

# Regional Administrator's 2015 Plan Accomplishments - Region 6

## Administrator's Priorities

1. Acting on Climate Change
2. Improving Air Quality
3. Making Visible Difference in Communities
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 back

*"It is with great pride that I look back on these accomplishments as we recap our efforts in 2015. It goes without saying that we are making a difference in all of our states as well as our communities for the benefit of citizens. Your commitment to all of our priorities is noteworthy and I hope you share the same pride as I do when reflecting on 2015."*

- Ron Curry

### Acting on Climate Change

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

- Conduct educational outreach on the final CAA 111(d) rule for existing power plants after finalized regulations  
✓ Completed
- Promote the Federal Green Challenge; provide technical assistance to current participants  
✓ Completed
- Recruit and retain 40 partners in Sustainable Materials Challenges  
✓ Exceeded. Recruited and retained 108 partners.
- Conduct 2 energy management webinars and 2 workshops to share energy reduction practices among water and wastewater utilities  
✓ On-going. Conducted 3 energy assessment/workshops/webinars
- Provide outreach and assistance to 100 local schools in C3  
✓ On-going efforts to encourage schools to participate in C3
- Recruit 15 new WaterSense Partners to further water efficiency and conservation efforts  
✓ On-going recruitment
- Broadcast UStream Webcast to students nationwide using NASA's Digital Learning Network  
✓ Completed
- Implement a regional IT Green Meeting Tool Kit to conserve resources during large conferences/meetings  
✓ Completed

### Improving Air Quality

Ensure clean air for communities:

- Issue grants for emission control technologies that reduce diesel engine related emissions  
✓ Completed
- Train health care professional on indoor environmental risks  
✓ Completed
- Issue Regional Haze Plan in Texas  
✓ Completed
- Complete review of stack test results of 8 incinerators, boilers and halogen acid furnaces; issue Finding of Compliance  
✓ Exceeded. Completed and reviewed 12 test results and issued 12 Notices of Compliance

- Conduct 10 CAA compliance evaluations for facilities in nonattainment areas  
✓ Exceeded. 41 compliance evaluations were conducted
- Initiate 5 CAA enforcement actions at facilities in noncompliance or affecting nonattainment areas  
✓ Exceeded. 16 actions were issued
- Conduct 20 compliance evaluations at oil and gas facilities  
✓ Exceeded. 55 compliance evaluations were conducted

### Making a Visible Difference in Communities Across the Country

Make land available for Reuse:

- Continue support for H2S air monitoring  
✓ Completed
- Complete 1 leaking underground storage tank cleanup in Indian Country  
✓ Completed
- Work with Alexandria Pineville Community to address human health concerns  
✓ Completed
- Work with TCEQ and City of Frisco to ensure effective Exide facility cleanup  
✓ Completed
- Assist with annual Waste Isolation Pilot Project Inspection Report and Biennial Environmental Compliance Report response  
✓ Completed
- Oversee NMEDs actions with WIPP, LANL  
✓ Completed
- Oversee TCEQs actions with Waste Control Specialists  
✓ Completed
- Issue 2 Ready for Reuse determinations with State partners  
✓ Completed
- Work with Anthony NM on EPAs Building Blocks Workshop  
✓ On-going
- Ensure completion of Plains Terminals site wide cleanup of former Encycle property with community involvement  
✓ Completed
- Collaborate on 3 priority RCRA correction sites to ensure cleanup progress  
✓ Exceeded. Collaborated on 4 facilities



Workforce Diversity, Environmental Stewardship

Character, Accountability, Respect, Excellence

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*This past year, we focused our energy, talents and resources  
to accomplish these priorities:*

- Propose final remedy for public comment on Camp Stanley  
✓ Completed
- Focus on land reuse Superfund sites in Alexandria and Pineville  
✓ On-going
- Conduce 47 Superfund site assessments  
✓ Completed
- Conduct 100 Brownfield property assessments  
✓ Exceeded. 113 Brownfields property assessments
- Cleanup 7 Brownfield properties  
✓ Completed
- Hold 20 community meetings at Superfund sites  
✓ Exceeded. 25 community meetings were held at Superfund sites
- Obtain 12 Brownfield Grants for communities  
✓ Completed
- Complete 28 Superfund-lead and PRP lead removal action/responses  
✓ Exceeded. 32 removal actions were completed
- Achieve Human Exposure Under Control at 1 Superfund site  
✓ Completed
- Make 1 Superfund site ready for use site-wide  
✓ Completed
- Complete 9 Superfund Remedial Action projects  
✓ Exceeded. 14 Remedial Action projects were completed
- Reach settlement or take enforcement action before the start of remedial action at 95% of Superfund sites with viable PRPs  
✓ Exceeded. 100% were completed
- Work to TX Water Development Board to provide funding for Cyndie Park II colonia residents  
✓ Completed
- Participate in federal partnership team activities for the White House Council for Strong City Strong Communities activities  
✓ On-going
- Participate in Urban Waters project work plans and partnerships in designated project areas  
✓ On-going
- Secure funding to bring drinking water connections to regional colonias  
✓ Completed
- Host 2 events supporting North Texas' Ten on Tuesday campaign  
✓ Exceeded. Hosted 3 events

