

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



RCRA CORRECTIVE ACTION NEWS

A Record of Success

EPA Announces RCRA Cleanup Reforms: Faster, Focused, More Flexible Approaches to Cleanups

What's Inside

This issue features a range of exciting new RCRA Corrective Action activities:

Cleanup Reforms—a flexible new approach to meet national cleanup goals.

Brownfields Prevention Initiative—an Agencywide effort to address RCRA issues at brownfield sites.

Winners of the 1999 RCRA Corrective Action Awards—award winning projects from around the country.

1999 National Meeting—highlights from this year's meeting.

New Workshop—a corrective action workshop on results-based project management.

To achieve faster and more effective cleanups at sites that treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is reforming the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Corrective Action Program. EPA has been coordinating with the states to implement these reforms that are designed to ensure protection of human health and the environment by maximizing flexibility in RCRA and trying new approaches.

On July 8, 1999, Mr. Timothy Fields Jr., Assistant Administrator for the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER), kicked off the RCRA Cleanup Reforms Initiative at briefings for the trade press and stakeholders. At the stakeholder briefing, representatives from industry, small business, environmental and community groups, states, the U.S. Department of Energy, local governments, and trade associations gathered to discuss the new direction of the RCRA Corrective Action Program. Mr. Fields indicated that corrective action is his highest priority for the RCRA program.

Issues were raised regarding public participation and defining the parameters of flexibility. In addressing these issues, Mr. Fields referred to the May 1, 1996 Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) as the primary guidance for the Corrective Action Program. Mr. Fields also highlighted the RCRA Cleanup Baseline, stating that it should not be construed as a list of "bad actors," and that the Agency would provide opportunities for outside organizations to give input on upcoming guidance documents.

What Are the RCRA Cleanup Reforms?

In a comprehensive effort to address key impediments to effective RCRA cleanups, enhance program flexibility, and spur cleanup progress, EPA has set ambitious national cleanup goals, known as Environmental Indicators (EI), for 1,712 facilities on the RCRA Cleanup Baseline. These facilities are the highest priorities for cleanup under the RCRA Corrective Action Program. By 2005, 95 percent of the 1,712 RCRA facilities will have "current human exposures under control," and 70 percent will have "migration of contaminated groundwater under control," as verified and documented by the states and EPA.

Measuring and recording progress toward these goals will be a top priority for EPA and the states over the next several years. EPA plans to measure the near-term success of the program and

reforms against its goals and annual cleanup targets (see chart on page 2) in order to verify that both current human exposures and migration of contaminated groundwater are under control.

To ensure that the ambitious national cleanup goals are achieved, the RCRA Cleanup Reforms will:

