

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**Contractor Task Assignment**

**Task Title:** Gathering bi-national information on environmental monitoring and health tracking/surveillance data related to air and water

**Task Summary:** The contractor chosen for this task will be charged with investigating databases in both the US and Mexico that contain information on environmental quality and human health conditions in the US-Mexico Border region.<sup>1</sup> In order to eventually develop environmental health indicators that link changes in the ambient environment to changes in health outcomes, this initial scoping exercise is necessary to investigate the quantity and quality of extant environmental monitoring and health tracking/surveillance data.

Specifically, the following environmental and health indicators shall be the focus of this exercise:

WATER INDICATORS		
HAZARD	EXPOSURE	HEALTH
1. Quality of surface water: Dissolved Oxygen, Ammonia, Nitrates, Ortho-Phosphates, Conductivity/Total Dissolved Solids, Total Suspended Solids, Fecal Coliform, pH, Chemical Oxygen Demand, Biochemical Oxygen Demand, Temperature, Chlorophyll-a, Chlorides, Sulfates  2. Heavy metals: arsenic, lead, chromium.  3. Pesticides: all types		1. Diarrhea (<5 , morbidity and mortality) 2. Hepatitis A (<18) 3. Amebiasis 4. Shigellosis 5. Typhoid Fever

**Task Description:** The contractor will be provided with an initial set of contacts and references to facilitate the identification of available data and databases. Using the monitoring and health indicators provided above, the contractor will begin to solicit access to and information about various databases. Specifically, the contractor shall gather the quality assurance parameters provided in the attached excel spreadsheet, and assess the databases for deficits.

<sup>1</sup> The length of the border and 62.5 miles on each side of the border.

Information gathered about the databases shall be of a highly accurate nature. If the contractor is unable to gain direct access to the database, a reputable and frequent user of the database may provide this information as a substitute. If the contractor is unable to gain access, an explanation will need to be provided as to how the database can be accessed and by whom. The contractor shall also keep a record of areas and leads where data was not found.

**Task Deliverable:** The final products of this scoping exercise shall be a summary report (in Microsoft Word) and inventory/analysis of the databases that contain relevant data (in Microsoft Excel), organized by the hazard, exposure and health indicators listed above. This will later be provided to technical experts to jumpstart the process of identifying air and water environmental health indicators. The report and inventory shall be provided in both hard copy and electronic copy.

The summary report should include:

- Overview of analyzed databases with relation to hazard, exposure and health indicators listed above
- Listing of contacts who provided useful information or database access
- Explanation of gaps in database analysis (why information was not available)
- Future recommendations

Additionally, the contractor will be required to participate in a weekly phone call with the Environmental Health Workgroup to update on progress and provide clarifications.

**Task Due Date:** This scoping exercise and deliverables should be completed by the contractor and submitted no later than 30 days after the assignment of the project.

## Potential Contacts

### **Water – Health**

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