

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



EPA's Project XL

Good for the Environment,
Good for Business, and
Good for Communities



What is Project XL?

- eXcellence and *Leadership*
 - A national pilot program that tests innovative ways of achieving better and more cost effective public health and environmental protection
 - Gives project sponsors an opportunity to think “outside the box” of the current system and find solutions to obstacles that limit environmental performance
 - Successful innovations will be incorporated into EPA’s system of environmental protection, promoting changes in the way we regulate industry



What is ENVVEST?

- ENVVEST = Environmental Reinvestment
 - EPA and DOD signed a Memorandum of Agreement for regulatory reinvention pilot projects (1995)
 - MOA provided a framework for the development of regulatory reinvention pilot projects at 3-5 DOD facilities
 - Anticipated cost savings from a pilot project will enable DOD to reinvest funds for implementation
 - ENVVEST reflects Project XL requirements



Project XL is Important to EPA Because. . .

- It encourages public involvement and input - providing a gateway for ideas
- It helps to form more collaborative relationships
- It builds capacity to experiment and collaborate on policies across media and regional boundaries
- Regulatory flexibility with safeguards helps promote innovation and system change



What an XL Proposal Must Address

- 1) Superior environmental results
- 2) Cost savings, paperwork reduction, and operational flexibility
- 3) Stakeholder involvement and support
- 4) Innovation and multimedia pollution prevention
- 5) Transferability to other facilities, sectors, or communities
- 6) Feasibility (technically and administratively)
- 7) Monitoring, reporting, accountability and evaluation
- 8) No shifting of risk burden

Project sponsors must also have a solid record of compliance.



Developing an XL Project In 6 - 12 Months



What is a Final Project Agreement (FPA) ?

- The FPA would describe the intentions of EPA, PSNS, and WADOE related to development and implementation of the project
- The Final Project Agreement, often referred to as an FPA, is an agreement between EPA, the project sponsor, state environmental agency, and other designated direct participants
- The draft FPA will be available for a 30-day public review in July 2000

Stakeholder Involvement

- 3 Categories of Stakeholders:
 - **Direct participants** work intensively on project development from the ground up
 - **Commentors** have an interest in the project, but do not desire to participate intensively in project development
 - Members of the **general public** might not become directly involved in the project, but will be given easy access to the project development process and to information about the environmental results during project implementation



Project XL Achievements to Date

- As of June 2000
 - 25 projects in implementation
 - 19 projects in FPA development
 - 10 projects in EPA/State proposal review
 - 2 projects in pre-proposal/proposal development
- For a total of 56 projects in the XL Program
- Projects are sponsored by a mix of private firms, states, federal agencies (including the military) and communities



Benefits to Community Stakeholders

- Better environmental protection
- Better community and stakeholder relations through joint problem solving
- Enhanced education regarding Sinclair Inlet watershed and ecosystem
- Increased access to environmental performance data and information



Assistance to Stakeholders

- Stakeholder Involvement Plan
 - Outlines how PSNS will involve community
- Stakeholder Guidance Document
 - EPA document that shows community members how to participate effectively in designing and evaluating an XL project
- Public Meetings
 - To inform public and solicit comments
- Internet
 - EPA Project XL web site - www.epa.gov/projectxl



“Project XL Must Succeed!”

“Giving us a place at the table as decisions are made that affect our communities has proven to be highly beneficial not only for communities but for industry as well.”

Pam Kaster,

President of Citizens for a Cleaner Environment and XL project stakeholder