

EPA Superfund Region 4 Annual Report | FY 2015



Thirty-Five Years of Distinction

Protecting Public Health, Advancing Environmental Protection





CONTENTS

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Region 4 Superfund *in Action*
- 3 Fiscal Year 2015: By the Numbers
- 4 35 Years of the Superfund Program: Healthier Families. Cleaner Communities. Making a Visible Difference
- 6 Region 4 Superfund Timeline: 35 Years of Excellence

TAKING ACTION, SAFEGUARDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- 8 2015 Project Headlines
- 9 Children's Health and Environmental Education
- 10 Community Engagement and Cleanup
- 12 Superfund Redevelopment
- 13 Environmental Justice

A NEW ERA OF PARTNERSHIPS = COLLABORATION + EXPERIENCE + INNOVATION

- 14 Partnerships
- 16 Contracts and Training
- 18 Public Access to Environmental Information

ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- 19 2015 Project Highlights
- 23 Superfund Enforcement

SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY: PIONEERING FOR THE FUTURE

- 24 Green Remediation
- 26 Science, Research, Technological Innovation
- 28 Ecological Revitalization
- 29 FY 2015 Awards
- 33 FY 2016 Priorities

WELCOME

This year, the Region 4 Superfund program marked a major milestone, celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, better known as Superfund. We also transitioned to a new organizational structure, and are already seeing increases in efficiency and effectiveness. We are proud to present this year's annual report; it showcases the program's achievements in 2015 and provides an opportunity to reflect on some remarkable accomplishments over the past 35 years.

Region 4 continues to make a visible difference in communities – implementing innovative cleanups, supporting reuse of once-contaminated sites, promoting green remediation, restoring pollinator habitat, and fostering sustainability efforts. We respond rapidly to environmental emergencies, oil spills and natural disasters. Every day, we are on the ground across the Southeast, protecting public health and the environment.

Making sure communities have the resources they need to participate as informed partners in environmental discussions, problem solving and decision making is at the heart of our work. We rely on a broad coalition of local, state, tribal and federal partners to achieve our mission, even working internationally to share lessons learned and build capacities. Together, we strive to deliver the best environmental enterprise in the world.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, the Region 4 Superfund program:

- Maximized environmental and public health benefits at some of the nation's most complex sites.
- Protected communities from time-critical threats from releases of hazardous substances, pollutants and oil.
- Protected children's health.
- Worked for environmental justice and connected vulnerable communities with technical assistance.
- Took action against violators of federal environmental laws, making sure governments, businesses and other parties meet their obligations.
- Advanced renewable energy opportunities, working toward a more sustainable future and increasing communities' resiliency to a changing climate.

These achievements are a direct result of the hard work and dedication of our staff. In the year ahead, we will continue to meet program goals and work closely with our partners, empowering them to step up and get involved. We will continue to promote the OneEPA standard in all that we do. Thank you for your time, interest and shared commitment to protect and restore the environment. We look forward to another great year of partnership and public participation as we work together to advance our cleanup mission at EPA.



Franklin E. Hill
Director
Superfund Division



(Sources: EPA Superfund site data, DeLorme, Esri, First American, Tele Atlas, United Nations World Conservation Monitoring Center, U.S. Geological Survey)



CERCLA

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), better known as Superfund, mandates that EPA respond to uncontrolled releases of hazardous substances that pose an immediate or future threat to human health and the environment. Superfund provides guidelines for locating, investigating and cleaning up some of the most hazardous and highly polluted areas in the country.

REGION 4 SUPERFUND *IN ACTION*

EPA Region 4's Superfund program makes a visible difference in communities across the Southeast on a daily basis. Recognized regionally and nationally for sustained excellence and innovation in protecting human health and the environment, the program responds rapidly and comprehensively to address environmental emergencies and clean up some of the nation's worst hazardous waste sites.

FISCAL YEAR 2015: BY THE NUMBERS

Region 4 is continuously seeking to improve the performance, protectiveness and cost efficiency of Superfund program activities in the southeastern United States, making sure communities have access to transparent, meaningful information and holding those responsible for cleanup accountable.

Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) Performance Measure Accomplishments

Primary Measure	Accomplishment
Percent of Superfund sites with settlement or enforcement action prior to remedial action start	100 percent
Statute-of-limitation cases > \$500,000 addressed	100 percent
Superfund-lead and Responsible Party-lead removal completions with or without an enforcement action	54
Remedial site assessment completions	69
Remedial action project completions	15
Superfund sites with human health protection achieved	1
Superfund sites with groundwater migration under control	1
Superfund sites ready for anticipated use	9
Construction completions	4
Oil storage facilities subject to Facility Response Plan (FRP) requirements in compliance	75 percent
Facilities subject to Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) regulations in compliance	68 percent

Superfund Program Measures Accomplished

Target	Achieved
Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Starts	1
Decision Documents	15
Remedial Design / Remedial Action (RD/RA) Negotiation Starts	4
Remedial Design Starts	3
Remedial Design Completions	3
Remedial Action Starts	6
Remedial Action Completions	16
Five-Year Reviews	41
Deletions	1
Emergency Response Exercises	18
Sites Proposed to the National Priorities List (NPL)	0
Final NPL Sites	0
FRP and SPCC Inspections	111



Region 4 Superfund Site Universe, 2015

247 NPL sites
23 Sites with Superfund Alternative Agreements
60 Removal Action sites



Community volunteers at the annual Hogan's Creek cleanup event in Jacksonville, Florida.

35 YEARS OF THE SUPERFUND PROGRAM: Healthier Families. Cleaner Communities. Making a Visible Difference

On December 11, 1980, Congress passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as “Superfund.” This important legislation filled a major gap in environmental protection. Events at Love Canal in New York and other sites around the country demonstrated that wastes buried long ago could prove to be a serious threat to public health and the environment. Over time, the responsibilities of the Superfund program grew to include federal facilities and oil spills. Program reforms designed to make Superfund “faster, fairer and more efficient” included provisions that encouraged redevelopment and expanded public involvement.

Since then, EPA has been working hard to fulfill the program’s mission to protect human health and advance environmental protection. In the Southeast, the results are striking. Over 1,780 removal actions have addressed immediate threats to human health and the environment, along with almost 350 long-term remedial actions. Fifty-eight sites have been taken off the NPL following cleanup. The total estimated value of private-party settlements in Region 4 since 1980 is more than \$3 billion.

The Jacksonville Integrated Planning Project (JIPP)

This community-based effort in Jacksonville, Florida, is a national model for EPA’s commitments to environmental justice, public health and sustainable development. For several years, the Agency worked with local, state and federal stakeholders to improve public health and environmental outcomes. The area faces significant economic and environmental challenges, including five Superfund sites. After the community first identified its top priorities – access to affordable health care, affordable healthy food and safe recreation opportunities – the focus moved to local capacity building, expanding the project’s network of community partners, and transitioning to self-sustaining, community-led efforts. Today, these follow-on efforts are well underway – planning for a community health center, grant-funded opportunities for area youth to work in local parks, plans to link neighborhood greenways, development of a community market, healthy food initiatives and construction of affordable housing.

“JIPP was huge because it **connected people** and helped create **new partnerships** ... and relationships have changed in a positive way. The Eastside and Springfield neighborhoods **established relationships** through the JIPP and planted **seeds of trust** that continue to grow.”

– JIPP participant



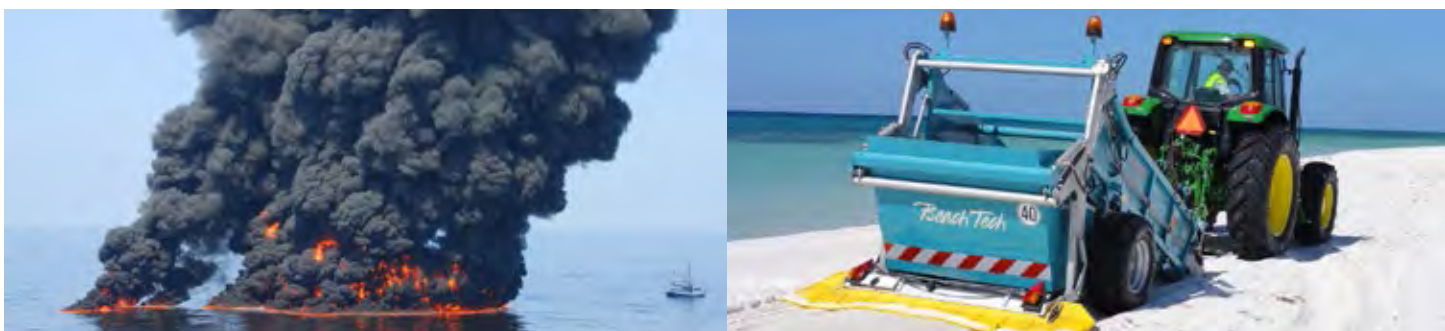
Davis Timber Company

At this former wood treatment site in Mississippi, cleanup work finished under budget and ahead of schedule. Cleanup included recycling of 325,000 pounds of steel and land restoration using native plants and soil amendments. Today, the area hosts a community center and an animal welfare facility.



