

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Environmental Fact Sheet

RCRA Corrective Action Showcase Pilots Announced

RCRA Showcase Pilots

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to announce that thirty-one innovative cleanup pilots, known as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Showcase Pilots, are underway in all ten EPA Regions and more than twenty states. The pilots are intended to illustrate innovative, nationwide RCRA Corrective Action cleanup efforts, and to stimulate others to explore similar efforts to speed up progress toward EPA's cleanup goals. The scope of innovations is broad and includes:

- Multi-regional and sector-based approaches;
- New technologies or new applications of existing technologies;
- Electronic information transfer and documentation;
- Streamlined administrative process;
- Brownfields redevelopment tools;
- Risk-based performance standards; and
- Enhanced stakeholder involvement.

The RCRA Showcase Pilots provide an excellent opportunity for program implementors, regulated industry, and other stakeholders to field test innovative approaches to expediting cleanup, to focus resources and expertise at one or multiple sites, and to showcase sites that can transfer lessons learned to other similar situations across the country. The pilots also provide an opportunity to establish unique and beneficial partnerships, and to maximize public awareness of the innovations.

EPA worked with states, tribes, industry, and other constituents to develop the RCRA Showcase Pilots. Application of appropriate innovative approaches across EPA regions is encouraged. Examples of RCRA Showcase Pilots include the following:

- A multi-regional project involves cleanup of steel mini-mills under a federal consent decree, which is the first comprehensive, multi-media settlement in the steel mini-mill industry. The cleanup takes place sequentially, in a prioritized, streamlined process and is overseen by a coordinating committee.
- In Connecticut, remote control equipment will be used for the first time to investigate large caliber unexploded ordnance (UXO) on a property that will be remediated and

- redeveloped, with a portion being donated to the local town for a road project.
- A Virginia project will use tree cores to define the groundwater plume and whether migration of contaminated groundwater is under control. Plume delineation through tree core analysis is a potentially cost-effective and simple approach, and offers EPA an opportunity to test a new tool for site characterization.
 - A South Carolinian facility has a core team to expedite the RCRA Corrective Action process, replacing the traditional iterative process of exchanging papers and comments. The team developed an aggressive Corrective Action Schedule for investigation and remediation, and uses a site-wide geographical information system (GIS). The GIS: (1) provides an electronic repository for quantitative and qualitative data; (2) provides a means to analyze site chemical data; and (3) serves as a communication tool for all stakeholders.
 - Cleanups are being conducted at several facilities under the EPA Region 6 Corrective Action Strategy (CAS), which uses a combination of innovative approaches. CAS activities at a facility in Texas include: (1) evaluation of previously collected data with risk-based performance standards to prioritize Corrective Action efforts; (2) development and use of conceptual site models in risk management decisions with realistic evaluation of current and future site and resource use; (3) site-wide approach in groundwater monitoring and management; and (4) informal, frequent communication among the regulators and facility.
 - In Oregon, new approaches to RCRA-Superfund program integration will be used to complete cleanup at a bankrupt facility. The cleanup will include: joint work to implement site characterization strategies; proposal of the site to the National Priorities List so the full range of Superfund authorities will be available when the facility does not have resources for cleanup; and involvement of the community in plans for cleanup and reuse of the site.

Background

In January 2001, EPA announced a set of RCRA Cleanup Reforms called "Reforms II." "Reforms II" encourages creative solutions that promote faster, focused, more flexible cleanups. An important program goal is to verify and document, by 2005, that:

- 95 percent of the 1,714 RCRA cleanup facilities will have current human exposures under control; and
- 70 percent of these facilities will have migration of contaminated groundwater under control.

The long-term goal of the program is to achieve cleanup at all RCRA Corrective Action facilities.

For More Information

Project descriptions, progress reports and other RCRA Showcase Pilots material is available at: <<http://www.epa.gov/correctiveaction>>. For additional information, please call the RCRA Call Center. Callers within the Washington Metropolitan Area please dial 703-412-9810 or TDD 703-412-3323 (hearing impaired). Long-distance callers please call 1-800-424-9346 or TDD 1-800-553-7672. The RCRA Call Center operates weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.