

EPA Region 6 Clean and Green Policy

The goal of the Region 6 Clean and Green Policy is to enhance the environmental benefits of federal cleanup programs by promoting technologies and practices that are sustainable. The objectives of Green Remediation are to:

- Protect human health and the environment by achieving remedial action goals,
- Support human and ecological use and reuse of remediated land,
- Minimize impacts to water quality and water resources,
- Reduce air emissions and greenhouse gas production,
- Minimize material use and waste production, and
- Conserve natural resources and energy.

This Clean and Green Policy applies to all Superfund cleanups including those performed by Potentially Responsible Parties (PRP-lead), EPA and/or Army Corps of Engineer contractors (Fund-lead), Federal Facilities, and cleanup work implemented through EPA's Brownfield grant program. The policy establishes a preference for use of:

- 100% use of Renewable Energy, where available, and energy conservation and efficiency approaches including EnergyStar equipment;
- Cleaner fuels and clean diesel technologies and strategies;
- Water conservation and efficiency approaches including WaterSense products;
- Sustainable site design;
- Industrial material reuse or recycling within regulatory requirements;
- Recycling applications for materials generated at or removed from the site;
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing; and
- Greenhouse gas emission reduction technologies.

Certain green remediation technologies will serve as a touchstone for Region 6 response actions. They include use of renewable sources of electricity; use of "Green Concrete" (made with Coal Combustion Products replacing a portion of the Portland cement); use of clean diesel fuels and technologies; and methane recovery from landfills (with use of the methane preferred, but methane flaring at a minimum to reduce greenhouse gas potency). These technologies are the "point of departure" for Superfund cleanups, and will be standard unless a site-specific evaluation demonstrates impracticability, unavailability or favors an alternative green approach.

Region 6 intends to measure the cost differentials and environmental benefits associated with implementing this Clean and Green Policy. Examples include tracking quantities of materials reduced, reused or recycled; carbon or greenhouse gas reductions; quantities of water conserved or replenished; etc. Region 6 plans to use existing progress reporting requirements in enforcement instruments, grants and contracts to collect this data.



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15 September 2009
Date