

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has asked us to remind all Department of Energy (DOE) employees that they have a duty to satisfy their tax obligations. DOE expects our employees to do whatever is necessary and appropriate to maintain the highest level of tax compliance.

According to the IRS, the rate of tax compliance among Federal employees continues to be better than that of the general public. However, the most recent IRS data still shows a significant number of potentially non-compliant Federal employees.

As of October 2006, the average delinquency rate for civilian employees of Federal agencies and departments was 3.8 percent. The percentage of DOE employees who had some type of Federal income tax delinquency in the form of a balance owed and/or an unfiled tax return was 2.17 percent, down from 2.53 percent in October 2005. The IRS has attempted to contact these individuals and although many are attempting to resolve their tax problems, some are not.

There has been a positive trend at DOE; however, there should not be any instances of tax delinquency. Employees who do not satisfy their obligations to file tax returns and/or pay their obligations fully and promptly may have their wages subject to garnishment and may be subject to disciplinary action and/or loss of their security clearance. Employees who are unable to satisfy their tax obligations due to financial hardship should consider utilizing DOE's Employee Assistance Program to assist them as they address these problems.

The IRS is prepared to assist DOE employees in meeting their tax obligations. Employees can visit their local IRS office or call the IRS toll-free at 1-800-829-1040 for assistance with filing returns or resolving any balance owed. Forms, publications, and additional information are also available on the IRS website at www.irs.gov.