

Region 6 - 2016 Plan

Administrator's Priorities

1. Addressing Climate Change
2. Improving Air Quality
3. Making Visible Difference in Communities Across the Country
4. Taking Action on Toxics and Chemical Safety
5. Protecting Water: A Precious, Limited Resource
6. Working Toward a Sustainable Future, EJ and Environmentalism
7. Launching a New Era of State, Tribal and Local Partnerships
8. Embracing EPA as a High Performing Organization



Looking ahead

"As we enter this last year of the current administration, it is important to stay focused on our goals and mission at hand. We have made such a difference in our region and local communities, and the results will be long lasting. I have utmost confidence that, as a cohesive Region, we are on target for another successful year while meeting and exceeding our goals."

- Ron Curry

Addressing Climate Change

Promote innovative energy projects to meet the nation's energy needs:

- Conduct outreach and educational efforts on the final CAA 111(d) rule for existing power plants
- Receive approval extension requests for CPP from all States
- Promote Federal Green Challenge; provide technical assistant to current participants to retain 80%
- Recruit/retain 44 partners in Sustainable Material Challenges, Federal Green Challenge and Food Recovery Challenge
- Provide 2 training events on water utilities climate resilience
- Conduct 2 energy management webinars and 1 workshop for water and wastewater utilities
- Conduct 2 sessions on sustainable practices funding opportunities
- Recruit 6 WaterSense partners
- Provide 2 training/discussion opportunities on carbon footprint reduction to disadvantaged communities at OK EJ Workshop and All States Summit
- Complete AR and OK EJ State Plans
- Award 4 EJ Small Grants that include community climate resiliency

Improving Air Quality

Ensure clean air for communities:

- Issue grants for emission control technologies that reduce diesel engine related emissions
- Complete 3 technical system audits and 6 network assessment review for ambient air quality organizations
- Finalize AR Regional Haze Plan
- Complete designations under the SO2 standard for 20 largest emission locations
- Review/Comment on Camp Minden Comprehensive Test Plan; test burn and stack test results
- Educate 300 children, parents, elderly and caregivers on indoor environmental risks
- Train 50 health care professionals on indoor environmental risks
- Hold discussions on regulatory and non-regulatory actions that reduce air pollution in vulnerable communities at OK EJ Training
- Conduct 10 CAA compliance facilities evaluations in noncompliance
- Initiate 5 CAA enforcement actions at facilities in noncompliance
- Conduct 20 compliance evaluations at oil and gas facilities

Making a Visible Difference in Communities Across the Country

Where EPA's Mission has an impact:

- Work with TCEQ and City of Frisco on Exide facility cleanup
- Assist with WIPP inspection, report completion and Biennial Compliance Report issuance
- Oversee NMEDs actions with WIPP, LANL and TCEQs Waste Control Specialists actions
- Issue 2 RfR determinations to promote land reuse with States
- Ensure Plains Terminals complete site-wide cleanup
- Conduct 3 projects with 2 MVD community local government officials
- Support White House Council for Strong City Strong Communities activities; Promise Zone work in linked communities to Urban Waters locations
- Support Urban Waters project work plans and partnerships
- Work with Nueces County to accept planning and design supported with Texas Water Development Board subsidy
- Facilitate discussions with federal and local agencies to reduce or resolve issues in communities
- Conduct 85 Brownfield property assessments
- Cleanup 5 Brownfield properties
- Complete 28 Superfund-lead and PRP lead removal actions/responses
- Conduct 60 Superfund site assessments
- Reach settlement or take enforcement action before the start of remedial action at 95% of Superfund site with viable PRPs
- Hold 20 community meetings at Superfund sites
- Complete 6 Superfund Remedial Action projects

Taking Action on Toxics and Chemical Safety

Prioritize decisions to maximize environmental benefits:

- Reissue 17 state permits to ensure proper management of hazardous waste
- Control human exposure to toxins in 12 priority RCRA facilities
- Complete construction of final remedies at 17 RCRA facilities
- Complete 6 PCB evaluations on permits and cleanup plans
- Hold P2 Roundtable pollution prevention approaches meeting in OK



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This year, we will focus our energy, talents and resources to accomplish these priorities:

- Facilitate discussions with federal and local agencies to reduce issues at the gypsum waste are at the Pueblo of Zia
- Issue 10 CAFOs requiring worker training and contingency plans at hazardous waste generators
- Partner with DHS and DOL to conduct 32 Local Emergency Planning committee workshops

