



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

October 18, 2005

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Congratulations on Exceeding Your 2005 Corrective Action Goals

FROM: Thomas P. Dunne, Acting Assistant Administrator */s/*

TO: RCRA Directors

In 1998 OSWER set an ambitious, yet daunting, goal. After identifying more than 1700 of the Corrective Action program's highest priority waste sites, the Office pledged to Congress and the American people that EPA and the states would work together to halt human exposures at 95% of these sites and prevent the migration of contaminated groundwater at 70% of these sites by September 30, 2005. That deadline has now passed, and more importantly, with it passed a legacy of serious health and environmental threats that had threatened the nation for decades. We have exceeded a goal that some outside groups had described as laudable, but unattainable, and we could not have done so without your leadership. After eight years of diligent work, it's my pleasure to congratulate you and all the others that have worked toward this great accomplishment.

The numbers alone demonstrate the effort you have put forth. Human exposures have been controlled at 1649 facilities (96% of the baseline). Contaminated groundwater has been stabilized at 1341 facilities (78% of the baseline)—and these include some of the most intractable and controversial facilities in the country. The results are even more impressive considering you had to reinvent the Corrective Action process to achieve them. By embracing comprehensive reforms, you promoted flexible and creative solutions, which shifted the focus from process to outcomes and expedited cleanups considerably.

We can all be proud of this accomplishment, and all the hard work that it represents. I again congratulate and thank you for your exemplary efforts, and for the benefits to public health and the environment they have brought about.

cc: Regional Administrators