


EPA Priorities Under the New Administration

...no EPA Region 10 Administrator yet...

- Administration has stated 3 fundamental values:
 - Science-based policies and programs
 - Adherence to the rule of law
 - Overwhelming transparency

Example: Science Notebook page tries to make EPA scientists and research more accessible, understandable and interesting to the public.
www.epa.gov/sciencenotebook

- Priorities Connected to Cleanup Include Increased Emphasis On:
 - Environmental Justice
 - Community Involvement
 - Children's Health
 - Accelerate Site Cleanup Pace



Pace and Funding of Northwest Superfund Cleanups

•Currently 16 NPL sites and a similar number of other cleanups in OR

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (aka Stimulus)

Region 10 received about \$400 million, bulk in SRFs

About 50 NPL sites nationwide designated for funding, 3 in Region 10:

Bunker Hill – Idaho (*work underway now*)

Ruston/North Tacoma - Washington

Wyckoff-Eagle Harbor - Washington

Brownfield Grants \$1.25 million ARRA of \$2.45 million total

Washington grants - \$1.4 million

[City of Bremerton \(Kitsap County\) ARRA \\$200,000](#)

[South East Effective Development \(King County\) – ARRA \\$200,000](#)

[Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department \(Pierce County\) – ARRA \\$200,000](#)

[City of Bothell \(King County\) – \\$200,000](#)

[City of Marysville \(Snohomish County\) - \\$200,000](#)

[The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe \(Kitsap County\) - \\$400,000 \(two grants\)](#)

Oregon grant - \$200,000

[Portland Development Commission \(Multnomah County\) - \\$200,000](#)

Idaho grants - \$850,000

[Idaho DEQ \(Bonner County project\) - ARRA \\$650,000](#)

[Idaho Parks and Recreation \(Custer County project\) - \\$200,000](#)



Pace and Funding of Northwest Superfund Cleanups

No additional funding for non-NPL cleanup work under ARRA

Superfund Tax Reauthorization Sought - Could add \$1 billion in 2011 revenue

One Cleanup Program Initiative Potential Revitalization



Decision on the Libby, MT Asbestos Site to Declare a Public Health Emergency

•On 6/17/09 EPA and HHS announced this first-of-its-kind decision

Hundreds of asbestos related diseases documented in the community

Allows for certain medical assistance, among other things

Another look at “daughters of Libby” sites?



Recent Compilation of EPA CERCLA Policies on Groundwater Restoration

•6/26/09 **OSWER Directive 9283.1-33** – “Summary of Key Existing EPA CERCLA Policies for Groundwater Restoration” (aka *CERCLA Groundwater Principles Memo*)

Was developed, in part, to clarify policies that some stakeholders have misinterpreted, such as:

Decisions to take CERCLA actions based only on a baseline risk assessment rather than exceedance of a protective standard (e.g. MCL)

Setting different on-site and off-site groundwater cleanup levels

Groundwater use designation based on land use rather than groundwater use classification.

The directive emphasizes that EPA policy affords the same level of protection to both current and potential drinking water sources





Superfund Green Remediation Strategy

Strategy with 12 key actions was to have been finalized June 30th???

Goal: Making informed decisions on reducing the environmental footprint of cleanups at a site

Anticipated product: A methodology for evaluations environmental footprints
Air quality, energy and climate; water; land and ecosystems; materials & waste; long term stewardship



Privatization of Remediation Oversight??

Things that make you go hmmm....

The **June 29, 2009** copy of *Environmental News* carried a story about Massachusetts, Connecticut, and especially New Jersey – all states that have undertaken programs to shift the remediation oversight to private companies.

In New Jersey the Site Remediation Reform Act and Executive Order #140, allows that in certain cases primary environmental investigation and cleanup oversight will be transferred from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to “Licensed Site Remediation Professionals”

These private entities will supervise cleanups largely independently from NJDEP, and will be the entity certifying that the site meets the state’s remediation requirements.

The NJDEP is said to keep significant oversight authority, and LSRPs will need to comply with a number of reporting and compliance requirements.