The TVA Kingston Fly Ash Spill

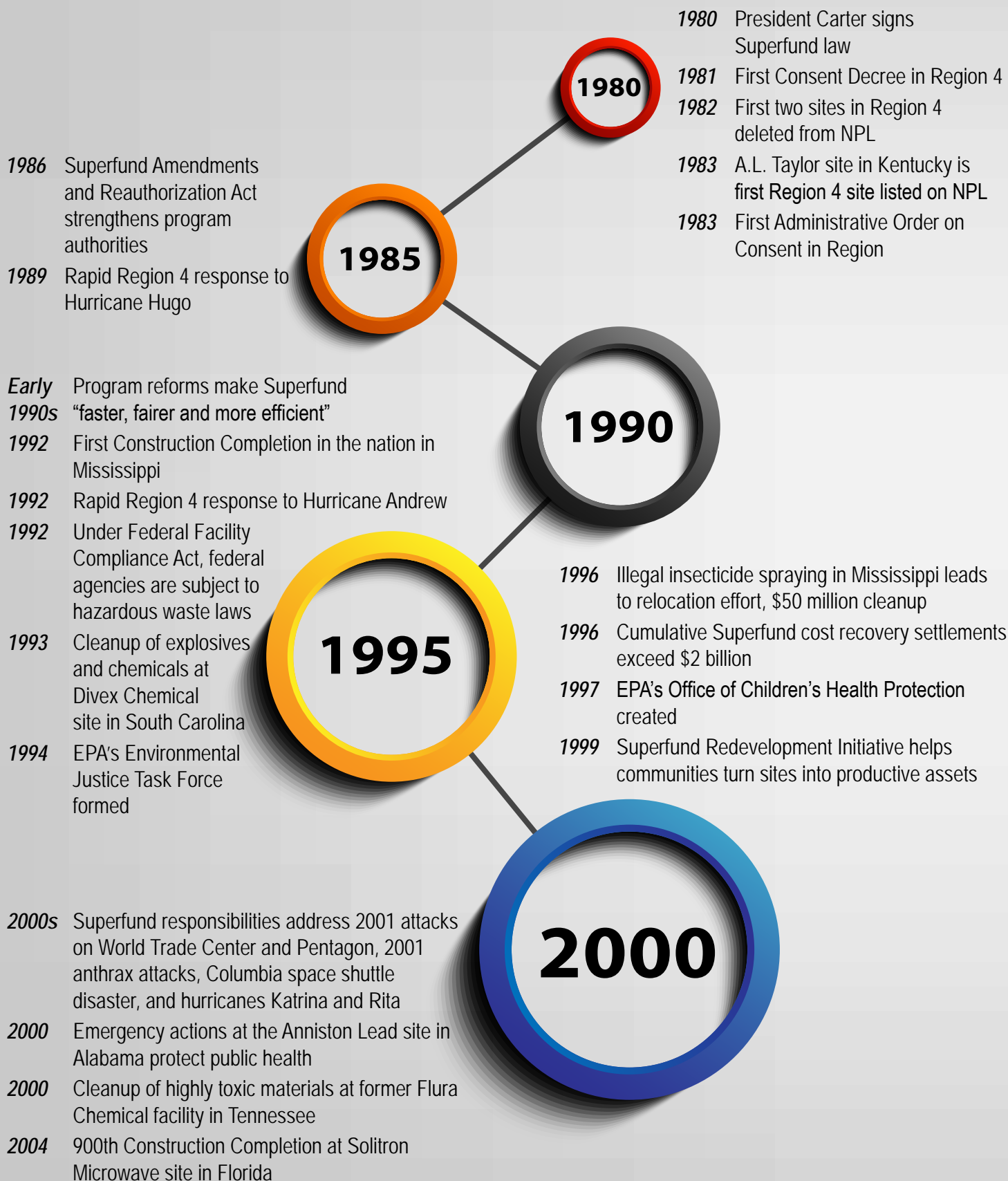
Following a rapid emergency response, this long-term cleanup effort addressed the largest ash spill in the country’s history. The project included one of the largest baseline ecological risk assessments ever conducted in the United States.



The Gulf Coast

When the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010, Region 4 provided our full support to the federal response to the oil spill, monitoring air, water and sediment, and overseeing beach cleanup, shoreline protection and waste management efforts. Region 4 assessed more than 1,000 miles of the Gulf Coast’s shoreline. At the height of the response, over 45,000 people and 6,000 vessels were involved in containment and cleanup efforts across the Gulf Coast.

R4 SUPERFUND TIMELINE



35 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

- 2005** Emergency response to train derailment in Graniteville, South Carolina
- 2006** 1,000th Construction Completion at the Macalloy Corporation site in South Carolina
- 2008** Rapid response to TVA Kingston Fossil Plant coal fly ash slurry spill
- 2008** First Region 4 Superfund Excellence in Site Reuse Awards given to two Florida communities
- 2009** American Revitalization and Recovery Act provides \$27 million for cleanups in Southeast

2005

2010

- 2010** Region 4 supports federal response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill
- 2012** Closure of Savannah River Site's P Reactor, first for nuclear weapons production reactor under CERCLA in the country
- 2014** Off-site soil cleanup around Cabot/Koppers site in Florida

- 2015** Region 4 hosts record-setting EPA Community Involvement Training Conference
- 2015** Redevelopment at Fort Gillem establishes largest logistics hub in Atlanta

2015

Taking Action, Safeguarding Healthy Communities



2015 PROJECT HEADLINES

Final Cleanup of Maxey Flats Former Nuclear Disposal Area Underway in Kentucky

Region 4 has worked closely with state agencies to ensure the proper closure and long-term care of the Maxey Flats Nuclear Disposal site, protecting public health and the environment. The facility accepted radioactive waste from 1963 to 1977. In June 2015, Director Franklin E. Hill joined Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear and state and local officials to shovel the first load of dirt onto the synthetic liner that will serve as part of the nuclear waste site's permanent protective cap.



“This is a good day for Kentucky as one of our biggest environmental challenges is being properly dealt with, keeping our citizens and our environment safe from the radioactive disposal done here in the past,” Governor Beshear said. “This action is being taken to ensure the safety of our citizens and our environment near the disposal site.” At \$35.2 million, the project is the largest state-funded environmental cleanup effort ever completed in the Commonwealth. The final capping plan includes installation of a permanent vegetative cap, permanent surface water control features and surface monuments to identify the locations of buried waste. Cap construction is projected to wrap up in November 2016.



Rapid Response to Train Derailment and Fire in Tennessee Keeps Community Safe

On July 2, 2015, a CSX train carrying the extremely flammable and toxic chemical acrylonitrile derailed and caught fire near the Tennessee community of Maryville. Local authorities evacuated about 5,000 residents. Region 4 emergency responders mobilized rapidly, conducting air and water quality monitoring and providing technical, operational and community support to state and local response agencies.

After the fire was extinguished on July 3, residents were allowed back into their homes. About 4,000 tons of contaminated soil were excavated for off-site disposal. The breached tank car was decontaminated and rail service was restored. The Tennessee Department of Environmental Quality continues to monitor the area.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Protecting children's health is central to EPA's mission, and the Agency has taken great strides to improve the environment for children where they live, learn and play. Environmental education is also a key part of ensuring children's health. Region 4's Children's Environmental Health (CEH) Outreach Team travels across the Southeast, visiting schools, making presentations at community centers, and sharing information to support healthy communities and advance environmental protection.

Alabama Partnership Leads to Summer Camps Supporting Healthy Communities

As part of a OneEPA partnership, Region 4 Superfund participated in a series of summer camps in North Birmingham, Alabama. The goal of the camps was to help youth learn about healthy living, making a difference in their community and nearby environmental activities. More than 120 children took part in games, demonstrations and giveaways. In small groups, children rotated through five stations (climate change/energy, healthy homes/lead, asthma, water quality awareness and healthy soil). A partnership between the City of Birmingham and Region 4 made the summer camps possible.



