



INTERIM EPA REGION 7 GREEN CLEANUP POLICY

As a Region, we value land and water as natural, cultural, and economic resources. Cleaning up contamination protects human health and the environment and enables the future use or reuse of properties for community benefit. Region 7 defines “green cleanup” as the practice of considering the broad range of environmental effects of site evaluation, cleanup planning and implementation, and incorporating options to maximize the environmental benefit and support the future beneficial use or reuse of the property.

Fundamentally, all cleanups must protect human health and the environment, comply with all appropriate federal and state laws and program requirements, and consider community input. The goal of the Region 7 Green Cleanup Policy is to enhance the environmental benefits of waste cleanups by promoting sustainable technologies and practices.

OBJECTIVES:

- Protect human health and the environment by achieving cleanup goals
- Support human and ecological use and reuse of renewed land
- Minimize impacts to water quality and water resources
- Reduce greenhouse gas production and other air emissions
- Minimize material use and waste production
- Conserve natural resources and energy

PROGRAM APPLICATION:

The Green Cleanup Policy applies to Fund-Lead Superfund cleanups, cleanup work implemented through EPA’s Brownfields grant program, and Indian Country cleanups in the Underground Storage Tanks program. Region 7 also intends to promote and encourage green cleanups at Federal Facilities and at PRP-lead sites, RCRA corrective action conducted under oversight by EPA or authorized states, and other state-lead cleanup projects.

PRACTICES AND TECHNOLOGIES:

We will promote the following:

- Integration of anticipated site use or reuse plans into the cleanup strategy
- Use of renewable energy sources, including solar and wind, and minimize energy consumption
- Use of biofuels including methane from animal waste and landfills
- Use of clean diesel technologies
- Water conservation, the reuse of treated water and stormwater management
- Sustainable site design
- Recycling and reuse of construction, deconstruction, demolition, and industrial materials
- Site-specific contracting language to require and incentivize the use of green practices and technologies
- Beneficial reuse of excavated yard soils as capping material and Chat Reuse Rule at mining sites



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MEASUREMENT:

Cleanup programs should evaluate and document how investigation and cleanup activities can be implemented to minimize their environmental footprint. Green cleanup technologies and sustainable practices should be considered in decision making and may be documented in Superfund Records of Decision (ROD), Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA), and RCRA Statements of Basis which evaluate and present cleanup alternatives for public review and comment. Administrative Orders should include preferences for green cleanup practices and sustainable reuse and redevelopment, where appropriate.


Region 7 intends to measure the cost differentials and environmental benefits associated with implementing this policy. Measures include tracking quantities of: materials reduced, reused or recycled; carbon or greenhouse gas reductions quantities of water conserved or replenished; etc. The Region plans to use existing progress reporting mechanisms in contracts, grants, and enforcement instruments to collect this data. The Region plans to periodically compile and evaluate this data to determine the effectiveness of this policy and make revisions in scope, best practices, implementation, applicability, etc.

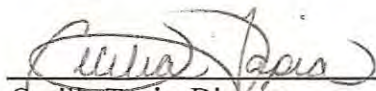
This policy is intended to address the implementation of EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) "Principles for Greener Cleanups," dated August 27, 2009, and may be amended if the OSWER guidance is revised, or upon further implementation and evaluation.


FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

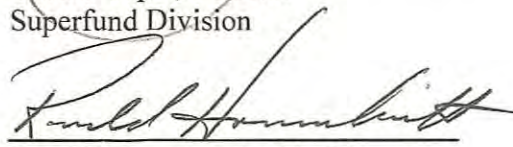
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