

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Project XL: Exxon Fairmont Coke Works Superfund Clean-up



WHAT IS



T XL?

P
R
O
J
E
C

Project XL, which stands for “eXcellence and Leadership,” is a national initiative that tests innovative ways of achieving better and more cost-effective public health and environmental protection. The experience and lessons learned from Project XL will assist EPA in redesigning its current regulatory and policy-setting approaches. Project XL encourages testing of cleaner, cheaper, and smarter ways to attain environmental results superior to those achieved under current regulations and policies. It also requires substantial involvement by stakeholders, i.e. the people and organizations affected by EPA’s decisions. Project XL is limited in scope, with a goal of 50 pilot projects. Therefore, it is vital that each project test new ideas with the potential for wide application and broad environmental benefits. As of May 1999, eleven pilot projects are being implemented and twenty seven additional experiments are being developed or negotiated. Project XL offers a tremendous opportunity for everyone to think “outside the box” of our current system and to find solutions to obstacles that limit environmental performance.

This project will test an alternative strategy for cleaning-up the Sharon Steel Fairmont Coke Works Superfund Site, located in Fairmont, WV. The site was placed on the EPA’s National Priorities List (NPL) on December 23, 1996. Exxon is the only Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) working with EPA and the West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) under an Administrative Order on Consent to address environmental concerns at this site.

SUMMARY OF EXXON FAIRMONT COKE WORKS SITE CLEAN-UP

To clean up the site, Exxon proposes that changes to the traditional Superfund process be made. These changes would affect: (a) site characterization and clean-up, (b) risk assessment procedures, (c) the management of onsite landfills, (d) mitigation requirements for EPA-created wetlands onsite, (e) the stakeholder and community involvement process, (f) reduction of paperwork requirements, and (g) the quality assurance process. In addition, as a new approach, Exxon will work with stakeholders and community groups to seek interested developers for commercial or industrial re-development of the site.

In this project, Exxon will implement changes to the Superfund process that will yield significant benefits to the environment, the surrounding community, and Exxon. Key benefits include:

- Shorter clean-up times that more quickly eliminate the potential risk to human health.
- A commitment from Exxon to work with stakeholders and community groups to seek interested developers for commercial/industrial

SUPERIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

redevelopment of the site.

- A commitment from Exxon to demolish and dispose of all on-site buildings and structures.
- Reduced administrative burden through the use of streamlined risk assessment and site characterization processes and electronic document/data submittals.

The Final Project Agreement (FPA) for this site provides Exxon with flexibility regarding 1) the use of streamlined removal processes in order to expedite clean up actions at the site, 2) mitigation processes for wetlands created by EPA during previous removal actions, 3) data validation reporting requirements, and 4) risk assessment criteria and analyses.

FLEXIBILITY

As part of its FPA commitments, Exxon will continue to work actively to ensure and maintain involvement of key stakeholders and the general public during the clean-up of the site. Exxon will directly fund the WVDEP involvement in the project and will work with the Fairmont Community Liaison Panel (FCLP) and EPA in every stage of the clean-up process.

Can coupling expedited Superfund clean-up procedures with land reuse commitments result in benefits to the community, the environment and industry ?

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Regional:	Melissa Whittington	215-814-3235
EPA HQ:	John DuPree	202-260-4468
WVDEP:	Tom Bass	304-558-2745

APPROACHES TO BE TESTED

More information about Project XL is available on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/ProjectXL> or via Project XL's Information Line at 202-260-5754.

CONTACTS

FOR ELECTRONIC INFORMATION