Summer camp participants exploring testing and research equipment and educational materials.

Protecting Children's Environmental Health

Children are often more vulnerable to pollutants than adults due to differences in behavior and biology, that can lead to greater exposure and/or unique windows of susceptibility during development.

At EPA, protecting children from environmental health risks is fundamental to our vision of making the world a better place for future generations. Children represent 25 percent of our population but 100 percent of our future.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CLEANUP

Community involvement is a core component of the Superfund process, and for good reason. Nationally, one in four people live within four miles of a Superfund NPL site. Early and meaningful community participation during Superfund cleanups not only gives the public the ability to inform site cleanups and how people are affected by Superfund process; the collaboration also produces better outcomes for everyone, including the environment.

Region 4 works closely with EPA's Community Engagement Initiative to emphasize meaningful, "early and often" community engagement and public outreach as core components of the program's activities. We recognize that the needs of each community are unique and tailor our approaches to best meet those needs. Region 4's community engagement goals include ensuring transparency and accessibility in the Superfund decision-making process, providing information and technical assistance that makes a difference for communities, and producing site outcomes that are responsive to stakeholder concerns and aligned with community needs.

Collaboration at the Kerr-McGee Chemical Site Addressing Community Priorities

The 14th Avenue Ditch Improvement Project demonstrates how a partnership among environmental regulators, local government and community stakeholders can deliver results that benefit public health, the environment and communities. Next to the Kerr-McGee Chemical site in Columbus, Mississippi, traffic and stormwater improvements along 14th Avenue were a longstanding community priority, the result of flooding, safety and contaminant migration issues from the Kerr-McGee site. Project implementation required significant and ongoing collaboration among federal, state and local stakeholders. The 14th Avenue Ditch Improvement Project was successfully completed in July 2015.



Representatives from Region 4, the Greenfield Environmental Multistate Trust, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, the City of Columbus and the Memphis Town Community Advisory Group celebrated the project's successful completion in July 2015.



2015 conference participants included 447 people on site, 257 people online and a surge in EPA staff attendance of 277.

Region 4 Hosts Record-Setting 2015 EPA Community Involvement Training Conference

In August 2015, Region 4 hosted EPA's 14th Community Involvement Training Conference, focused on the theme of "Working to Make a Visible Difference in Communities." This dynamic gathering brought together more than 500 people from EPA and the Agency's partners and stakeholders working on environmental community involvement, partnerships, stewardship, and outreach and education programs. The conference also included field trips demonstrating the power of effective community involvement and cooperative conservation efforts in the Atlanta area, an eco-café, exhibits and networking opportunities. The 2015 conference made history as the largest one to date.



Festival Is Part of Regional Outreach to Underserved Communities in Southeast Georgia

In September 2015, Region 4 staff joined Georgia Southern University for its second annual STEM Festival, a community event celebrating science, technology, engineering and math. Our Mobile Command Post (left) helped elementary, middle and high school students learn about Region 4's emergency response activities, while exploration stations provided hands-on activities for children young and old. More than 3,000 children and their families participated in the 2015 STEM Festival.

Did You Know?

EPA's first Community Involvement Training Conference was held in Boston in 1998. The biennial event brings EPA staff and stakeholders and partners together to learn about best practices to enhance community involvement and engagement.

The three-day conference includes keynote sessions, exhibits and technology displays, 90-minute information sessions, half- and full-day trainings, and field trips showcasing community-based projects and programs.



SUPERFUND REDEVELOPMENT

The reuse of Superfund sites returns land to productive use and restores blighted properties, benefiting surrounding communities – providing job opportunities, sustaining local economies, and offering recreational and ecological amenities. EPA Region 4 is committed to helping communities restore Superfund sites as valued assets. Region 4 views the revitalization of communities affected by contaminated properties as a key part of our mission to protect human health and the environment. By the end of FY 2015, 96 Superfund sites in the Region were determined to be ready for anticipated use.

Reclaim, Restore, Reinvent: Creating Jobs and Cleaner Energy at the Martin-Marietta, Sodyeco, Inc. Site

In Charlotte, North Carolina, ReVenture Park – a 667-acre renewable energy industrial park – is bringing together innovative businesses that will create hundreds of new jobs. Forsite Development is converting industrial building space into a business park focused on energy efficiency, renewable energy and environmental technology. The project is home to biomass combined heat-and-power projects, an algae-to-fuel pilot plant, an all-electric truck company, an energy efficiency training firm, a plastics recycler and a 35-acre aquaculture project, among others. In total, new investments on site exceed \$14 million.

EPA's Superfund and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act programs and state agencies worked closely with Forsite Development, Clariant Corporation, the owner, and community partners to clean up the area and support its return to productive use. Clariant Corporation and Forsite Development focused on making sure reuse plans were compatible with the cleanup. The companies committed to maintaining the remedy and putting land use controls in place for commercial and industrial uses. By reclaiming, restoring and reinventing this industrial area, ReVenture Park serves as a national model for innovative redevelopment. It is one of the leading renewable and clean energy projects on a Superfund site in the United States. The project illustrates how the reuse of Superfund sites can protect human health, advance environmental protection and provide valuable community assets.

Climate Connections: Working Toward a Sustainable Future

EPA is committed to advancing sustainable environmental outcomes through efforts like the Green Power Partnership and the RE-Powering America's Land Initiative.

In Region 4, we work with partners in the public and private sectors to support renewable energy development opportunities on currently and formerly contaminated lands.

Environmental stewardship is also an integral part of the project. The area's natural resources will be enhanced by a 185-acre conservation easement, wildlife habitat projects, stream restoration and a trail system connecting the regional Carolina Thread Trail to the nearby U.S. National Whitewater Center.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Helping healthy, sustainable and equitable communities is a priority of the federal government. Making a visible difference in communities for all Americans is one of EPA's top priorities. Every day, Region 4 works to improve the health of American families and protect the environment.

Environmental justice plays a key role in an integrated effort that addresses housing, environment, transportation and health issues. Everyone deserves the opportunity to live, work, play and learn in a clean, healthy environment. Low-income, minority and tribal communities are often overburdened by pollution and face disproportionate human health impacts, greater obstacles to economic prosperity and increased vulnerability to climate change.

Region 4's Superfund and Environmental Justice programs collaborate closely to make sure minority, low income and tribal communities facing disproportionate environmental risks have opportunities for meaningful participation in environmental decision-making. We also coordinate closely with EPA headquarters and states to support initiatives that provide all people living near Superfund sites with technical assistance, training opportunities and other services.



EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy visiting Spartanburg in June 2015 to learn more about its national leadership on environmental justice issues.

Landmark Environmental Justice Efforts in Region 4

Spartanburg, South Carolina:

In 1997, the Forest Park and Arkwright neighborhoods were surrounded by two Superfund sites, six brownfields and an active chemical plant. Community organization ReGenesis, led by Harold Mitchell – now a South Carolina state representative – set out to improve local quality of life and address the root of the problems. In 1997, ReGenesis received an environmental justice small grant of \$20,000 from EPA. Over time, city, county, state and federal agencies became involved. Since then, Spartanburg has turned that grant into more than \$270 million in local investments.

Today, community health centers, affordable housing and a state-of-the-art recreation center stand because of the collaborative efforts of the Superfund and Brownfields programs, the community and a host of local, state and federal partners. A solar facility is planned

for the site of an old chemical plant. New housing has replaced old, unsafe stock. Community members have been trained in asbestos abatement – and they found work not just locally, but in Virginia, helping to renovate the Pentagon, and in New Orleans, where they helped rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Katrina.

“Spartanburg is a shining beacon of what’s possible when folks impacted by community decisions have a seat at the table. As the Superfund program celebrates 35 years of revitalizing communities, I was thrilled to celebrate such an amazing success story because at the core of EPA’s mission is the belief that no matter who you are or where you come from, you have the right to clean air to breathe, clean water to drink and healthy land to call home.”

– EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy

A New Era of Partnerships = Collaboration + Experience + Innovation



PARTNERSHIPS

Region 4 works collaboratively with a diverse network of partners – affected communities, states, tribal and local governments, nonprofits, private sector organizations and other federal agencies – to ensure the protection of public health and the environment.