Protecting children where they live, learn and play:

- Coordinate ambient air quality monitoring for chloroprene in La Place, LA
- Promote IPM programs to decrease children's exposure in schools
- Partner to UT Public Health and TX Dept of State Health to train public health and health care professional in TX
- Promote lead safe work practices; use of trained professionals in RRP
- Conduct inspections at 5 child occupied facilities for Lead-based paint RRP
- Conduct soil kitchen testing event in Austin, TX
- Conduct or participate in 8 exercises to improve emergency preparedness

Protecting Water: A Precious, Limited Resource

Ensure safe drinking water for communities:

- Ensure drinking water standards for 90% of the regional population
- Provide technical assistance to 5 tribal drinking water systems to improve compliance with SDWA standards
- Assess EPA disposal well permits on OK tribal lands for induced seismicity concerns
- Provide tools and support to OK to address seismicity trends
- Finalize EPA policy document on aquifer exemptions
- Partner with 5 WaterSense partners for Fix a Leak week activities
- Assist TWDB with large DWSRF ULOs to ensure funds are loaned to communities in need of new and or refurbished systems
- Address priority tribal Public Water Systems using Enforcement Targeting Tool
- Support Kirtland AFB Bulk Fuel Facility Spill Modeling Workgroup; assist with monitoring, extraction and injections wells.
- Assist NMED with work plans and technical documents review of remediation of the fuel spill
- Work with State partners to address/resolve 450 significantly noncompliant public water systems
- Work with state and federal funding agencies on drinking water requirements at public water supplies
- Achieve groundwater migration under control at 4 Superfund sites

Provide leadership to restore and protect watersheds and coastal waters:

- Partner with agencies and communities to collect unused pharmaceuticals
- Lead 1 Earth Day activity to promote water quality
- Maintain NPDES permit currency rate of 90%

- Hold stakeholder meeting on reissuance of Offshore, Texas Territorial/Coastal Oil and Gas General permits expiring in FY17
- Review/comment on 5 State CWA 303(d) lists of impaired waters
- Work with states to curb sources of nonpoint pollution; develop 5 new watershed plans; host RTAG on nutrient targets
- Work with states to document 3 success stories of nonpoint source impaired waters
- Partner with coastal consortiums to restore coastal wetlands and habitats
- Negotiate Intra-Agency Partnership Agreement for compliance for large water supply projects
- Partner with federal/water agencies on 10,000 acre reservoir review
- Assist NM in monitoring the San Juan and Animas River watersheds to assess impacts from historical mining activities
- Conduct 80% of CAFO inspections in impaired watersheds and water bodies or citizen complaints
- Conduct 60% of NPDES inspections in impaired watersheds or sensitive water bodies
- Conduct 100 SPCC and 30 FRP inspections and response exercises at OPA regulated facilities
- Respond to oil spills impacting waters of the US that meet regional response criteria

Working Toward A Sustainable Future, Environmental Justice and Environmentalism

Partner with vulnerable communities to address concerns related to environmental justice priorities:

- Address human health concerns in Alexandria/Pineville LA community
- Improve Indian Country drinking water compliance through training
- Recruit 2 new partners that encourage environmental education/outreach
- Collaborate with federal, state and local partners to address water issues in underserved communities
- Conduct conference calls for leaders from vulnerable communities on EJ issues
- Conduct quarterly conference calls to discuss broad EJ priorities
- Update AR, TX, NM and LA EJ state plans
- Issue 5 CAA enforcement actions at facilities impacting communities
- Review draft NEPA documents for impacts to EJ/tribal communities

Improving the environment along the US/Mexico Border

- Participate in Joint Air Coordinating binational committee meetings
- Co-report on US-Mexico Border air quality trends for ozone and particulate matter for State of the Environment Report
- Partner with TX to develop/host decentralized septic system best management practices workshop for along US-Mexico border
- Assist the Lower Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Watershed Initiative with a planned model project workshop



Workforce Diversity, **E**nvironmental Stewardship

Character, **A**ccountability, **R**espect, **E**xcellence

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- Provide 500 additional homes with safe drinking water
- Provide 40,000 additional homes with adequate wastewater sanitation
- Secure local, state/federal funding for drinking water/wastewater service connections to 1 US-Mexico Border community
- Generate PROAIRE SIP for the State of Chihuahua's shared air basins with NM and TX
- Increase efforts on binational water quality planning through stakeholder collaboration
- Dispose of 1M used tires through a business partnership
- Continue work with Anthony, NM on EPA's Building Blocks workshop
- Train and equip US and Mexican responders to address hazmat incidences along the border communities

