considerable strengthening of current staff capability -- with objective of maximum decentralization

- Documenting and reporting technology is a considerable challenge/ opportunity, yet to be met