We also rely on our government, nonprofit and private sector partners to help fulfill EPA’s mission of responding to emergencies and cleaning up hazardous sites. Through several types of partnering agreements—including contracts, nonprofit grants, state cooperative agreements and federal interagency agreements – Region 4 ensures that all required Superfund cleanup work is performed with broad-based support using the most cost-effective approach possible.

Superfund Cooperative Agreements – A Performance Partnership

EPA’s partnerships with state agencies are vitally important to the cleanup and reuse of Superfund sites. Accordingly, Region 4 Superfund has established performance-based agreements with all eight states in the Southeast Region. These agreements have helped focus the efforts of EPA and the states on making tangible progress toward site cleanup. In FY 2015, Region 4 Superfund provided the states with over \$4.2 million dollars in cooperative agreement funding for ongoing remedial projects. The support has allowed the states to join in the site cleanup process from site characterization through five-year reviews.

Interagency Agreement Strengthens Core Superfund Services

EPA’s Superfund program has been working with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers’ South Atlantic Savannah (USACE-SAS) District to develop a partnership for environmental response that leverages the capabilities and strengths of both agencies. This includes an acquisition framework to use contracts available to either Agency in support of the Superfund program and its responsibilities under both CERCLA and the Robert T. Stafford Natural Disaster Act. An interagency agreement with the USACE provides the mechanism for access to these capabilities throughout the Region. Architectural



Region 4 staff traveled to Indonesia in 2014 to provide cleanup recommendations for contaminated sites.

and engineering services, remedial action services, and non-time-critical removal services, including design, construction and oversight assistance, will be available beginning in mid to late 2016.

Building International Capacities by Partnering across EPA Programs

EPA is a world-renowned environmental organization with over three decades of experience in addressing domestic public health and environmental challenges. Since its inception, the Agency has recognized that domestic action alone is not enough to fully address environmental concerns. It is in the interest of the United States and its international partners to share environmental management practices and to achieve the mutual goal of protecting the global commons. International cooperation is vital to achieving our mission.

EPA's Regional offices help make this possible. In September 2015, Region 4 hosted a delegation from the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry and the Environment. The study visit was part of implementing a joint Memorandum of Understanding between EPA and the Indonesian Ministry for Environmental Cooperation. Staff met to share information on EPA's hazardous waste management, clean water and clean air act programs and cleanup approaches. The Indonesian delegation and Region 4 Superfund Division Director Franklin E. Hill also toured the 35th Avenue Superfund site in Alabama to learn about ongoing cleanup and soil treatment activities.

EPA-State Joint Review Is Latest in Series of Collaborative Efforts in Central Georgia

Cleanup of this former pesticide production facility near downtown Fort Valley has been complex, tackling contamination in groundwater, soil, surface water, stormwater, sediment and the air. The remedies included groundwater treatment and monitoring, soil excavation, treatment and disposal, building demolition, attic and drainage pipe decontamination, and institutional controls.

Throughout the process, Region 4 has worked closely with the community and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). Local partnerships have led to remarkable reuses – Peach County public library, a tourist information center, offices and open space for community festivals (*see right*). Most recently, EPA partnered with Georgia EPD on the site's third five-year review. The project found that the site's remedies continue to be protective of public health and the environment. Groundwater treatment is ongoing.



CONTRACTS AND TRAINING

EPA's mission to protect public health and the environment brings together a diverse, skilled workforce committed to doing their best work for the American people. As today's environmental problems continue to increase in complexity, EPA's ability to respond creatively, flexibly and effectively relies on a high-performance work environment. EPA's culture supports staff growth and development, and is collaborative and results driven.

New National Contracting Paradigm – The Remedial Acquisition Framework (RAF)

After 20 years of Remedial Action Contracts (RACs), EPA's contracting paradigm is changing. As the current suite of RAC contracts expires, they will be replaced with a new national contracting approach designed by EPA's Remedial Acquisition Framework (RAF) Group:

- *Design Engineering Services (DES)* – for activities requiring professionally licensed and accredited architectural and engineering staff. DES activities are in support of EPA-lead, PRP, state, tribal and federal facility remediation requirements.
- *Remedial Environmental Services (RES)* – for remedial and non-time-critical removal action services. The primary focus of this contract will be EPA-lead remedial action or the site cleanup phase of the process.
- *Environmental Services and Operations (ESO)* – for remedy operation service in support of response actions. The primary focus will be for EPA-lead remedy operations. This includes technical assistance and support, PRP and federal facility project oversight, and remedial action management support for EPA-lead remedial actions.

With national multiple-award contracts, Regions will be able to place task orders to fulfill their requirements selecting from a broad pool of highly qualified and capable service providers. The Region 4 Superfund program is a strong supporter of the new contracting paradigm. Demonstrating our commitment to the process, we have provided a large cadre of skilled and dedicated staff to assist the Agency in executing the new suite of contracts in a timely manner.

Did You Know?

Region 4 was the only EPA Region to meet all socioeconomic contracting goals in FY 2015. These goals provide opportunities for small, small disadvantaged, minority-owned, service-disabled veteran-owned and HUBZone businesses to work for the federal government. This was in large part due to Superfund program contracting, the largest source of contracting in the Region by far.



Participants at the ERRS contract signing.



2015 Contract Awards Maintain Key Region 4 Response Capabilities

In 2015, Region 4 awarded two Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contracts, three Emergency & Rapid Response (ERRS) contracts and one Enforcement Support Services contract (ESS). The START and ERRS contracts provide emergency response support services to Superfund on-scene coordinators and have a potential value of over \$100 million and a five-year performance period. The ESS supports the Superfund Enforcement and Information Branch and has a maximum contract value of \$4 million over five years. This unprecedented number of contract awards reflects the diligent and collaborative efforts of both Superfund and acquisition management staff.

Trainings Enhance Field Readiness of Region 4 Superfund Staff

Region 4 Superfund's Science and Ecosystem Support Division hosted several trainings in 2015 to enhance the field readiness of Superfund staff. A course in field sampling procedures familiarized participants with Region 4 standard operating procedures and included hands-on exercises. EPA's new Quality Assurance Field Activities Procedure (QAFAP) focuses on quality management for sampling and non-sampling field activities. Since most Region 4 Superfund staff are field personnel, the training provided both professional development and met programmatic requirements. The QAFAP incorporates document control, records management, field personnel training, sample and environmental data management, field documentation, field equipment, planning investigations, reports, internal audits and corrective actions. Region 4 SESD also hosted a three-day Introduction to Environmental Geophysics course in October 2015. Through the OSWER training program, an additional six courses were offered in Region 4 during 2015, and at least 11 training courses are scheduled for Region 4 in 2016.

2016 Superfund Symposium to Strengthen Partnerships, Focus on Innovation

Recognizing the importance of sustaining strong working relationships among all of our partners, Region 4 has committed to hosting the 2016 Superfund Contractor Technical Symposium. The gathering will bring together the Region's contractor community with EPA and other federal agencies to share innovative technologies and cleanup strategies. Focus areas will include sustainability, green remediation, cleanup optimization, community engagement and other topics.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

Communities and EPA's local, state, tribal and federal partners rely on accurate Superfund program information. EPA staff members also rely on access to comprehensive information generated during the program's environmental restoration efforts. We work hard to make sure this information is up-to-date, transparent and easily accessible, serving as a vital and valued shared resource.

Region 4 has invested substantial resources over the long term to effectively manage and provide program information to EPA staff and share this information with states, communities and other interested parties. To accomplish this goal in recent years, we have focused on providing Superfund communities with comprehensive information resources and enhancing the program's website, posting information on a timely basis.

OneEPA Effort Strengthens Community Access to Environmental Information Resources

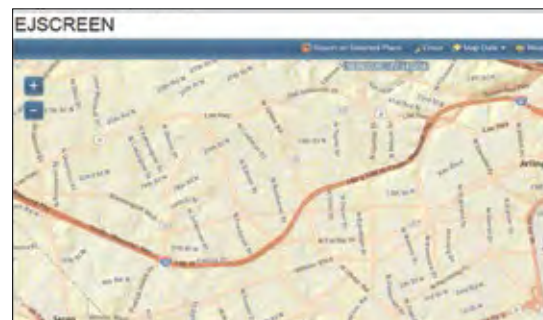
OneEPA has been designed to improve knowledge sharing across EPA. It ensures that communities, regulated entities and other stakeholders have access to the best environmental information resources possible. "OneEPA Web" is a critical element of this work, transforming and restructuring EPA's website to focus on key environmental topics, while helping Web users quickly find accurate and up to date information. Since EPA relies on its website as one method to effectively communicate with many audiences, this work will allow EPA to present consistent Agency messages and communicate information with one voice.