## Taking Action on Toxics and Chemical Safety

Prioritize decisions to maximize environmental benefits:

- Provide Toxic Release Inventory workshops and webinars to regulated community  
✓ Completed
- Hold regional P2 Roundtable in AR promoting expansion of pollution prevention approaches  
✓ Completed
- Reissue 20 state permits ensuring proper management of hazardous waste  
✓ Exceeded. 22 hazardous waste state permits were reissued
- Control human exposure to toxins in 13 priority RCRA facilities  
✓ Exceeded. 14 facilities have been controlled for human exposure
- Complete 6 PCB evaluations  
✓ Exceeded. 9 PCB evaluations were completed

- Issue 10 CAFOs requiring worker training and contingency plans at hazardous waste generators  
✓ Exceeded. 30 CAFOs were completed
- Conduct 45 risk management plan inspections  
✓ Exceeded. 90 inspections were conducted
- Conduct 32 Local Emergency Planning Committee workshops in partnership with DHS and DOL  
✓ Completed 31 workshops; on-going workshops scheduled for 2016

Protecting children where they live, learn and play:

- Promote IPM program to decrease exposure of children in schools to pests and pesticides  
✓ Completed
- Promote lead safe work practices using RRP trained professional  
✓ Completed
- Implement a Children's Environmental Health border initiative to include healthy Homes training and Children's Environmental Health symposium  
✓ Completed
- Conduct Eco-healthy childcare training in Texas  
✓ Completed
- Conduct compliance inspections at 5 child occupied facilities for RRP  
✓ Exceeded. 11 inspections were completed.
- Conduct 8 exercises to improve emergency preparedness at federal, state and local levels  
✓ Completed
- Conduct Soil kitchen testing event in Austin, TX  
✓ Completed

## Protecting Water: A Precious, Limited Resource

Ensure safe drinking water for communities:

- Collaborate with state agencies and the Air Force on groundwater model to ensure protection of City of Albuquerque drinking water supply aquifer  
✓ Completed
- Support NMED with review of Kirtland AFB fuel spill remediation work plans and technical documents
- Address priority tribal Public Water Systems using Enforcement Targeting Tool  
✓ Completed
- Work with State partners to address/resolve 450 noncompliant public water systems  
✓ Exceeded. 733 were accomplished
- Work with state and Federal funding agencies on drinking water requirements at public water supplies  
✓ Completed
- Achieve groundwater migration under control at 2 Superfund sites  
✓ Completed
- Ensure drinking water meets standards for at least 95% of population  
✓ Completed 93%. Houston incurred a total coliform rule violation which prevented 95% achievement



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- Provide assistance to 5 tribal drinking water systems to improve compliance with SDWA standards  
✓ Completed
- Issue permits with protective controls for 95% of applications received to protect underground sources from injection wells and unconventional oil and gas exploration  
✓ Exceeded. 100% of injection permits issued safeguarded sources
- Provide state agencies with tools to track and take action on injection wells inducing seismic events  
✓ Completed
- Provide environmental hazard education and public health issues to 30 senior citizens and providers in health care facilities  
✓ Exceeded. Provided environmental hazard education to 50 seniors
- Promote WaterSense program conservation at 6 community events  
✓ Completed
- Partner with 10 WaterSense Partners promoting Fix a Leak activities  
✓ Exceeded. Collaborated with 15 WaterSense Partners

Provide leadership to restore and protect watersheds and coastal waters:

- Conduct 80% CAFO inspections in impaired watersheds, water bodies, or in response to citizen complaints  
✓ Completed
- Conduct 60% NPDES inspections in impaired watersheds or sensitive water bodies  
✓ Completed
- Conduct 140 SPCC and 50 FRP inspections and response exercises at Oil Pollution Act regulated facilities  
✓ Exceeded. 167 SPCC and 52 FRP were conducted
- Respond to oil spills impacting water of the US to meet regional response criteria  
✓ Completed
- Work with states to develop 5 new watershed plans  
✓ Exceeded. Accepted 6 new watershed-based plans
- Partner with states to host 1 Regional Technical Assistance Group on nutrient targets; 1 water quality standards meeting to discuss priority issues; assist 1 state develop nutrient criteria, targets and translators  
✓ Exceeded. Assisted 4 states in developing nutrient criteria, targets and translators and Completed 1 RTAG, 1 WQS
- Work with coastal consortiums to restore 3,000 acres of habitat; submit 5 marsh restoration projects or voting in the CWPPRA; attend 1 meeting supporting RESTORE Council efforts in the Gulf Coast  
✓ Exceeded. Submitted 6 marsh restoration projects, completed 6,984 acres and attended/supported RESTORE council efforts
- Concur on 4 civil works projects for navigational dredging sediment disposal; establish a coordination process with USACE on dredger permits; conduct Ocean Disposal Sites monitoring survey  
✓ Exceeded. Concurred on 6 civil works projects, established a coordination process with USACE, concurred on 2 third party dredgers and completed a monitoring survey

- Work with federal and state partners to review, develop impact statements, water supply project permits, and mitigation plans on 2 TX reservoir projects  
✓ Completed
- Lead 2 Earth Day and school activities providing outreach to 3,500  
✓ Completed
- Participate in 3 Green Infrastructure Low Impact Development events  
✓ Exceeded. Participated in 14 events
- Hold 1 MS4 conference for state and municipalities  
✓ Completed
- Maintain 94% NPDES permit currency rate  
✓ Exceeded. NPDES permit currency rate of 97.7% maintained
- Work with states to document 3 nonpoint source impaired waters full or partial restorations  
✓ Exceeded. Achieved 8 success stories
- Establish a sustainable infrastructure financing team for ways to finance green infrastructure and low impact development practices  
✓ Completed

## Working Toward A Sustainable Future, Environmental Justice and Environmentalism

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

- Reach 1,000 people at events to educate and work on sustainable materials management  
✓ Exceeded. 2,300 people were reached
- Provide training and panel discussions on various environmental issues at the Arkansas EJ Workshop  
✓ Completed
- Award 4 EJ Small Grants for community climate resilience component in their work plans  
✓ Completed
- Conduct monthly conference calls by state with vulnerable community leaders addressing EJ priorities  
✓ Completed
- Conduct quarterly conference calls with regional community leaders addressing EJ priorities of a broader regional nature  
✓ Completed
- Award GAP grants to tribal governments for capacity building activities  
✓ Completed
- Issue 5 CAA enforcement actions at facilities impacting communities  
✓ Exceeded. 16 actions were issued
- Review draft NEPA documents for impacts to EJ and tribal communities  
✓ Completed
- Conduct Targeted Brownfield Assessments at Cochiti Pueblo and Choctaw Nation  
✓ Completed
- Use EJ Screen in Public Water Supply Supervision and UIC Permitting  
✓ Completed



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to accomplish these priorities:*

- Build 3 new partners and continue existing partnerships promoting environmental education and outreach  
✓ Completed

#### Improving the environment along the US/Mexico Border

- Participate in the biannual Border planning workshop in Tijuana, Mexico  
✓ Completed
- Transition and integrate US/Mexico program into the OEJTA structure; increase EJ work activities along the border  
✓ Completed
- Provide 600 additional homes with safe drinking water  
✓ Exceeded. 878 additional homes were provided safe drinking water
- Provide 40,000 additional homes with adequate wastewater sanitation  
✓ Exceeded. 44,011 additional homes were provided wastewater sanitation
- Host the 2015 Border 2020 National Coordinator's Meeting  
✓ Completed
- Train 150-200 Promotoras on Environmental Health  
✓ Exceeded. Conducted 7 trainings for 240 promotoras and health care workers

#### Launching a New Era of State, Tribal and Local Partnerships

##### Addressing State Priorities:

- Negotiate reductions of SIP Backlog with states. Address 45 SIP revisions consistent with reductional plans  
✓ Exceeded. Reductions were negotiated with each state and 70 SIP revisions were addressed
- Meet with regional UST/LUST program managers; increase compliance, prevention cleanup, address new releases, ensure financial assurance  
✓ Completed
- Meet with regional Sustainable Materials Management managers  
✓ Completed
- Hold Lead Paint meeting with state and tribal partners  
✓ Completed
- Utilize EJSCREEN and EJ2020 Framework tool with State partners  
✓ Completed
- Conduct a State Review Framework with ODEQ and ADEQ  
✓ Completed
- Initiate a State Review Framework with LDEQ  
✓ Completed
- Complete the Illinois River Watershed Model  
✓ Completed
- Conduct onsite Permit Quality Review of AR NPDES Program  
✓ Completed
- Host 1 NPDES Permit Writers Course  
✓ Completed
- Host 1 NPDES Permit State Managers Meeting  
✓ Completed
- Work with grantees to award available CWA & SDWA funds  
✓ Completed

