

## **Charge Questions to BOSC for Reviewing SHC's Topic 3: Sustainable Approaches for Contaminated Sites and Materials**

### **Overall goal of BOSC meeting:**

BOSC will provide SHC with feedback to further shape the research in the areas of contaminated sites and sediments, environmental releases of oils and fuels, and sustainable materials management to be responsive to near-term and longer-term Agency, state, and community needs.

The SHC research program is focused on securing a healthy environment for all. Its research portfolio is broad, comprising research on environmental public health, ecosystem services, indicators and indices, and sustainable approaches for contaminated sites and materials management. SHC's long-term goal is that this research is built into tools and structured decision support methods that facilitate integrated risk and impact assessments leading to sustainable communities and resources.

This review focuses on Sustainable Approaches for Contaminated Sites and Material Management. This research area links most closely to EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management, with research focused on addressing pressing Agency needs for both near-term solutions and long-term strategies. Because of this and to follow up on the general charge questions from the initial BOSC subcommittee review, the first two charge questions focus of SHC's responsiveness to immediate and future needs in this area.

### **Charge questions: There are two questions for each of the three projects in Topic 3: Sustainable Approaches for Contaminated Sites and Materials:**

Context: SHC's Objective 3 pledges to

*Provide research and technical support for cleaning up communities, ground water, and oil spills; restore habitats and revitalize communities; and advance sustainable waste and materials management.*

SHC has developed three research projects that specifically address this objective and describes the goals and planned products of these in the SHC Strategic Research Action Plan (StRAP), the SHC Outputs document, and the Project Plans, which were developed by each project team. Much of this Topic 3 research is oriented toward addressing near-term Agency needs in the areas of cleaning up contaminated sites and oil spills and supporting Agency and state-delegated programs with respect to waste and materials management. Some of the proposed research, however, is focused on longer term goals, such as understanding the steps that will lead a community from remediation of a contaminated site to restoration of ecosystem services to community revitalization. Other longer term research includes information to help states, communities, and organizations understand how to use locally-available non-regulated agricultural or fisheries waste as a feedstock for materials that can sequester carbon or help to remediate contaminated sites.

Your review of SHC's research plans (StRAP, Outputs, and Project Plans) and accomplishments (poster abstracts, FY15 products, and other supporting material), together with what you learn from Program and Regional office partners about their research issues and your knowledge of national, state, and community issues in this topic area, will help in addressing the following questions:

- 1) How well do SHC's R&D accomplishments and proposed research address high priority Agency, state, and community needs in this area?

## Charge Questions to BOSC for Reviewing SHC's

### Topic 3: Sustainable Approaches for Contaminated Sites and Materials

- a. *Project 3.61 - Contaminated Sites*
  - b. *Project 3.62 - Environmental Releases of Oils and Fuels*
  - c. *Project 3.63 - Sustainable Materials Management*
- 2) How well does SHC's planned research anticipate future problems in this area and address longer term community sustainability and environmental justice goals?
- a. *Project 3.61 - Contaminated Sites*
  - b. *Project 3.62 - Environmental Releases of Oils and Fuels*
  - c. *Project 3.63 - Sustainable Materials Management*

#### **Additional Charge Question:**

Context: SHC holds that cleaning up contaminated sites and developing approaches to avoid the creation of new contamination and waste sites is prerequisite to communities achieving sustainability. In its initial review of SHC, the SHC BOSC subcommittee provided a preliminary framework for linking site-specific management with broader community social, economic, and environmental goals.

- 3) Do you see SHC's Sustainable Approaches for Contaminated Sites and Materials projects, and associated research from other parts of SHC, as helping communities achieve sustainability?