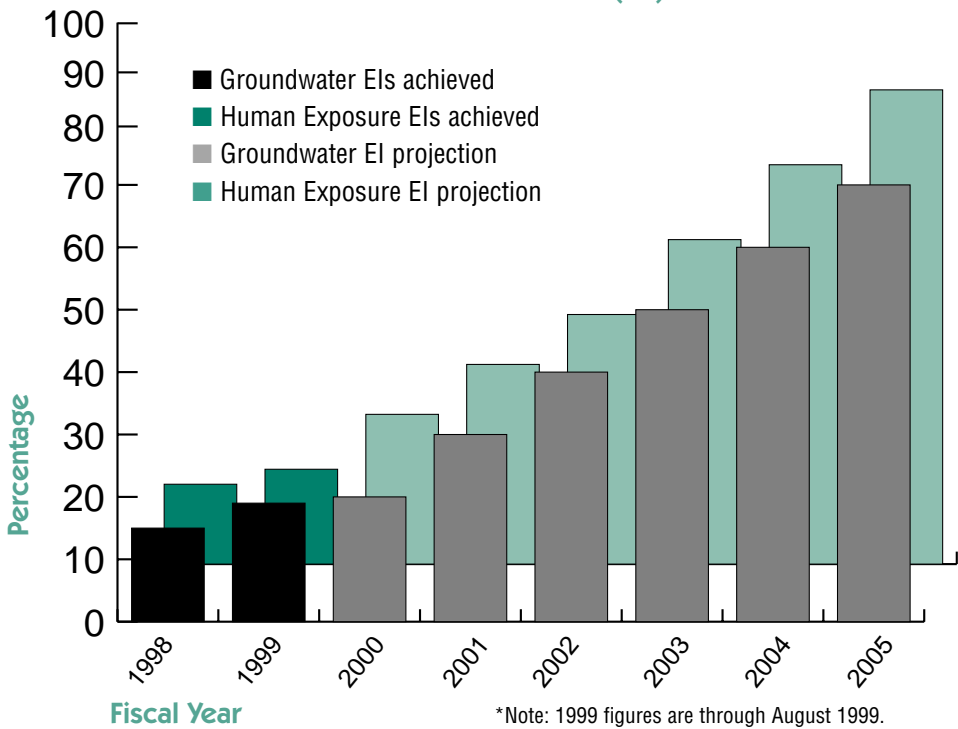
- ❖ Provide new results-oriented cleanup guidance with clear objectives.
- ❖ Foster enhanced use of program flexibility and practical approaches through training, outreach, and new uses of enforcement tools.
- ❖ Enhance community involvement, including greater public access to information on cleanup progress.

EPA also will provide periodic updates on the RCRA Cleanup Reforms and solicit input from stakeholders through this newsletter, *Federal Register* notices, focus group meetings, Internet postings, and press releases. EPA seeks continuous feedback from all stakeholders on the progress of these reforms or the need for additional reforms beyond those already under way. Based on stakeholder input and ongoing assessments of the program, EPA will continue to refine the RCRA Cleanup Reforms, add reforms as needed, and communicate program changes including those resulting from stakeholder input. EPA is also in the process of preparing a variety of guidance documents for stakeholders (see box on page 2).

For more information, call the RCRA Hotline at 800 424-9346 and request the

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Environmental Indicator (EI) Goals



EIs are results-based measures of corrective action success that summarize current conditions at a site and are the primary measures of EPA's cleanup goals.

Continued from page 1

RCRA Cleanup Reform fact sheet (Document Number EPA530-F-99-018). The document can also be found on the Corrective Action home page at <www.epa.gov/osw/cleanup.htm>.

Upcoming EPA Guidance

Item	Date Available
Results-Based Approaches for RCRA Corrective Action	Summer 2000
Corrective Action Completion Guidance	Summer 2000
The Role of Groundwater Use in RCRA Corrective Action	Summer 2000

RCRA Enters Brownfields Arena as Major Player

EPA's Brownfields Initiative is an organized commitment to help communities revitalize brownfields properties, both environmentally and economically; mitigate potential health risks; and restore economic vitality. To date, the initiative has focused primarily on the Superfund program, leading to the general perception in both the regulated and regulatory communities that brownfields are only problems for Superfund. The Agency recognizes, however, that brownfields often include multimedia issues spanning the jurisdiction of several programs, including

What Are Brownfields? EPA

defines brownfields as abandoned, idled, or underused industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. Brownfields can be located in urban, suburban, and rural areas. EPA believes that environmental cleanup of these sites is a building block toward economic revitalization.

RCRA. As a result, the Agency is undertaking efforts to involve programs other than Superfund in its Brownfields Initiative.

Workgroup Formed

EPA created the RCRA Brownfields Prevention Initiative work group to involve the RCRA program in the Brownfields Initiative and to address the variety of RCRA issues that exist at many brownfield sites. The work group is a collaborative effort by a number of EPA Headquarters and Regional offices and almost all 10 regions. The work group aims to promote the use of flexibility to address brownfields within the existing framework of the RCRA program. The group also aims to remove the perception of RCRA barriers to brownfields redevelopment while continuing to ensure protection of human health and the environment.

