

Executive Summary

As the Superfund program entered its 17th year in December 1997, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or “the Agency”) continued to accomplish the requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) for protecting public health, welfare, and the environment. CERCLA requires that EPA update Congress each year on progress in the Superfund program. This Report fulfills the requirement.

EPA is committed to accelerating the pace of hazardous waste site cleanup. As part of this commitment, the Agency completed construction activities to place 88 more National Priorities List (NPL) sites in the construction completion category during fiscal year 1997 (FY97). By the end of the fiscal year, work had occurred at more than 98 percent of the 1,405 sites proposed to, listed on, or deleted from the NPL, including a total of 498 sites (35 percent) that have achieved construction completion.

The Agency also continued its successful efforts to encourage potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to undertake and finance cleanup efforts at Superfund sites. PRPs were leading more than 68 percent of remedial designs (RDs) and 70 percent of remedial actions (RAs) started during the fiscal year. Since the inception of the Superfund program, EPA has reached agreements worth nearly \$12.35 billion for PRP response work at Superfund sites, including \$451 million achieved this year.

This report summarizes Superfund FY97 progress, highlighting accomplishments and initiatives to improve the program. Exhibit ES-1 presents a summary of FY97 accomplishments. Exhibit ES-2 provides a comparison of FY97 accomplishments with those of previous years and

also provides cumulative program accomplishments. FY97 accomplishments reflect the Agency’s commitment to, and focus of resources on, activities required to complete site cleanups.

Site Evaluation Progress

EPA continued its progress in identifying and assessing newly discovered sites. At the end of FY97, there were more than 40,100 sites identified in the CERCLA Information System (CERCLIS), the Superfund inventory of potentially hazardous waste sites. The assessment activities included approximately 38,000 preliminary assessments and 18,275 site inspections. Based on these evaluations, EPA has determined that 1,405 of the sites should be proposed to, listed on, or deleted from the NPL. During FY97, a total of 1,249 sites remained on the NPL. These sites include 53 proposed to, 18 listed on, and 32 deleted from the NPL during FY97. To date, a total of 156 sites have been deleted from the NPL.

The site assessment process also includes site reevaluation. With over 41,200 sites appearing on CERCLIS by the end of FY97, only about 3.5 percent of these sites have made it to the final NPL. Motivated by the need to remove the perceived stigma imposed on communities with nearby CERCLIS-listed sites, the Agency has initiated the removal of sites that are of no further concern to the Superfund program. During FY97, the Agency archived 30,450 sites and this effort is a major program goal and future plans will further support the archiving effort.

**Exhibit ES-1
Summary of Fiscal Year 1997 Superfund Activities**

Remedial Activities		
Percentage of National Priorities List Sites Where Work Has Begun		98%
Sites Classified as Construction Completions as of September 30, 1997		498
Sites with Remedial Activities in Progress on September 30, 1997		815
Records of Decision Signed ¹		168
Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Starts ²		41
<i>Fund-Financed</i>		56%
<i>Potentially Responsible Party-Financed</i>		44%
Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Studies in Progress on September 30, 1997		808
Remedial Design Starts ²		72
<i>Fund-Financed</i>		31%
<i>Potentially Responsible Party-Financed</i>		69%
Remedial Designs in Progress on September 30, 1997		299
Remedial Action Starts ²		102
<i>Fund-Financed</i>		31%
<i>Potentially Responsible Party-Financed</i>		69%
Remedial Actions in Progress on September 30, 1997		686
Removal Activities		
Removal Action Starts ²		252
<i>Fund-Financed</i>		83%
<i>Potentially Responsible Party-Financed</i>		17%
Removal Action Completions ²		315
<i>Fund-Financed</i>		73%
<i>Potentially-Responsible Party-Financed</i>		27%
Site Assessment Activities		
CERCLIS Sites Added ²		500
Preliminary Assessments Conducted ²		420
Site Inspections Conducted ²		330
National Priorities List Sites to Date		1,405
<i>Sites Proposed for Listing During Fiscal Year 1997</i>		53
<i>Final Sites Listed During Fiscal Year 1997</i>		18
<i>Sites Proposed for Deletion During Fiscal Year 1997</i>		23
<i>Sites Deleted During Fiscal Year 1997</i>		32
Enforcement Activities		
Settlements for All Potentially Responsible Party Response Activities	164	(\$451 million) ³
Remedial Design/Remedial Action Settlements ⁴	59	(\$335 million)
Unilateral Administrative Orders Issued (All Actions)	67	N/A
Cost Recovery Dollars Collected	N/A	(\$316 million)
Accomplishments at Federal Facility Sites		
Records of Decision Signed		91
Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Starts ²		62
Remedial Design Starts ²		62
Remedial Action Starts ²		67
¹ Records of decision signed for Fund-financed and potentially responsible party-financed sites.		
² Numerical values for accomplishments based on information from CERCLIS have been rounded.		
³ Estimated value of work potentially responsible parties have agreed to undertake.		
⁴ Remedial design/remedial action settlements include remedial design/remedial action consent decrees and unilateral administrative orders with potentially responsible parties have stated their intention to comply.		

