

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Steele CountyXL Community Pilot Proposal for Project XLC Consideration Summary

The Steele CountyXL Direct Participants and Community Stakeholders have developed this proposal for three specific reasons: **1)** Steele County is unique in that there is a willingness of commitment on the part of local business/industry to work together as a single unit to set specific goals that can be attained by partnering with the community in an effort to better our local environment for future generations to enjoy. **2)** Water conservation and effluent contaminate control is a major economic and social issue for both business/industry and the community. **3)** The idea of working with EPA in a community pilot project that will test and provide indicators for effectiveness and improvement of existing regulations is an attraction for business/industry to truly become a community model for environmental excellence and leadership.

The local contact for all correspondence relating to this CommunityXL Pilot Project Proposal is:

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As described in the attached proposal, it is the intent of the Direct Participants of this proposal and the Community Stakeholders to aggressively enter into a project where maximum water use reduction is attained by project partners, while at the same time, a system of effluent controls involving environmental management systems (EMS) are developed and implemented within those facilities that are permitted wastewater dischargers throughout Steele County.

For business and industry to significantly reduce water usage in their processes, the regulated community and the regulators will have to evaluate the existing effluent regulations in a manner that may have to be imaginative, creative and provide reasonable opportunities for success on the local level, without compromising possible negative effects on the local environment.

This program will set and attain goals that will demonstrate wastewater contaminate effluent reductions that will provide environmental results that are superior to what is presently achieved under existing and reasonably foreseeable future national regulations.

Direct participating industries will commit to a cumulative reduction of regulated wastewater effluents, possibly including trading options, while significantly reducing overall water usage. Control of regulated wastewater effluents and reduced water usage will have a major cost reduction economic impact not only for business and industrial participants, but for the community as a whole.

As this project progresses, stormwater runoff control, land application runoff control from the agricultural community, aquifer degradation and other sources of surface water contamination will become a consideration of this project. As systems fall into place, this program will expand towards hazardous waste generation, air permitting/emissions and solid waste generation controls, with the

ultimate goal of community multi-media permitting to replace individual facility permitting that exists today.

But, the fact remains, that there has to be a beginning point. And before beginning that first step towards community problem solving, developing partnerships and controlling those factors that have a negative environmental impact on business/industry and the community, EPA must be willing to allow us the opportunity to really find out if the visionary concept of the Community XL pilot program is a 21st Century Concept as it was initially designed to be.