To accomplish its goals, the work group will identify and address perceived impediments posed by RCRA to the beneficial reuse or redevelopment of abandoned or underutilized properties. The ultimate goal of the initiative is to return as many properties to productive reuse as

possible and to prevent properties from becoming brownfields in the first place.

RCRA and Brownfields

Brownfields may be subject to RCRA jurisdiction under a variety of circumstances. Depending on the type of waste management activities that occurred at these properties, there may or may not be an associated RCRA permit or order. Some brownfield properties, for example, may already be permitted RCRA facilities. By the same token, however, there are many hazardous waste generators, both active and inactive, not required to have RCRA permits but that are associated with brownfields redevelopment areas. The types of activities that generate hazardous waste that may end up at brownfields sites range from small-scale operations, such as metal finishing, auto body and repair, and dry-cleaning, to large-scale chemical manufacturing, foundries, locomotive and railcar maintenance, and steelworks.

Under a RCRA permit, the facility and all contiguous properties identified within it remain subject to the permit conditions—including facility-wide corrective

action until EPA (or the authorized state) terminates the permit. The permits are transferable to all subsequent owners as well. Not surprisingly, many prospective redevelopers of brownfield properties are wary of acquiring title to a property subject to a RCRA permit. Even sites not required to obtain a RCRA permit may potentially come under the jurisdiction of RCRA during subsequent cleanup activities. Sometimes, just the uncertainty of possible RCRA regulation when managing contaminated media or other remediation waste is sufficient to impede a brownfields redevelopment project.

EPA Headquarters recently undertook a number of regulatory initiatives intended to facilitate site remediation. Several aspects of these new rules also address the goals of the RCRA Brownfields Prevention Initiative and have helped remove some of the obstacles to redevelopment.

In the final **Hazardous Remediation Waste Management Requirements (HWIR-Media) Rule** (63 *Federal Register* 65874, November 30, 1998), EPA codified a permitting provision that eliminates the requirement for facility-wide corrective action at cleanup-only sites that are not otherwise subject to RCRA permit requirements. This release from facility-wide corrective action obligations holds even when waste management activities take place on site during the cleanup. In its **Post-Closure Rule** (63 *Federal Register* 56710, October 22, 1998), EPA has allowed closing Treatment, Storage, or Disposal Facilities to be cleaned up under approved or alternative mechanisms without having to obtain a post-closure permit. In the **LDR Phase IV regulation** (63 *Federal Register* 28605, May 26, 1998), EPA has promulgated new treatment standards for contaminated soil and given facilities the ability to request a variance from LDRs based on risk-based cleanup levels.

The preambles of these *Federal Register* notices, with the exception of LDR Phase IV, include language that discusses the relationship of the Brownfields Initiative to the RCRA program. EPA intends to continue building on existing flexibility within the current RCRA regulations.

Training and Pilot Projects

Nonregulatory efforts planned by the Agency include a possible informal "lessons learned" RCRA Brownfields training program for the EPA Regions. Such training would help the implementors take

advantage of the inherent flexibility built into the RCRA Corrective Action Program. This flexibility will improve responsiveness to developers and communities and make site cleanups more timely and efficient. In conjunction with this training, the RCRA Brownfields Prevention Initiative work group will continue to function as an Agencywide clearinghouse for problem solving on RCRA brownfield issues and to celebrate and advertise success stories within EPA and the states.

The work group plans to develop criteria for the selection of several RCRA Brownfield Pilot Projects. These pilots will focus exclusively on addressing RCRA issues that allow for brownfields redevelopment at RCRA facilities within the next year and advancing application of brownfields solutions to the RCRA arena. Specifically, RCRA Brownfield Pilot Projects may serve to evaluate streamlined, tailored, or innovative cleanup and redevelopment strategies to identify and remove redevelopment barriers. The pilots will increase national visibility of specific sites and allow regions and states to draw on relevant experience from outside their regional and state boundaries.