Sources: CERCLIS (as of September 30, 1997); Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance; Office of Emergency and Remedial Response; *Federal Register* notices from December 23, 1996, April 1, 1997 and September 25, 1997.

**Exhibit ES-2
Summary of Program Activity by Fiscal Year**

	FY80-86 Total	FY87	FY88	FY89	FY90	FY91	FY92	FY93	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97	Total
Removal Completions ^{1,2}	810	230	320	260	290	270	340	290	240	298	276	315	3,939
CERCLIS Sites ¹	25,200	27,600	30,000	31,900	33,600	34,200	36,400	37,500	38,300	39,000	39,600	500	40,100
PA Completions ¹	20,200	4,000	2,900	2,200	1,600	1,300	1,900	1,100	900	813	781	420	38,114
SI Completions ¹	6,400	1,300	1,200	1,700	1,900	1,900	1,300	700	600	584	359	330	18,273
National Priorities List Sites ³	901	964	1,194	1,254	1,236	1,245	1,275	1,320	1,355	1,375	1,387	1,405	1,405
Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study Starts ^{1,2}	660	210	170	170	170	70	90	60	70	30	36	41	1,777
Records of Decision Signed ²	199	77	152	136	149	175	126	134	159	187	156	168	1,818
Remedial Design Starts ^{1,2}	120	110	120	180	130	160	170	130	110	84	74	72	1,460
Remedial Action Starts ^{1,2}	70	70	70	110	80	100	110	120	120	110	116	102	1,178
Construction Completions ⁴	—	—	—	—	—	61	88	68	61	68	64	88	498
National Priorities List Deletions ⁵	13	0	5	10	1	9	2	12	13	25	34	32	156

¹ Numerical values for accomplishments based on information from CERCLIS in FY80 through FY86 have been rounded.
² Includes Fund-financed and potentially responsible party-financed activities; excludes federal facility activities and state-lead activities where no Fund monies were spent.
³ The figures reported in this now represent the cumulative total of proposed, final, and deleted National Priorities List sites as of the end of each fiscal year.
⁴ Adopted as measure of program progress by 1991 30-Day Study Task Force. FY91 value represents FY80 through FY91.
⁵ Total deletions include eight sites referred to other authorities in FY97.

Sources: CERCLIS (as of September 30, 1997); Office of Emergency and Remedial Response; *Federal Register* notices through September 30, 1997.

The Agency announced the Brownfields Action Agenda in January 1995 and it has grown to encompass many aspects of site redevelopment. During FY97, Brownfields pilots focused on clarifying liability and cleanup issues, partnership and outreach, and job development. By the end of FY97, 121 Brownfields pilots were awarded, ranging in values of up to \$200,000 each. These pilots encourage federal, state, and local governments and tribes to implement new strategies aimed at increasing the level and efficiency of site assessment, cleanup and redevelopment.

Emergency Response Progress

To protect human health and the environment from immediate or near-term threats, the Agency and PRPs started nearly 252 removal actions and completed 315 during FY97. More than 4,490 removal actions have been started and nearly 3,939 have been completed since the inception of the Superfund program.

Through the Superfund Accelerated Cleanup Model (SACM) the Agency continued its efforts to expand the use of removal authority for early actions

to reduce risks more rapidly and expedite cleanup at NPL sites. Early actions may include emergency, time-critical, or non-time-critical removal responses or quick remedial responses. Accelerated cleanups are targeted with other initiatives as well, including those on presumptive remedies, dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) contamination, and soil screening levels.

Remedial Progress

Remedial progress during the fiscal year reflects the Agency's continuing efforts to accelerate the pace of cleanup activities and complete cleanups at Superfund sites. As mentioned previously, by the end of FY97, work had occurred at 98 percent of the 1,405 sites proposed to, listed on, or deleted from the NPL, and construction activities had been completed to place 498 NPL sites (35 percent) in the construction completion category. During the year, the Agency and PRPs started nearly 41 remedial investigation/feasibility studies (RI/FSs), 72 RDs, and 102 RAs. EPA also signed 168 records of decision (RODs) for Fund-financed, PRP-financed sites, and federal facility sites.

The efforts of the National Remedy Review Board (NRRB) saved an estimated \$6 million in future cost reductions during FY97 alone. The NRRB conducted eight of its 20 decisions completed to date during FY97, with the intent of improving national consistency and cost-effectiveness. In addition, the Board performed an in-depth analysis of its procedures, that resulted in the modification of several of its key guidance documents. The Board acts to ensure that decisions are in compliance with regulations and guidance and continues to target high cost sites and reassure technically sound decision making.