Region 4 has continued to be at the forefront of this effort, leading an Agency-wide effort to update and refine relevant Superfund-related content for our target audiences, while providing easier access to information about Superfund and all the work being done to protect human health and the environment. In addition, during this transition, Region 4 has continued to provide impacted communities with comprehensive information resources on work and progress across the Southeast, posting information online on a timely basis and highlighting regional work at Superfund sites.

EJSCREEN: A Tool for Putting Environmental Justice into Action

To better meet the Agency's responsibilities related to the protection of public health and the environment, EPA has developed a new environmental justice (EJ) mapping and screening tool called EJSCREEN. It is based on nationally consistent data and an approach that combines environmental and demographic indicators in maps and reports.

Region 4 Superfund will ensure that program staff are well trained and use EJSCREEN to identify communities with environmental justice concerns and assign appropriate resources to address them. These resources may include enhanced communication with communities, assistance with Community Advisory Groups and Technical Assistance Grants, and coordination with enforcement planning efforts to make sure environmental justice concerns are considered in cleanup and cost recovery negotiations.



To learn more about EJSCREEN, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>.

Advancing Environmental Protection

Final Cleanup Makes Vital Difference in Camilla, Georgia

Cleanup and reuse of the Camilla Wood Preserving Company site, a former wood-treating facility, was a top community priority. “Cleaning it up and then fencing it off and forgetting about it didn’t make any sense,” recalled former Camilla Mayor Jay Powell. “This is a large area right next to downtown. We saw an opportunity to turn a big negative into a big plus.”

The community worked closely with Region 4 on its reuse plans for the western part of the site, making sure the remedy would be compatible with recreational uses. In 2007, the City of Camilla turned 25 acres into soccer fields and a recreation complex. Construction of the final remedy for the eastern part of the site finished in November 2015. Following cleanup, the community plans to use the area for additional recreation facilities.



Removal of the last part of “Mt. Dioxin,” a huge pile of contaminated soil at the Escambia Wood Treating Company site.

Florida Site Efforts Focus on Long-Term Protectiveness and Reuse

In Pensacola, Florida, Region 4 listened carefully to the community’s public health concerns and responded comprehensively. Cleanup of the Escambia Wood Treating Company site has included emergency response, relocation of families from surrounding neighborhoods, and long-term remedies for site soils and groundwater. Starting in the mid-1990s, EPA worked with local stakeholders to create a revitalization vision that includes a buffer area between redevelopment and a local church. In 2015, the community is fulfilling a vision 20 years in the making; Escambia County will take ownership of 70 acres of EPA-owned property and create a commerce park.

South Carolina Emergency Response Tackles Landfill Fire and Asbestos Waste

After responding to a fire at Bennett Landfill, Region 4 and its partners – the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), and the Emergency Management Agencies of Union and Chester Counties – evaluated the area and conducted air monitoring, sampling and surveying. In collaboration with SCDHEC and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Region 4 also hosted several availability sessions to address stakeholders' concerns. The project team then moved forward with cleanup – compacting and encapsulating still-smoldering parts of the landfill (*right*) and addressing asbestos waste. The cleanup finished in the fall of 2015.



Mercury Spill Cleanup in Georgia

In February 2015, EPA was notified that three adolescents discovered containers of mercury in a basement, played with the mercury and carried the material outside. The incident was discovered the next day, when a teacher noticed free mercury in the hair of one of the adolescents. The child's blood mercury level exceeded health-based limits. Several homes, a yard and a public roadway had substantial mercury contamination.

Region 4 staff responded to the scene, providing assessment and cleanup support to state and local response and health organizations. Over the course of several weeks, EPA contractors conducted decontamination, excavation and demolition activities to make sure homes were safe for residents. In all, more than 400 cubic yards of contaminated debris and soil, 275 gallons of contaminated liquid, and 75 pounds of free mercury were removed.

Removal Action in North Carolina Protects Public Health, Potential Reuse

A metal plating business at the Blue Ridge Plating site in Asheville closed down in 2014. A site assessment after its closure discovered asbestos-containing construction materials, containers of hazardous substances and even possible explosives. Cleanup included building demolition, management of asbestos-containing materials, removal and disposal of thousands of gallons of hazardous liquids, and disposal of more than 3,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil. In addition to protecting public health and the environment, the removal action has cleared the way for the site property's potential sale and reuse. To help pay for the cleanup, the site's PRPs entered into a cost recovery agreement with EPA; they agreed to pay \$150,000 plus proceeds from the future sale of the property.

Alabama Cleanup Tackling Soil Contamination, Restoring Residential Properties

The 35th Avenue Superfund site in Birmingham, Alabama, includes parts of three North Birmingham communities – Collegeville, Fairmont and Harriman Park – affected by nearby industrial activities. After sampling found about 400 properties with soil contamination above acceptable levels, a multi-phase removal action to protect public health and the environment began in 2014. Phase 3, which began in January 2015, focused on reducing cancer risk from soil in the three communities. Phase 4 began in July 2015; it focuses on cleaning up remaining residential properties. Since February 2014, EPA has addressed 145 properties, including three schools and two low-income apartment complexes. As of October 2015, more than 30,000 tons of contaminated soil have been removed and landfilled off site. To address community concerns, answer questions and provide information, Region 4 staffs a Community Center in downtown Birmingham five days a week.



EPA Assistant Administrator Mathy Stanislaus joined Region 4 management on a tour of sites – including the 35th Avenue site – where the Agency is making a visible difference in communities.



Oil Response Scenario in Tennessee Builds Capacities, Tests Preparedness

In June 2015, Region 4 staff kicked off a challenging oil response scenario – a government initiated unannounced exercise (GIUE) – in Chattanooga. The exercise focused on a small (2,100-gallon) discharge of oil from piping at an oil storage facility into the Tennessee River. This facility stores over 14 million gallons of heavy oils and is regulated under EPA's oil pollution prevention regulations. The

facility's response team and OSRO (a contracted oil spill removal organization) responded. The OSRO deployed a containment boom into the Tennessee River and provided recovery devices and provisions for the storage of "recovered oil." Region 4 staff initiated the GIUE, observed the facility's response and provided exercise feedback following its completion.

Spill Cleanup in Central Kentucky Restores Water Quality

A crude oil spill near Glasgow, Kentucky, in 2014 saturated parts of Beaver Creek. After trenching operations indicated the source was a nearby abandoned well, Region 4 and the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection worked together to plug the well. Due to extensive limestone cave systems in the area, more than 80,000 gallons of cement were required to properly plug the well to land surface.

The Oil Program: Preventing, Preparing and Responding

The goal of the Region's oil spill prevention and removal program is to work cooperatively with the oil industry and other governmental agencies to reduce the number, size and impact of oil spills into waterways and other associated environmentally sensitive areas. Our program is one of the most comprehensive and effective in the nation.

Cleanup Milestone Achieved at Savannah River Site

Cleanup of this federal facility, a former nuclear weapons complex in Aiken, South Carolina, is protecting public health while providing hundreds of local jobs. Part of the cleanup includes safely closing massive underground storage tanks that once contained radioactive high-level waste. In September 2015, final pouring of grout into Tank 16 was completed, ahead of schedule. It is the seventh underground radioactive high-level waste storage tank operationally closed at the site, and the fifth tank closed since 2012.



“This continuing work will make the surrounding community and the environment safe for decades,” noted EPA project manager Jon Richards. “EPA is committed to working with DOE, the state and the community to finish the work of closing the high-level radioactive waste tanks and completing the cleanup of several other operable units. The work requires a skilled workforce from the community as well as the concerted effort of federal, state and local agencies to protect human health and the environment.”

Workers placed nearly 6,300 cubic yards of grout into the Tank 16 primary tank and systems from June through September. Closure is the culmination of several extensive preparation and isolation activities, where the placement of grout to fill up the entire tank and all internal tank components is the final step.

Tank 16 is also the first closure of a Type II tank. Type II tanks are among the oldest at the site, having been constructed between 1955 and 1956. Tank 16 is 85 feet in diameter and has a storage capacity of about 1 million gallons. Tank 16 was closed ahead of the October 27, 2015, deadline in the Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) between DOE, EPA, and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Federal Facilities

From nuclear weapons plants and military bases to landfills and fuel distribution stations, the U.S. government operates thousands of facilities across the country. Because of past waste disposal practices and unintentional releases, many federal facilities are contaminated. Contaminated federal facilities such as Department of Defense (DOD) military bases and Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear reactor, processing and research centers are complex sites that require coordination with EPA’s partners.