- Participate in a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation review and prioritize awardees  
✓ Completed
- Approve 1 tribal TAS application for CWA 106 grants  
✓ On-going. Approval for Caddo Nation estimate is 2016
- Host 1 EPA 2015 SRF Workshop  
✓ Completed
- Participate in 1 regional Pretreatment workshop for states and municipalities  
✓ Completed
- Hold Superfund Regional Decision Team meeting with State and Tribal Partners  
✓ Completed
- Conduct Superfund Risk Assessment Training with State and Tribal Partners ✓ Completed  
✓ Completed

##### Safeguarding our Trust responsibilities:

- Conduct UST inspections and compliance assistance in Indian Country  
✓ Completed
- Hold Radon Stakeholders meeting  
✓ Completed
- Support through RCRA grants household hazardous waste collections for the Eight Northern Tribes Nation and Choctaw Nation  
✓ Completed
- Conduct a RCRA All-States Meeting  
✓ Completed
- Participate in an indoor air quality workshop with Region 7  
✓ Completed
- Complete 10 EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans  
✓ Completed
- Facilitate 2 RTOC meetings  
✓ Exceeded. Facilitated 3 RTOC meetings
- Assist 1 tribal partner to expand their capacity to measure quality of their water, establish authorities and set protective water quality standards  
✓ Completed
- Offer Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation for tribes affected by NPDES Permitting Actions  
✓ Completed

#### Embracing EPA as a High Performing Organization

##### Developing our People:

- Conduct LEAN projects to improve efficiency  
✓ Completed
- Provide 10 Employee Assistance Program trainings  
✓ Completed
- Provide 24 GS14 -15 Supervisors Leadership Development Training  
✓ Exceeded. Training was provided for 26 supervisors



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- Complete Manager's 360 Survey Analysis  
✓ Completed
- Provide 3 Job Swap Brown Bags  
✓ Exceeded. 7 brown bags were conducted
- Conduct Mentoring survey; update mentoring roster  
✓ Completed
- Provide contractor support for development of SharePoint sites  
✓ Completed
- Assist OEI with implementation of Office 365 Government G3 upgrade  
✓ Completed
- Provide 1 tribal consultation training to the region  
✓ Completed
- Conduct Annual Civil/Criminal Enforcement Training  
✓ Completed
- Conduct joint training with the Peruvian Agency for Environmental Evaluation and Enforcement strengthening internal partnerships  
✓ Completed
- Conduct CAFO training for regions and states  
✓ Completed
- Provide UIC training/assistance to Region 8  
✓ Completed
- Provide training to HQ and all regions for conducting RCRA data mining for targeting  
✓ Completed
- Provide eRouting training to other regions  
✓ Completed
- Support participation by 5 Water Division Supervisors in LDP  
✓ Completed
- Promote cross-program leadership through developmental assignments and reassignments  
✓ Completed
- Promote Lean initiative by completing an analysis of region's direct Implementation UIC permitting process  
✓ Completed

Ensure integrity of our financial management:

- Award and manage grants and cooperative agreements  
✓ Completed
- Ensure financial activities comply with FMFIA and all internal controls  
✓ Completed
- Review 100% of recorded ULOs; de-obligate unneeded funds  
✓ Completed
- Work with tribal partners to enhance financial and administrative grant management  
✓ Completed
- Provide financial training on various financial systems  
✓ Completed

- Conduct 5 programmatic advanced monitoring reviews on OEJTA grants  
✓ Exceeded. 6 programmatic advanced monitoring reviews were conducted
- Conduct 25 advanced reviews of federal financial assistance agreements  
✓ Completed
- Develop standard operation procedures for CWPPRA funding  
✓ Completed

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

- Complete development of an e-records management system in Houston Lab semi-volatile and metals data packages; complete 50% of volatiles, pesticides, and aquatic toxicology e-records data packages  
✓ Completed
- Present development of EPA Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste workgroup to an international forum; solicit feedback to proposed changes and improvements  
✓ Completed
- Partner with federal agencies in using satellite and remote techniques to study harmful algal blooms in our waters  
✓ Completed

**Questions?**

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



**Our 2015 Accomplishments Report is  
available at  
[www.epa.gov/region6](http://www.epa.gov/region6)**



**W**orkforce Diversity, **E**nvironmental Stewardship, **C**haracter, **A**ccountability, **R**espect, **E**xcellence

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