

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Improve Communication of Sampling and Testing Results Flagship Update - FY2011 – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter



## Description of Flagship Project

- The Improve Communication of Sampling and Testing Results project falls under the “Expanding the Environmental Conversation with Communities” Flagship Theme
- We are developing a new public communication methodology to notify citizens when contamination is found in their communities
- The goal is to simplify scientific language, provide visual illustrations and clear explanations of contamination levels and associated risks, and recommend actions the public should take to protect themselves
- We are identifying regional offices willing to test the approach in real life situations including for Superfund sites and emergency responses
- After exercising and testing the tool, we will incorporate improvements and work to implement the tool Agency-wide
- Additional project information can be found at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/oswer/engagementinitiative/act12.htm>

## Stakeholders

- Public
- Environmental community
- State and Local Government
- Federal Government

## Milestones/Status

- A color coding system is being tested at Removal site to explain the sampling results at residences and buildings

## Highlights of Progress this Quarter

- Established process for selecting additional pilot study sites in each EPA region to further test color code systems
- The Office of External Affairs began visiting the regional offices to assist with pilot site selection
- Use of methodology for BP Oil Spill Response

## Planned Activity for Next Quarter

- Select pilot sites in each EPA Region and continue using and testing the methodology
- Improve methods for obtaining citizen feedback
- Begin teaching the color coding system to agency communications staff

## Metrics

- Status of testing the new communication methodology: In progress
- Status of methodology development and guidance for use: Pending completion of testing
- Status of use Agency-wide: Pending completion of testing