Region 4 partners and collaborates with many groups, including governmental and non-governmental organizations and local stakeholders, to coordinate cleanup, technical assistance and restoration efforts at 20 federal facilities on the NPL. Innovative cleanup solutions are enabling the restoration of these facilities so they can once again serve an important role.

Region 4’s responsibilities include oversight of complex cleanups at 17 DOD bases and three major DOE complexes on the NPL: the Savannah River Site in South Carolina, the Oak Ridge Reservation in Tennessee and the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Kentucky. Region 4 also implements the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program in the Southeast, working closely with our federal partners to facilitate the reuse and redevelopment of federal facilities at NPL sites.

SUPERFUND ENFORCEMENT

Every year, EPA takes hundreds of enforcement actions against violators of federal environmental laws. Superfund enforcement and cost recovery protects human health and the environment by compelling the parties responsible for contamination to clean it up or pay for the cleanup. In turn, resources returned to the Trust Fund help make cleanup activities possible in communities across the Southeast. While compliance with the nation's environmental laws is the ultimate objective, enforcement is a vital part of encouraging governments, businesses and other parties to meet their environmental obligations.

Region 4's Superfund program vigorously pursues enforcement and cost recovery activities. In line with EPA enforcement goals, we returned \$18.2 million in taxpayer funds to the Agency and reached agreements with potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to conduct \$267 million in cleanup work in 2015. Our enforcement program continues to identify and implement best practices to expedite site cleanups and optimize PRP-lead removals and remedial investigations.

2015 Agreements Enable Alabama Cleanup, Reimburse EPA for Past Costs

The Capitol City Plume site encompasses nearly 50 city blocks in downtown Montgomery, Alabama. At the request of the City of Montgomery, EPA delayed finalizing the site on the NPL and has been in negotiations with the City, the State of Alabama and several PRPs (the Downtown Environmental Alliance) to defer future cleanup under state authority, while ensuring EPA cleanup objectives are met, community concerns are addressed and EPA's past costs are reimbursed. On September 30, 2015, several documents were executed to complete this process – a Memorandum of Understanding between EPA and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) outlines agency roles and responsibilities, a Work Agreement between ADEM and the Alliance enables response actions at the site, and a Past Cost Settlement Agreement between EPA and the Alliance resolves EPA's outstanding response costs and reflects a settlement of \$2.6 million.

Florida Cleanup Moving Forward Following EPA-PRP Negotiations

In March 2015, EPA finalized a Consent Decree with PRPs for the cleanup of the Orlando Gasification Plant site, which is located near downtown Orlando. Under the agreement, the PRPs will clean up site soils and groundwater and reimburse EPA for its costs. Coal tar waste product handling at the site led to the contamination. Site PRPs are currently completing groundwater investigations and developing remedial design documents for the cleanup of site soils. Both residents and businesses use the public water system for drinking water. Through ongoing investigations and groundwater monitoring, EPA, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the site's PRPs continue to protect people and the environment from site contamination.



“Enforcement First” at EPA

Region 4 Superfund's approach to “enforcement first” means that we conduct thorough, timely investigations to identify PRPs, take all appropriate remedial and removal enforcement actions, address recovery of EPA's costs and make sure PRPs conduct investigations and cleanup under enforceable orders.

Science and Sustainability: Pioneering for the Future



GREEN REMEDIATION

Cleaning up a Superfund site uses energy, water and other natural or material resources. EPA recognizes that much can be done to conserve natural resources, minimize waste generation and reduce energy consumption, improving the environmental performance of Superfund activities while fulfilling the Agency's mission to protect human health and the environment.

Following our Clean and Green Policy, Region 4 Superfund continues to work collaboratively with our partners to implement proven green remediation solutions. The policy supports a more sustainable future by promoting the use of renewable energy and cleaner burning fuels, water conservation, green reuse designs for sites following cleanup, greenhouse gas emission reduction technologies, waste reduction and recycling programs, and other best management practices at sites wherever possible.

Green Remediation

is the practice of considering all environmental effects of remedy implementation and incorporating options – such as the use of renewable energy resources – to maximize the environmental benefits of cleanups.



Region 4 Superfund's Green Team in Action in 2015

Region 4 Superfund's "Green Team" shares and enhances knowledge on sustainability-related issues for Superfund and site cleanup activities, including green remediation approaches and best practices. During the past year, team members developed a "green" survey of Region 4 staff to identify best practices, project highlights and training needs. The team also developed educational materials on pollinator protection and habitat enhancement, and participated in the Region 4 Sustainability Forum. In addition, the team developed materials for the Region's first Sustainability Day in November 2015.

Region 4 Evaluation Guides Innovative Federal Facility Cleanup near Atlanta

Cleanup planning for Fort Gillem, a former U.S. Army base in Forest Park, Georgia, has identified several opportunities to use green and sustainable best management practices. Based on ASTM and Interstate Technology Regulatory Council guidance, these opportunities include soil and groundwater sampling technologies that require less materials and energy and generate less waste, as well as a remediation method – enhanced bioremediation – that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and accelerate cleanup.

Sustainability

The concept that everything we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment. Sustainability is important to making sure that we have – and will continue to have – the water, materials and resources to protect human health and our environment.

Other EPA efforts in the area of sustainability practices and approaches include labeling green products and promoting green chemistry and engineering, managing materials rather than creating waste, using green infrastructure to manage stormwater runoff, and supporting the sustainable design of communities.



Cleanup and redevelopment are taking place simultaneously. At up to 8 million square feet, the redevelopment of the former base at Fort Gillem represents a chance to build Atlanta's largest logistics hub. Development activities for the Gillem Logistics Center in 2015 have included building removal (left and center) and site preparation (right). Grocery retailer Kroger has also invested \$175 million in a new distribution center and warehouse on site, creating 120 jobs. Video link: <https://vimeo.com/132922224>



SCIENCE, RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

High-quality research, sound science and technological innovation are essential to the protection of human health and the environment and are hallmarks of the Region 4 Superfund program. The program also benefits from specialized expertise in areas including hydrogeology, human health, and radiological and ecological risk assessment. Region 4 scientists integrate knowledge from a wide variety of sources and disciplines to provide responsive solutions to public health and environmental challenges.

Innovative Science *in Action*

► EPA's Scientific Integrity Policy

The Agency's ability to protect human health and the environment depends on high-quality science. In January 2015, EPA published its updated Scientific Integrity Policy, which provides a framework intended to ensure scientific integrity throughout EPA and promote scientific and ethical standards. In Region 4, our Scientific Support Section makes sure that the science used to support remedial decisions is sound and has integrity, that proper quality control and quality assurance measures are in place, and that sampling approaches and data evaluation are free from unintentional bias.

► RARE Project Underway – Urban Background Study

Region 4 is leading an innovative urban contaminant background study. Funded by EPA's Regional Applied Research Effort (RARE) grant, surface soil sampling is planned in 11 cities across the Southeast. Soil samples from any large, long-established city are expected to contain elevated levels of certain metals and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) due to human activity. This is commonly referred to as "urban background." Because these increased contaminant concentrations are due to urban activities and not site releases, it is often challenging to address these contaminants at sites where investigations, cleanup and risk management are ongoing without background data. The project will serve as a pilot effort that will hopefully inform development of regional and national urban background databases.

► New Technical Guides and Training for Vapor Intrusion

After several years of work, EPA has issued final technical guides for vapor intrusion for both petroleum and non-petroleum volatile organic compounds. Region 4 staff served on the team that developed the documents. The guides cover any site in the Superfund, RCRA, Brownfields or Underground Storage Tank programs where vapor intrusion may be of potential concern. Both guides are applicable to residential and non-residential settings. Region 4 staff has provided one-on-one and group trainings on these new guides and continues to provide technical support on site-related vapor intrusion issues.



Surface soil sampling for the RARE urban background study, September 2015.

► The TAGA Bus in Region 4

The Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) bus is a self-contained mobile laboratory capable of real-time sampling and analysis in the low parts-per-billion level of outdoor air or emissions from various environmental sources and concerns. In addition, the TAGA has specialized sampling equipment for measuring indoor air and at remote locations.