Launching a New Era of State, Tribal and Local Partnerships

Addressing State Priorities:

- Review new TCEQ ambient air quality monitor locations near SO₂ sources greater than 2,000 tons per year
- Address 40 SIP revisions reducing SIP backlog negotiated with States
- Partner with States developing/implementing a hazardous waste program 3-year training plan
- Hold Lead Paint meeting with State and Tribal partners
- Hold Pesticides Program meeting with State and Tribal partners
- Meet with state UST/LUST program managers to increase compliance, prevention, cleanup, address new releases and ensure financial assurance
- Host 1 NPDES Permit State Managers meeting
- Co-sponsor 1 regional MS4 conference for state and municipalities
- Participate in 1 pretreatment workshop for states and municipalities
- Conduct 1 on-site Permit Quality Review of a state NPDES program
- Hold 1 Whole Effluent Toxicity training for state staff
- Work to award all CWA and SDWA funds to ensure clean/safe water
- Achieve 90% CWSRF and 83% DWSRF Funds Utilization Rate; accomplish 460 DW Systems Initiations of Operations
- Oversee grants awarded to US-Mexico Border related entities
- Award GAP grants to federally recognized tribes
- Award EJ grants to organizations that reduce impacts to communities
- Conduct a State Review Framework with LDEQ
- Initiate a State Review Framework with TCEQ
- Hold 2 Superfund Regional Team meetings with State and Tribal partners

Safeguarding our Trust responsibilities:

- Hold Radon Stakeholders meeting
- Conduct 40 UST regulatory inspections at tribal UST facilities
- Offer Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation for tribes affected by NPDES permitting actions
- Assist 1 tribal partner measure quality of their waters, establish authorities and set standards/targets for waters in Indian Country
- Assist tribes develop E-Enterprise tool to manage water information

- Complete 17 EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans
- Facilitate 3 RTOC meetings
- Conduct Superfund Risk Assessment Training at RTOC meeting

Embracing EPA as a High Performing Organization

Developing our People:

- Measure Lean results, implement projects from other successes and work with States on process improvement
- Assist ORD with deploying a community bench monitor in Houston
- Promote cross-program opportunities by assignments/reassignments
- Promote climate change adaption through on-line training and tools
- Lean 3 processes within Water Quality Division
- Co-host CWA dredge and fill permitting with federal partners
- Host training seminar to improve partnering with communities
- Conduct Annual Civil/Criminal Enforcement Training
- Conduct on-board training for 20 new hires in CAED
- Provide training to HQ and other regions on RCRA Data Mining
- Provide Inspector Training to States
- Provide 6 Employee Assistance Program trainings
- Provide 3 Job Swap Brown Bags
- Provide 1 Individual Development Plan Brown Bag Sessions for new employees
- Provide 8 Division Onboarding presentations for new employees
- Conduct mentoring speed dating; update mentoring roster

Ensure integrity of our financial management:

- Award and manage grants and cooperative agreements
- Perform 20 advanced reviews of federal financial assistance agreements
- Monitor and evaluate water grant recipients to ensure financial integrity
- Conduct programmatic advanced monitoring reviews on OEJTIA grants
- Ensure financial activities comply with FMFIA and internal controls
- Review 100% of required recorded ULOs; de-obligate unneeded funds

Advancing the role of science, research, and technological innovation:

- Evaluate use of low-cost sensors by community participants for collection of fine particulate emissions in urban areas with Region 4
- Provide support to fill information gaps on EPA's Hydrofracking report
- Host SRF training for Headquarters/regional EPA financial analysts
- Develop expanded capability to analyze for semi-volatile compounds at low part per trillion detection limits using new GC/MS/MS technology
- Complete ASTM Method for anion analysis in high dissolved solids matrices and initiate multi-laboratory validation study
- Initiate green chemistry study of the analysis of pharmaceuticals and personal care products in surface waters



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March 4, 2016

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*This year, we will focus our energy, talents and resources
to accomplish these priorities:*

**Questions?
Please talk with your supervisor about
our goals**



**Our 2015 Accomplishments Report is
available at
www.epa.gov/region6**