The RCRA Brownfields Prevention Initiative work group, which will include state representatives, will continue to conduct stakeholder outreach during the next fiscal year to promote the flexibility within RCRA to address brownfields. By continuing to stress that flexibility, the work group anticipates meeting its

Bethlehem Works—A True RCRA Brownfield Success

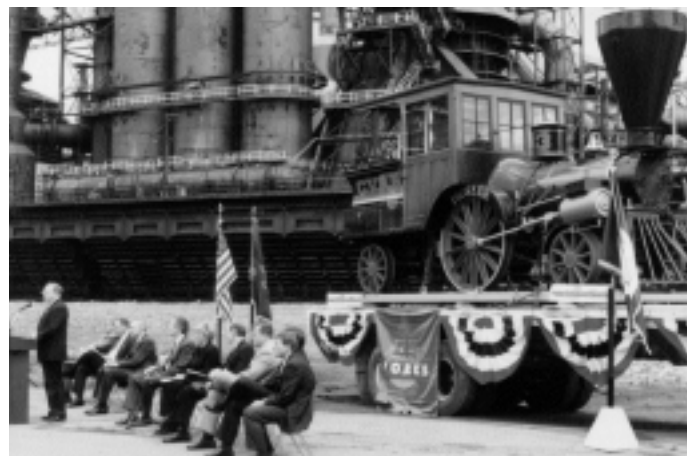
On June 18, 1999, EPA held a ceremony commemorating progress in the remediation of the Bethlehem Steel Lehigh Plant in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. This 2,000 acre facility has the potential to be the largest brownfield redevelopment project in the country. Progress to date includes a cleanup agreement that concludes an environmental assessment for the site and ensures that any contamination from historical industrial activities is removed and remediated. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Bethlehem Steel, and EPA collaborated on this agreement. At the ceremony, Timothy Fields Jr., Assistant Administrator of the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, said, "I'm proud to say that the cleanup agreement reached by Bethlehem Steel, Pennsylvania DEP, and EPA is a model for the RCRA program that we'd like to see duplicated across the country." This collaboration resulted in a swift agreement, with a minimum of red tape and procedural requirements and a focus on what matters most—cleanup standards that ensure the full protection of public health and the environment.

EPA officials are enthusiastic about the Bethlehem Steel redevelopment project for a number of reasons. Outstanding site remediation and redevelopment efforts for the Bethlehem facility showcase how EPA's national site cleanup program priorities are being put to use. These priorities include facilitating the environmental assessment and redevelopment of the nation's brownfields and reinventing how the cleanup process works for facilities regulated under the RCRA Corrective Action Program.

Redevelopment of the site, when completed, will cost an estimated \$450 million. The redeveloped area will house the National Museum of Industrial History, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institute. Two ice skating rinks, an indoor swimming pool, a 16-screen movie theater complex, a 3-D large-format theater, a hotel conference center, a discovery center for science and technology, restaurants, retail stores, and an incubator for high-tech startup companies will also be situated at the site.

goal of returning as many properties as possible to productive reuse.

For more information about the RCRA Brownfields Prevention Initiative work group contact the work group chair, Marjorie Buckholtz, at 202 260-6153.



June 18, 1999 ceremony celebrating progress in the cleanup of Bethlehem Steel's old Lehigh Plant.

1999 RCRA Corrective

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In the spring of 1998, EPA began officially recognizing the outstanding performance of regional EPA staff with the National RCRA Corrective Action Notable Achievement Awards. The awards are designed to encourage EPA's commitment to "faster, focused, and more flexible cleanups." Individuals and teams within the regions that make this commitment a reality are recognized with a ceremony at EPA's headquarters. The following summaries describe the outstanding achievements of the 1999 award recipients.

OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATOR AWARD



Lael Butler, Region 4

Lael Butler, project manager at Akzo Nobel Chemicals, Inc., in Alabama and DuPont in Mississippi, was awarded the Outstanding Environmental Indicator Award for filtering through 18 years worth of work plans, reports, and other documentation. Her efforts culminated in the EI determination forms, which were transmitted to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), accepted without alteration, and finalized by the state.

To prepare the EI determination forms for the DuPont facility, Lael compiled and culled through more than 20 feet of reports, work plans, Records of Decision, and other documents contained in three different program offices in two different states. The EI determination forms serve as a leading example of how to write and document technically defensible EI determinations in the future.

Lael is an outstanding example of how to coordinate information from multiple sources, use peer review within EPA and within an authorized state, and work with an authorized state to achieve the desired results.

OUTSTANDING TECHNICAL INNOVATION AWARD



Carol Ann Witt-Smith, Region 5

Carol Ann Witt-Smith was awarded the Outstanding Technical Innovation Award for promoting innovative technical approaches in her management of the Naval Surface Warfare Center Bioremediation Interim Measure (IM). Based on the U.S. Department of Defense's success with similar technology, Carol selected bioremediation as an IM cleanup for soil. She coordinated with a Region 10 Remedial Project Manager who had used a similar technology to ensure consistency on the use of bioremediation. The remedy allowed for treatment and disposal on site, reducing the cost and liability of offsite treatment.

Carol evaluated and approved increasing process soil loadings from 25 to 30 percent, which decreased the overall treatment period. Reduction of toxicity will meet the 90 to 99 percent reduction requirements for innovative technologies under Superfund. As of December 1998, approximately 85 percent of the contaminated soil from Mine Fill A, the first excavation site, had been removed and screened, and 66 percent had been treated and was placed back on the site as soil meeting residential cleanup standards.

The IM has allowed the Navy to proceed to the remedy phase for soil, saving time and money on characterization studies and allowing for quicker risk reduction at the facility. Carol's partnership with the Navy has allowed her to expedite reviews in order to meet Navy contracting deadlines so that obligated money would not be lost.

Carol has truly demonstrated her ability to further innovative and cost-saving technologies at RCRA corrective action facilities. Her outstanding leadership and ability to work with many stakeholders on controversial projects is what made this project a success.



Award winner Carol Ann Witt-Smith from Region 5 is congratulated by EPA Regional Administrator (AA) Tim Fields (AA for OSWER), Tim Fields (AA for OSWER), and Peter Roberts (AA for OSWER).

OUTSTANDING FRIEND OF THE STATE AWARD



Ray Saracino, Region 9

Ray Saracino was awarded the Outstanding Friend of the State Award for his work with California's Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) to implement and manage the RCRA Corrective Action Analogous Project. This project is a joint EPA/state partnership to evaluate the equivalency of cleanup work performed at RCRA regulated facilities under the authority and oversight of non-RCRA state agencies.

As EPA's project leader for the Analogous Project, Ray provided outstanding technical and policy support to the states in Region 9. Ray and his DTSC counterpart worked diligently to establish guidelines to consistently apply fed-

ive Action Awards



ated by (from left to right) Cliff Rothenstein (DAA, Acting Deputy Administrator).

eral and state technical and policy directives to cleanup programs that were not modeled on RCRA requirements.

Throughout the project, Ray worked to promote the state's use of the Corrective Action Program's two EIs. He and his DTSC counterpart piloted and then applied the EIs for each of the more than 130 sites under review. The EI evaluations and determinations resulted in enough positive verifications that "human exposures are controlled" and "groundwater releases are controlled" to allow the region to meet its corrective action GPRAs goals for fiscal year (FY) 1998 and FY 1999.

OUTSTANDING TEAM OF THE YEAR AWARD

Safety Kleen, Chester Remediation Team

Sherman Latchaw, Joel Hennessy, Samuel Rotenberg, Dianne Sims, Region 3

The Safety Kleen, Chester Remediation Team was awarded the Outstanding Team of the Year Award for developing a remedy strategy that expedited action, innovation, consensus, and stakeholder involvement at the company's Chester, Virginia site. Because Safety Kleen was a high-priority corrective action facility in its early stages, the team implemented a practical approach that focused on protecting the drinking water of nearby residents. The team developed a strategy where EPA took samples at off-site residential wells and split samples with Safety Kleen at onsite facility monitoring wells.