Region 4 worked with EPA's Environmental Response Team (ERT) to use the TAGA at several sites to get real-time air data to help our risk assessors and risk managers determine if vapor intrusion is occurring and, if so, locating the potential source of the contamination. The TAGA bus can save a lot of time and expense in ruling out potential vapor intrusion locations when many properties need to be evaluated or when immediate results are needed to determine potential human exposures to contaminated air.



The TAGA mobile lab collecting an ambient air sample.



Installation of an injection well for groundwater cleanup at the Flash Cleaners site.

► Cleanup Innovations: Molecular Biological Tools

The use of molecular biological tools for remediation has steadily increased in the past several years, with the application of recent research continuing to bear fruitful results. Cleanup of the Flash Cleaners Superfund site, a former dry-cleaning facility in Pompano Beach, Florida, is a striking example. Enhanced bioremediation of tetrachloroethylene (PCE)-contaminated groundwater started with a basic census of the microbial population in the groundwater. The remedial design specified the addition of PCE-consuming bacteria and appropriate nutrients. A short four years later, the groundwater is nearly clean.

Region 4 staff also participated in the Battelle Bioremediation Conference and immediately used information from the forum to revise sampling and analysis plans at two other sites to assess the bacterial populations' viability for groundwater remediation. These in-place treatment methods often have lower capital costs and lower operation and maintenance costs when compared to other remedial actions.

► Updated Contaminant Screening and Training

EPA and other agencies continually evaluate the toxicity of contaminants and provide regular updates through the Regional Screening Level and Regional Removal Management Level tables. Recently, the toxicity of trichloroethylene (TCE) – a colorless liquid typically used in industrial processes and a frequent contaminant at Superfund sites – has been revised to a more conservative screening number for the inhalation pathway. This has had the largest impact in vapor intrusion evaluations, especially when women of child-bearing age are present. Scientific Support Section staff explained the toxicity information and provided training on the use of the more conservative screening value at Region 4 Superfund sites.

What Is Vapor Intrusion?

Vapor intrusion is a process by which chemicals volatilize from impacted soil or groundwater beneath a building and diffuse toward regions of lower chemical concentration (e.g., the atmosphere, conduits, basements).

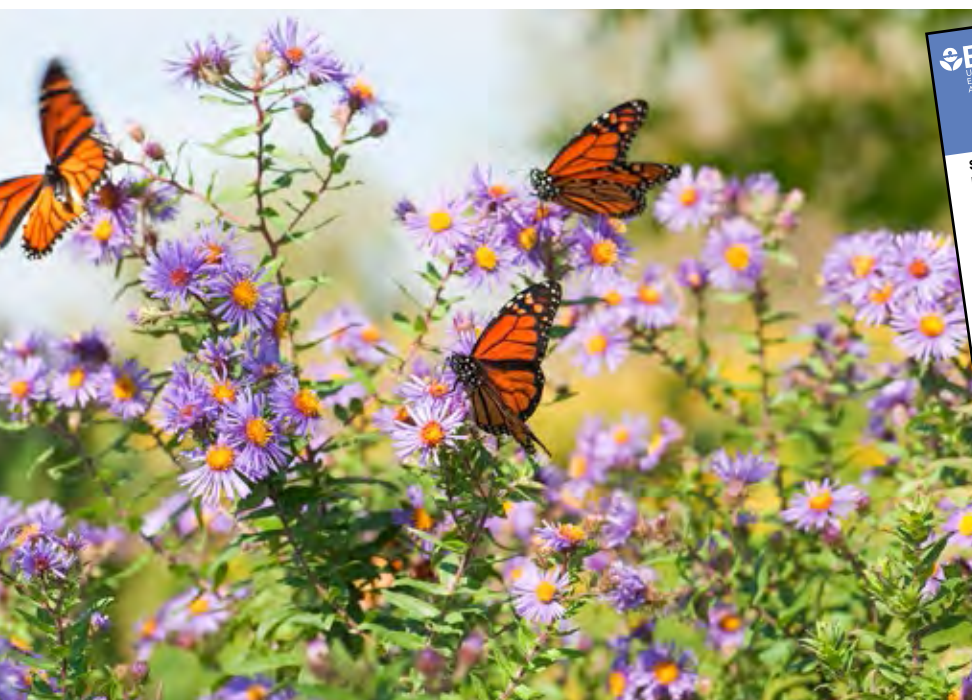
ECOLOGICAL REVITALIZATION

Ecological revitalization returns land from a contaminated state to one that supports functioning and sustainable habitat. Ecological revitalization improves soil health, supports diverse vegetation, sequesters carbon, protects surface water and groundwater, and provides wildlife habitat and passive recreation opportunities. Through FY 2015, 18 sites in Region 4 are in planned or actual ecological reuse.

Pollinator Health: Showcasing Habitat Resources Across the Southeast

Pollinators contribute substantially to our national economy, playing a significant role in the production of over 150 food crops, and are vital to our national ecological systems. In support of the President's National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators, Region 4 Superfund has been at the forefront of working to identify opportunities and provide resources to help incorporate pollinator-friendly native plantings as part of site cleanup, long-term stewardship and reuse activities. This work will help EPA measure the Superfund program's progress towards meeting the national strategy objective of tracking the total acreage of pollinator-friendly habitat created and protected at Superfund remedial sites. Region 4 is also working to expand opportunities to include pollinator-friendly plantings in green remediation and green infrastructure activities.

In Region 4, hundreds of acres at Superfund sites have already been planted with pollinator-friendly habitat as a result of cleanup and restoration activities. Region 4 has developed communication materials – posters and a series of fact sheets – to showcase existing pollinator-friendly habitat at Superfund sites across the Southeast and to support future efforts to create and restore additional habitat for pollinators at Superfund sites. For example, at the TVA Kingston Ash Recovery Project in Tennessee, a fact sheet highlighted how ecological revitalization activities have resulted in the reestablishment of over 60 acres of pollinator-friendly habitat at a formerly disturbed area.



EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

Supporting the Health of Pollinators: Ecological Reuse and the TVA Kingston Ash Recovery Project

Site Background
In December 2008, a containment dike surrounding part of a dredge cell at the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)'s power plant in Kingston, Tennessee collapsed, releasing about 5.4 million cubic yards of ash into the Emory River and other area waters. A byproduct of burning coal in power generation plants, the ash contained hazardous substances such as metals and radionuclides. Ash material contaminated surface water and sediment at the site.

Time-critical remedial actions – dredging, excavation and disposal of the ash and construction of a 13-mile-long containment wall – began immediately following the spill. Further non-time-critical actions by TVA then restored riparian and wetland habitat. Final restoration activities finished in April 2015. Long-term monitoring of natural resource impacts and restoration plantings is ongoing.

Going Beyond Cleanup Requirements
TVA's ecological restoration efforts went far beyond cleanup and redevelopment activities by far beyond cleanup and redevelopment activities. Ecological restoration focused on creating diverse natural habitats using native plants. These habitats connect to each other, providing a contiguous ecosystem that increases wildlife use and allows for recreation. The native plants provide much-needed habitat for pollinators. These areas are also now part of a highly valued community resource, the 30-acre Lakeshore Park, which provides a range of recreation and environmental education opportunities.

Ecological restoration can provide broader benefits as well, addressing liability concerns, informing operation and maintenance requirements, and lowering cleanup costs. Restored habitat can also help enhance remedies by reducing surface water infiltration; restored wetlands can be part of a site's stormwater controls.

Why Are They Important?
A pollinator is an insect or animal that moves pollen within or to another flower, fertilizing the plant. There are about 200,000 species of pollinators, including bees, butterflies, wasps, beetles, birds and bats. Many types of plants, including vegetable and fruit crops, require pollination to bear fruit. Recent declines in pollinator populations – and bees in particular – have raised concerns about the future of food supplies worldwide.

EPA Region 4

FY 2015 AWARDS

In 2015, the remarkable efforts and dedication of EPA Region 4 staff were recognized with a range of national and regional awards.

