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

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

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 USStream 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

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
  √ Completed
• 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
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]
- 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 [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 [Completed]
- 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]
This past year, we focused our energy, talents and resources to accomplish these priorities:

- 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  
  ✓ Completed. 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. 187 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. Concur 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
This past year, we focused our energy, talents and resources 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  
  - Completed. 878 additional homes provided safe drinking water
- Provide 40,000 additional homes with adequate wastewater sanitation  
  - Completed. 44,011 additional homes provided wastewater sanitation
- Host the 2015 Border 2020 National Coordinator’s Meeting  
  - Completed
- Train 150-200 Promotoras on Environmental Health  
  - Completed. 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  
  - Completed. 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  
  - Completed. 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
- Conduct a State Review Framework with ODEQ and ADEQ  
  - Completed
- Conduct a State Review Framework with LDEQ  
  - Completed
- Complete 10 EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans  
  - Completed
- Facilitate 2 RTOC meetings  
  - Completed. 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

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  
  - Completed. 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  
  - Completed. Training was provided for 26 supervisors

February 22, 2016
This past year, we focused our energy, talents and resources to accomplish these priorities:

- 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