Groundwater sample results indicated there was a health risk at one of the four residential wells. At the time, however, there was no sampling protocol for residential wells. The team's geologist developed a field sampling protocol that allowed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to take samples from the residential well in a relatively short period of time.

After meetings with Region 3, the facility indicated it was amenable to pursuing the team's recommended course of action. As a result of a mutual commitment, an additional groundwater well was installed at the facility within 4 months of receiving final sample results from USACE. Within 7 months, the impacted homeowner was drinking from a public water supply.

In addition, the team's approach resulted in reduced costs for facility work plan development and review. Moreover, because EPA resolved the technical issues with Safety Kleen, minimal legal resources were necessary. The team is to be commended for their efforts to clean up the site and meet the needs of citizens in the vicinity.



OUTSTANDING ADMINISTRATIVE INNOVATION AWARD

Estena McGhee, Region 3

Estena McGhee was awarded the Outstanding Administrative Innovation Award for the successful transfer of property owned by the Bayer Corporation to the citizens of Damascus, Virginia. In 1995, the Bayer Corporation expressed its desire to expedite cleanup at an old wood processing plant given its intention to donate the land to the City of Damascus. Estena suggested an innovative solution to the problem. Under EPA's direction, Bayer agreed to use the IMs provisions of the 3008(h) corrective action consent order to expedite cleanup of polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) and lead contamination at the facility.

The use of IMs for the soil excavation resulted in a remarkable reduction in time for site cleanup—taking approximately 24 months. In addition, Estena eliminated the need for a followup corrective action order under RCRA 3008(h) for remedy implementation. Significant cost savings were achieved for Bayer as a result of using soil coloration as a field screening technique in lieu of extensive sampling. Also, a Lead Sampling Field Protocol was developed to ensure that 95 percent of the "upper confined limit" of lead concentrations in soils remaining at the facility were less than 400 ppm. At the completion of the IM, the site met soil residential cleanup levels allowing maximum flexibility for redevelopment.

Estena worked extensively with stakeholders in the community. By attending public meetings and answering citizens' questions and concerns, Estena gave the community comfort about the land transfer. She was recognized by all parties as the driving and leveling force that produced a win-win situation for EPA, Bayer, and the community of Damascus.



Continued on page 6

OUTSTANDING STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AWARD



Stephanie Carr, Region 1

Stephanie Carr was awarded the Outstanding Stakeholder Involvement Award for her success with the cleanup of residential and public properties contaminated by two RCRA corrective action facilities—Sporting Goods Properties, Inc., in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and General Electric Company, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Stephanie played a critical role in overseeing the removal and offsite disposal of PCB-contaminated fill from 61 residential properties, one park, and two school yards in Pittsfield and seven residential properties impacted by lead in Bridgeport. While much of the work was a collaborative effort between Stephanie and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection staff, Stephanie served as the primary point of contact for 14 residential properties in three neighborhoods throughout the remediation process.

At critical stages throughout the remediation of these properties, Stephanie scheduled individual meetings and maintained close contact with each of the affected families to discuss the sample results, plans for remediating the properties, potential health effects of the contaminants of concern (primarily PCBs or lead), and precautions to prevent exposure to the contaminants in soil prior to initiation of remediation. At one point, she intervened to help a facility and neighboring family secure a mediator to resolve a sticky situation. Later, she worked with regional and state staff to explain the sampling process to Pittsfield residents wanting to have their properties sampled.

By encouraging the involvement of different agencies and companies, she provided families with access to experts at the local, state, federal, and corporate level for questions. As a result of these efforts, a foundation of trust was established that was pivotal to the success of the cleanup process.