Award Type	Title	Description
<i>National Honor Awards</i>	James W. Craig Pollution Prevention Leadership	Exceptional enforcement work eliminating future sources of pollution.
	National Exemplary Leadership in Records Management	Innovation in records management and ensuring public access to essential Superfund information.
<i>Notable Achievement Awards</i>	Superfund Individual of the Year	Commitment to service, technical excellence and teamwork in Superfund environmental chemistry.
	Superfund Advancing Innovation and Sustainability in Cleanup Practice	Work in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, to transform abandoned wood-treating facility into animal shelter and community center.
<i>Regional Bronze Awards</i>	Hart Oil Response Team	Innovative, exceptional work in response to significant release of crude oil in Kentucky.
	Fort Gillem Vapor Intrusion Team	Diligent engagement supporting development of vapor intrusion plan and implementation.
	Region 4 Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team	Dedicated efforts ensuring continuity of services for Region's Emergency Response and Removal program through a OneEPA approach.
	Sycamore Point Mercury Emergency Response Team	Exemplary response to largest residential mercury spill in Region's history.
	North Birmingham Air Toxics and Children's Health Community Initiative Team	Exceptional skill in communicating complex scientific information to community members in North Birmingham, Alabama, and expertise in adapting outreach and education materials and delivery methods.
	LWD Superfund Site Enforcement Team	A model in PRP negotiation and settlement efficiency.
	Hercules, Inc. Superfund Site Enforcement Team	Extraordinary response to municipal sewer collapse and accelerated cleanup in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.
	Eden Coal Ash Spill Enforcement Team	Exemplary communication and collaboration at coal ash spill in Eden, North Carolina.
	Milan Army Ammunition Plant Team Award	Remedy work that establishes national cleanup standard for RDX, a munitions-related contaminant, and restores groundwater to unrestricted use.
<i>Additional Recognition</i>	Environmental Justice and Air Permitting Training Workshop	Outstanding collaboration to deliver high-quality training to environmental justice stakeholders in North Birmingham, Alabama, and Pascagoula, Mississippi.
	Exemplary Administration of 2014 Region 4 Reorganization Process	Exemplary administration of Region 4 reorganization process, embracing EPA as a high-performing organization.

FY 2015 AWARDS

Recognizing Community Leadership and Excellence in Superfund Redevelopment

Every year, Region 4 seeks opportunities to recognize the remarkable community-wide efforts that return Superfund sites to use. Through our Excellence in Site Reuse Award, we honor the hard work and partnerships that make site reuse possible.

From Toxic Waste to Restored Ecological Habitat and Community Recreation

In recognition of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)'s cleanup, ecological restoration and community revitalization efforts at the Kingston Ash Recovery Project site, EPA Region 4 awarded TVA our Excellence in Site Reuse award in June 2015.

Since 1955, TVA has operated a power plant in Kingston, Tennessee. In December 2008, a containment dike for coal fly ash failed, creating a wave of water and ash that choked the Emory River, disrupted electrical power, ruptured a gas line, covered a railway, and necessitated the evacuation of a nearby neighborhood. EPA, TVA, and state and local agencies responded immediately. The cleanup's objectives were to ensure that it was protective of public health and the environment, employed sound science, and took place quickly and safely. TVA removed contaminated sediments, stabilized perimeter walls, and restored habitat. To date, the health of the river is improving much faster than expected. There are no unacceptable risks to public health or the environment.



Revegetation of over 50 acres of shoreline and wetland habitat used special native seed mixes. Several varieties of wetland shrubs were also planted and are now well established.

TVA's extensive ecological restoration efforts went far beyond cleanup requirements. Today, diverse natural habitats provide an interconnected ecosystem that supports a wide range of wildlife and allows for recreation. Rehabilitated



Left to right: Cleanup work, cap installation, and a before and after view of the Middle Embayment area at the TVA Kingston site.

FY 2015 AWARDS

wetlands and river ecosystems are home to fish, amphibians, birds and pollinators. These areas are also now part of the 32-acre Lakeshore Park. The community park has walking trails, a boat ramp and dock, fishing piers, canoe launches, restroom facilities, and a pedestrian bridge.

TVA's community support and outreach activities have also been remarkable. Over more than six years, TVA has invested \$1.178 billion to protect public health and environment. TVA funding has been used to build new public schools and a wastewater treatment plant and to rehabilitate a historic theater. Future land uses planned for the area include a sports complex, an emergency response center and a volunteer fire station for the Swan Pond Community. At the Kingston Ash Recovery Project site, TVA went above and beyond in its support of a comprehensive cleanup, ecological restoration and broader community revitalization.

Continued Use and Mixed-Use Revitalization in Northeastern Florida

Region 4 also awarded the City of Jacksonville and several community organizations our 2015 Excellence in Site Reuse award in recognition of their cleanup and redevelopment work at the Jacksonville Ash and Brown's Dump sites in Jacksonville, Florida. Years of coordinated efforts have transformed four once-contaminated areas into safe places for locals to live, shop, work and play.

The Jacksonville Ash site covers three areas where the City of Jacksonville deposited incinerator ash. The Forest Street and 5th & Cleveland incinerators operated from the early 1900s until the 1960s, and Lonnie C. Miller, Sr. Park received ash and residue. The Brown's Dump site is a fourth incinerator ash deposit location. EPA is addressing the four sites through the Superfund Alternative Approach. Cleanup efforts have included soil removal, surface covers and institutional controls to prevent contact with contaminated soils.

The City of Jacksonville worked with EPA on an approach that would allow residential and commercial uses to continue during cleanup. Community facilities – a public park, a middle and high school, and two elementary schools – also remained open throughout. The school properties were cleaned up during the summer months when students were on their break. The cleanup has spurred new development as well. The sites now support an animal care center, several residential developments, a church, community centers and the 11-court MaliVai Tennis Center. Future plans include additional park facilities.



Animal care facility, tennis courts at the Emmett Reed Park sports complex and community center, and Darnell-Cookman Middle/High School.

FY 2015 AWARDS

Collaborative Efforts in Mississippi Recognized with State Excellence Award

In April 2015, Region 4 recognized the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) with our Excellence in State Engagement Supporting Reuse Award. MDEQ's collaborative efforts to support and encourage the appropriate reuse of Superfund sites across Mississippi have included a variety of approaches, including offering assistance in reuse planning processes and implementing environmental covenants. Mississippi's efforts to develop a process and template to streamline placement of restrictive covenants on Superfund site properties in the state ensures that remedial actions remain protective as sites are returned to productive use. Collaboration among MDEQ, EPA, site owners and communities is generating success stories and paving the way for future reuse.



MDEQ's Trey Hess (right) accepting the award from Region 4 Superfund Division Director Franklin E. Hill and Robin Richardson, EPA's Deputy Director of the Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation.

The Economic Impacts of Region 4 Superfund's Work

Superfund sites across Region 4 are home to commercial facilities, retail centers, government offices and residential areas. Many sites continue to host industrial and manufacturing operations. Others are parks, recreation areas and wildlife refuges. On-site businesses and organizations on current and former Region 4 Superfund sites provide over 11,500 jobs and contribute an estimated \$627 million in annual employment income for residents across the Southeast. Restored on-site properties in Region 4 generate about \$6.1 million in annual property tax revenues for local governments.

Making a Visible Difference in Communities

EPA Region 4's Davis Timber site team worked with the community of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, to support the transformation of an abandoned wood-treating facility into an animal shelter and community center. The Longleaf Recreational Trail (right) runs alongside the site, connecting the area with downtown Hattiesburg.



FY 2016 PRIORITIES

In FY 2016, Region 4 Superfund will remain focused on EPA's priorities for the Agency's future:

Making a Visible Difference in Communities

- Making decisions based on sound science.
- Maintaining a strong enforcement first program.
- Maintaining response readiness.
- Focusing on federal facility oversight.
- Ensuring meaningful community engagement and environmental justice.
- Returning sites to productive use.

Embracing EPA as a High-Performing Organization

- Consolidating changes in organizational structure.
- Adjusting to new systems architecture.
- Implementing a new contracting paradigm.
- Adapting to resource constraints.
- Focusing on the most effective use of resources to protect human health and environment.

Looking Ahead

In FY 2016, Region 4 Superfund will continue to focus on sustaining healthy and vibrant communities. From reducing children's exposure to lead and mercury contamination to the provision of clean drinking water, Superfund cleanups will be a leading force in the protection of public health. Through enforcement actions, we will continue to hold polluters accountable and deter violations that may undermine public and environmental health. Our emergency response program will respond rapidly to chemical, oil, biological and radiological releases as well as national emergencies, including homeland security. Across the Southeast, our efforts will continue to make a visible difference in communities, as sites returned to use support job creation, enhanced property values and tax revenues, and sustainable economic growth.





“EPA must work each and every day – hand-in-hand with other federal agencies, states, tribes and local communities – to improve the health of American families and protect the environment one community at a time, all across the country.”

— EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy



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