



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF THE
SCIENCE ADVISOR

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Contaminated Sediments Science Priorities

FROM: William H. Farland, Ph.D.
Acting Chair
Science Policy Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William H. Farland", written over a horizontal line.

TO: Assistant Administrators
General Counsel
Associate Administrators
Regional Administrators

The document entitled *Contaminated Sediments Science Priorities* represents an effort by EPA to examine agency-wide science needs (i.e., research, data, and methods) to assess and manage contaminated sediments and develop priorities for research, developing tools and gathering information from a technical staff perspective. The specific science needs, recommendations, and priorities are intended primarily for use by EPA. However, the document also serves as an example of how to coordinate and plan Cross-Agency science activities for agency program and regional needs. Chapter one discusses the goals and objectives of this document and the EPA's mandates and opportunities for managing contaminated sediments. While the authors recognize that other government agencies and tribes may have additional mandates, this document concentrates on EPA-sponsored science activities and regulatory mandates.

Chapter two describes the state of science for contaminated sediment assessment and risk management decision-making. Issues are presented in the order that corresponds to the risk assessment process for contaminated sediments, starting with science needs for site characterization, and followed by issues in exposure assessment, human health and ecological effects, sediment remediation, and monitoring before, during and after the remediation. In chapter three current science activities are identified and recommendations are presented for key future Agency science activities related to each issue. Chapter four discusses how the key science needs could be met. This technical analysis will help risk managers address key science issues for contaminated sediments, provide points of internal coordination and expertise, and highlight key science issues that may be addressed as resources and opportunities arise.

This workgroup followed a systematic approach for science planning that considered science needs for data collection, measurement, monitoring, risk assessment, remediation technology evaluation, and research. The technical workgroup collected information about ongoing work, gaps in scientific information and available tools for relevant programs, regions, and research scientists from across the agency. During the project, the Science Inventory was being developed. It now provides access to science activities including those on contaminated sediments throughout the Agency. The group also had initial advice from risk managers to focus their goals and objectives. However, the priorities and recommendations represent technical judgements of the workgroup. Management may consider these priorities and recommendations as resources and program priorities allow.

The document was peer reviewed by the Science Advisory Board and public comments were solicited. Comments and EPA responses are posted on the Agency's website www.epa.gov/edocket. This document has significantly enhanced the level of coordination and communication of contaminated sediment activities across the Agency programs and regional offices. We look forward to further advances in scientific understanding of contaminated sediments and planning of science activities across the agency and with other partners.

cc: Deputy Administrator
Deputy Assistant Administrator
Deputy Regional Administrators
Science Policy Council