OUTSTANDING ADMINISTRATIVE INNOVATION AWARD



Carl Warren, Region 9

Carl Warren received the Outstanding Administrative Innovation Award for turning a complex and challenging cleanup assignment at a Chevron refinery site in Hawaii into a successful and unprecedented voluntary corrective action partnership. EPA, Hawaii, and Chevron reached an agreement that focused on achieving protective environmental results and streamlining corrective action. As a result, Chevron agreed to upgrade all of its storage tanks by 2005 to prevent future leaks. In addition, the parties agreed that the corrective action would include full public involvement in accordance with procedures under an order or permit.

Project results include the following:

- ❖ **Time savings.** The problem went from diagnosis to remedy implementation in just 3 years—several years faster than at comparable sites.
- ❖ **A higher standard of environmental protection.** IMs were immediately instituted that prevented contamination from entering the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ **Cost savings.** By speeding up the process and focusing on results, Chevron estimates it saved between \$7 and \$10 million dollars. EPA saved resources by avoiding legal battles and streamlining corrective action.
- ❖ **Public support.** By being open with the public, Chevron found that even its neighbors with property affected by the contamination from the facility ended up trusting the company.

Because of Carl's assistance, a major corporation came to appreciate the benefits of working in partnership with environmental regulators. Word of the partnership's collaborative efforts has spread through the regional industry. In fact, another Hawaii refinery has inquired about doing a similar voluntary corrective action, setting a positive precedent.

OUTSTANDING LEADER/MENTOR AWARD



Maureen Essenthier, Region 3

Maureen Essenthier was awarded the Outstanding Leader/Mentor Award for her voluntary mentoring activities with two new RCRA engineers. Maureen taught them the advantage of being flexible in order to get the job done. Her strength is her ability to recognize true environmental threats without overly dramatizing them. Maureen is teaching her protégés, through her own projects, that real environmental progress comes from action and not endless study.

Her willingness to share her experiences or to act as a consultant to other RCRA project managers on corrective action issues is well known. She has the patience to help those who ask, and her help is the best kind—real experience on successful projects. Maureen is also a strong believer in public involvement with her projects. More importantly, she identifies the people who are most affected by her projects and makes personal contact with them to make sure they understand what is happening. She has a sense of personal ownership and responsibility to her sites and has passed this knowledge on to new employees.

These new project managers are already assuming leadership roles on new projects. Their poise, knowledge, and confidence are impressive, comparable to project managers with much more experience. Thanks to Maureen, they are well on their way to becoming successful project managers.

**OUTSTANDING
TEAM OF THE YEAR
AWARD**



**RCRA Amoco-Casper Corrective
Action Team**

**Felix Flechas, Randal Breeden, and
Charles Figur, Region 8**

The RCRA Amoco-Casper Corrective Action Team was awarded the Outstanding Team of the Year Award for successfully navigating a singularly complex technical, legal, and political situation that resulted in Amoco agreeing to conduct a corrective action at its Casper, Wyoming site.

The team tried since 1991 to negotiate a corrective action order with Amoco; however, no agreement could be reached on the degree of remedial investigation or remedial action.

A team member was subpoenaed to appear at an injunction hearing against Amoco. The team used this as an oppor-

tunity to explain to the court the evolving approach of the Agency with regard to the achievement of EIs. The court found this testimony and supporting information particularly effective and instructive. Subsequently, the court entered two orders, including one that required Amoco to prepare work plans for thorough and expedited site characterizations.

The team, in an effort to get stakeholders involved, initiated an open access policy with local television, radio, and newsprint media. This policy allowed stakeholders to voice their concerns and find answers. The team, for example, conducted extensive groundwater modeling and informed the public about potential flooding issues related to groundwater mounding. In development of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality and Amoco consent decree, the team insisted that the collaborative decision-making process be conducted in public meetings and account for the needs of citizens. Before these

public sessions were allowed to close, any member of the public had the right to provide input.

