The 2020 Challenge
“Where are We Going?”

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RCRA Cleanup Progress

- Environmental Indicators (2005 GPRA Goals)
- Final Cleanup Goals (2008 GPRA Goals)
- Both focused on the highest priority facilities.
2020 Vision

“Beyond RCRA: Waste and Materials Management in the Year 2020”

- Jointly developed with states.

- Vision paper states that “by the year 2020, cleanup of existing contamination problems at RCRA-regulated facilities will ... be completed, though some long-term remediation work may still be ongoing.”
The 2020 Challenge

Marianne Horinko set forth the challenge on May 11, 2004 at the National Corrective Action Conference.

By 2020, all RCRA facilities with an obligation to clean up will have remedies in place, if needed, and will be trending to clean.
To Achieve the 2020 Challenge ...

- EPA and states will need to come up with a new way of doing business that is focused on achieving environmental results at all facilities by 2020.

- Businesses will need to accept full responsibility and accountability for all their facilities.
To Achieve the 2020 Challenge ...

Consultants who work at cleanups will need to offer performance-based bids to industry, bids that demonstrate clean, environmentally responsible plans to achieve 2020 goals for all their clients.

Local governments will need to facilitate even more widespread public participation in local cleanups, so neighborhoods are part of the planning and the vision.
The 2020 Challenge
(Finishing Our Work)

We need an exit strategy for the Corrective Action Program.

- Program overseers (Congress & OMB) demand it.
- Communities need it.
- Private sector wants it.
Implementing the 2020 Challenge

- Cleaning up over 4000 sites with a RCRA corrective action obligation is no small matter.

- The 2020 Challenge forces us to rethink how we implement the corrective action program.

- No single solution or new idea will get us to 2020.
Implementing the 2020 Challenge

We need to explore innovative, tailored oversight ideas like:

- Use of third-party site professionals to oversee the cleanup process.
- Enroll RCRA facilities in streamlined state response programs.
- Develop an “Oversight Light” model with a few key check-in points.
Implementing the 2020 Challenge

There are many approaches to improve the RCRA Corrective Action Program, and we look to the states to continue to develop and try new innovations that streamline cleanups.

We will continue working with the states in developing a comprehensive implementation strategy to get us to 2020.
Developing the 2020 Challenge Implementation Strategy

- Gather and sort the ideas from National Corrective Action Conference.
- Develop a written implementation plan.
- Develop the universe of facilities.
- Develop the desired end state for facilities.
- Develop measures for achieving the 2020 Challenge.
What Can You Do Now?

- Cleanup and update RCRA Info
- Analyze remaining work to be done at these facilities
- Develop a plan of action to address remaining cleanup needs at these facilities
Achieving 2020 Vision

Under the RCRA statute, companies have an obligation to cleanup their facilities.

Those of us in government have an obligation to have a credible plan to:

- Finish the work of RCRA corrective action
- Give assurance to Congress and OMB
- Give hope and a timetable to communities waiting for sites to be cleaned up.

The 2020 Challenge calls in these obligations.