Module 3:
Program Issues and Initiatives
Module Overview

Module Objectives: Examine programmatic topics and issues

Topics:
» Ensuring consistency
» Defining and achieving program goals
» Implementing initiatives
» Addressing issues
Ensuring Consistency

◆ General Superfund

  » Training
    — CERCLA Education Center and ERTP
    — OSC Readiness Training Program
    — NARPM Training Conference

  » Extensive policy and guidance

  » National policy and technical workgroups with regional and stakeholder participation

(continued)
Ensuring Consistency

- Removal program
  - National Approach to Response
  - NAR ER
  - OSC Task Force
    - Training team
    - Workgroups

(continued)
Ensuring Consistency

◆ Remedial program
  » NARPM
  » Regional Decision Teams
  » Remedy Review Board
  » National Risk-Based Priority Panel
  » Annual ROD review
  » HQ review of major documents
  » Policy and technical workgroups
Defining and Achieving Program Goals

- GPRA performance measures
  - Sitewide Ready for Anticipated Use
  - Human Exposure Under Control
  - Groundwater Migration Under Control
  - Final Assessment Decision
  - Construction Completion
- Other program goals and measures
  - RA completion
- CERCLIS
Program Initiatives – Innovative Technologies and Approaches

- SITE
- Technology Innovation Program
- Triad Approach
- Annual Status Report/Superfund Remedy Report
Program Initiatives – Superfund Redevelopment and Reuse

◆ Superfund Redevelopment Initiative
  » Facilitation and planning
  » Partnerships
  » Ready for Reuse Determinations
  » Written guides

◆ Redevelopment resources

Before cleanup

After cleanup with environmental reuse
Program Initiative – Community Engagement and Environmental Justice

- Objective of community engagement → enhance community involvement
- Executive Order 12898 focused attention on environmental justice
- Environmental justice issues must be identified and taken into consideration
The practice of considering all environmental effects of remedy implementation and incorporating options to maximize net environmental benefit of cleanup actions.
ICI Goal Statement

Better use EPA’s assessment and cleanup authorities, in an integrated, transparent and accountable fashion, to address a greater number of contaminated sites, accelerate cleanups where possible, and put those sites back into productive use while protecting human health and the environment.
Example ICI Actions

- Strengthen site assessment and listing processes
- Emphasize a project focus and establish a new remedial action project measure
- Improve efficiency of administrative grant and contracting processes
- Partner with states, territories, and tribes to address backlog of LUST sites
- Link cleanup and revitalization efforts for contaminated sites
- Evaluate performance metrics and cross-program measures and indicators
- Improve communication with other federal agencies on measuring cleanup performance
Systematic site review by a team of independent technical experts, at any phase of a cleanup process, to identify opportunities to improve remedy protectiveness, effectiveness and cost efficiency, and to facilitate progress toward site completion.
Optimization Opportunities Throughout Process

- Site Identified
- Preliminary Assessment
- Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study Stage Optimization
- Design Stage Optimization
- Remediation Stage Optimization
- Remedial Action Construction
- Remedial Action Operations
- Long-Term Monitoring
- Site Completion

BMPs = Best Management Practices
Program Issue – Institutional Controls

◆ ICs are necessary at many Superfund sites
◆ ICs must be in place before a site is deemed SWRAU
◆ States play an important role in establishing/enforcing ICs
◆ IC issues and procedures vary from state to state
◆ IC coordinators located in each Region and ICs are tracked
Program Issue – Vapor Intrusion

- Indoor air contamination is a significant contributor to risk
- Contaminated groundwater or soil can contaminate indoor air
- Failure to evaluate this exposure pathway may result in unevaluated risk
In Review

◆ EPA ensures programmatic consistency through various means
◆ EPA implements new initiatives to meet program challenges
◆ EPA must address new technical and policy issues that continue to arise