The team has implemented four EIs—human exposures, groundwater releases, sources, and ecological risk. Moreover, it was the team’s insistence on the use of evolving environmental science—saturated zone NAPL preferential flow-path science—to achieve the groundwater releases EI that resulted in the enormously improved design and an improved approach for meeting this indicator.

A focus on and implementation of EIs gave the corrective action process momentum and direction, resulting in more comprehensive data interpretation and holistic remedies.

1999 National RCRA Program Meeting: Partnerships for a Cleaner Environment

This year’s National RCRA Program meeting was held in Washington, DC, on January 12 through 15 at the historic Willard Hotel. The meeting drew more than 600 attendees and provided more than 70 breakout sessions to help attendees deal with the new complexities facing the RCRA Program. The large attendance was due to the ever growing importance of RCRA among the regions, states, and tribes.

Plenary sessions at the International Trade Center were the highlight of the meeting. During the sessions, Peter Robertson, Acting Deputy Administrator, and Timothy Fields, Assistant Administrator of OSWER, discussed the future of EPA and RCRA. Mr. Fields emphasized the focus being put on the Corrective Action Program and stressed that RCRA Corrective Action is being made a top priority for OSWER. The plenary sessions also allowed some RCRA stakeholder groups (e.g., tribes, environmental groups, industry, states) to express their views on the current and future issues facing the program. The meeting spurred many discussions and new ideas concerning the RCRA Program, and laid the groundwork for continued success with RCRA.

The next national meeting will be held in August 2000, in Washington, DC. With an increasing focus on the RCRA Program by EPA, all participants can expect great things at the next meeting. More information will be made available in upcoming newsletters.



RCRA Corrective Action Workshop on Results-Based Project Management

"...excellent, high-energy delivery; good interaction; references are great; useful for my day-to-day activities; I would recommend it"
—Previous Workshop Participants

EPA recently launched a new 4-day workshop designed to promote a results-based approach for implementing RCRA Corrective Action. The first 3 days of the workshop are offered only to EPA and state regulators. Day four of the workshop, however, is available to any interested stakeholder on a first-come, first-served preregistration basis.

The workshop focuses on results (rather than a prescriptive process); effective communication; risk, as well as uncertainty management; and administrative flexibility. The workshop is a major component of a broader reform initiative announced by EPA on July 8, 1999, aimed at producing a "faster, focused, and more flexible" Corrective Action Program (see article on page 1). The workshop allows participants to accomplish the following:

- ❖ Learn about interim and final "results" for corrective action facilities and how to apply a "results-based approach" to improve the pace of corrective action.

- ❖ Learn to use a Conceptual Site Model (CSM) to help "visualize" facilities and focus resources on specific problems.
- ❖ Learn about risk management and how to identify and manage uncertainties inherent with environmental investigation and remediation.
- ❖ Learn to improve communication between all stakeholders to foster cooperation and manage conflicts.
- ❖ Learn to use the new EI guidance to evaluate and document whether migration of contaminated groundwater and current human exposures are under control.
- ❖ Learn about new regulations, policies, and guidance to tailor the requirements for managing remediation wastes and streamline remedy selection and completion.
- ❖ Recognize and take advantage of the "menu" of state and/or federal approaches capable of fulfilling corrective action requirements.

The tentative schedule for bringing the workshop to the EPA regions is included in the box below. The workshop has already been held in Seattle, Chicago, and New York. For more information, refer to www.epa.gov/osw/cleanup.htm where you will find an electronic registration form, exact dates and locations, and plans for adapting the workshop to an interactive version on the Internet.

Upcoming Workshops

Atlanta	Jan. 11 to 14, 2000
Denver	Feb. 8 to 11, 2000
Dallas	April 2000*
Kansas City	June 13 to 16, 2000
Boston	July 2000*

*exact dates to be determined



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(5306W)
Washington, DC 20460

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