

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Improve Communication of Sampling and Testing Results Flagship Update - FY2011 – 4th Quarter



FLAGSHIP IS ONGOING – Preliminary Benefits and Lessons Learned are Available for this Flagship

Description of Flagship Project

- The Improve Communication of Sampling and Testing Results project falls under the “Expanding the Environmental Conversation with Communities” Flagship Theme
- EPA is 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
- EPA has identified regional offices willing to test the approach in real life situations including for Superfund remedial and removal sites and emergency responses
- After exercising and testing the tool, the Agency will incorporate improvements and implement the tool OSWER-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 Superfund remedial and removal sites to explain the sampling results at residences and buildings

Highlights of Progress this Quarter

- Developed methods for obtaining feedback on the effectiveness of color-coded communications and received feedback from some regions
- Began testing the tool for real-life regional Removal and Remedial Sites.

Planned Activity for Next Quarter

- Continue using and testing the methodology—including tests in real-life scenarios—and making changes based upon feedback
- Continue having conference calls with the regions to discuss progress of the color coding field tests

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 across Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER):
 - Pending completion of testing