As recommended by the 1993 Superfund Administrative Improvements Task Force, EPA continued several efforts to streamline remedial activities and increase the consistency and efficiency in Superfund cleanups. The Agency demonstrated presumptive remedies developed for municipal landfills and sites contaminated with volatile organic compounds, while working to develop presumptive remedies for wood-treatment, polychlorinated biphenyl, manufactured-gas-plant, grain storage, and polluted ground-water sites; released draft soil

screening levels (SSLs) for 100 chemicals commonly found at Superfund sites; and implemented guidance for addressing DNAPL contamination of ground water.

In continuing efforts to encourage the development and use of innovative treatment technologies to cleanup Superfund sites, the Agency took measures to demonstrate the technologies and provide information about them to potential users.

Enforcement Progress

Enforcement progress for FY97 reflects the Agency's continued commitment to maximize PRP involvement in financing and conducting cleanup, and to recover Superfund monies expended for response actions. During FY97, EPA reached agreements with PRPs worth more than \$451 million in PRP response work. Through its FY97 cost recovery efforts, EPA achieved \$158 million in settlements and collected more than \$316 million for reimbursement of Superfund expenditures. Examples of significant enforcement actions are provided in Chapter 4 of this Report.

While continuing to promote "enforcement first" to secure PRP involvement in financing and conducting cleanups, the Agency also worked to ensure equity in the enforcement process and to seek ways to reduce transaction costs. To support these goals during FY97, the Agency focused on increasing the use of allocation tools such as providing orphan share compensation, encouraging early settlements with *de minimis* and "de micromis" parties, promoting alternative dispute resolution and the equitable issuance of unilateral administrative orders (UAOs), adopting private party allocations, and creating interest bearing site-specific special accounts, fostering greater fairness for owners and prospective purchasers of Superfund sites through Prospective Purchaser Agreements (PPAs). Guidance on improving the administration of PRP oversight was implemented with the formation of a work group, that identified 100 potential sites with capable and cooperative PRPs, that may be eligible for reform. This reform decreases the government's administrative burden at these sites.

Federal Facility Cleanups

Federal departments and agencies are largely responsible for implementing CERCLA at federal facility sites. To ensure federal facility compliance with CERCLA requirements, EPA provides advice and assistance, oversees activities, and takes enforcement action where appropriate. At sites on the NPL, EPA must concur in remedy selection.

Activity during the fiscal year at federal facility sites listed on the NPL, included starting approximately 62 RI/Fs, 62 RDs, 67 removals, and 90 RAs; and signing 91 RODs. Ongoing activities at the end of FY97 included 494 RI/Fs, 74 RDs, and 169 RAs. At the end of FY97, of the 2,070 sites on the Federal Agency Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket, 25 are EPA-owned or operated facilities.

Superfund Program Support Activities

EPA took steps in FY97 to enhance community involvement, environmental justice, and EPA's partnership with states and Indian tribes. In its community involvement efforts, EPA continued measures to tailor activities to meet the specific needs of individual communities and to identify ways to enhance community involvement efforts. The Agency also continued to provide technical outreach to communities, hold national conferences on community involvement, encourage community advisory groups (CAGs) and facilitate community access to technical assistance grants (TAGs). To aid communities in obtaining technical assistance, EPA awarded 9 TAGs during the fiscal year, bringing the total number of TAGs awarded since FY88 to 198, for a total worth of more than \$13 million.

To support state and tribal involvement in the Superfund response activities, EPA has awarded \$10 million towards state voluntary cleanup programs (VCP). States which enter VCPs may sign Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) with their respective Regions which officially document the effort between EPA and states to support voluntary cleanup and the sustainable redevelopment of Brownfields sites.

As required by CERCLA Section 105(f), the Agency also engaged in efforts to encourage minority firm participation in Superfund contracting. These efforts are discussed in Section 7.2.

Resource Estimate for Superfund Implementation

Under section 301(h)(1)(c) of CERCLA, EPA is required to estimate the resources needed to implement Superfund, and CERCLA requires that EPA provide the estimates in this Report. Since the enactment of CERCLA in 1980, Congress has provided Superfund with \$17.6 billion in budget authority (FY81 through FY97). This includes \$1.7 billion for the pre-SARA period (FY81 through FY86) and \$15.9 billion for the post-SARA period, FY87 through FY97.

Estimates of the long-term resources required to implement Superfund are based on the Outyear Liability Model (OLM). The OLM estimate of the cost of completing cleanup of current NPL sites is more than \$13.6 billion for FY98 and beyond, bringing the total estimated cost for the program to \$31.3 billion.

Organization of this Report

Information prepared for this Report is assembled in response to congressional requirements specified in CERCLA 301(h)(1). Exhibit ES-3 is a guide to the information required under CERCLA and its location in the Report.

Fiscal Year 1997 Initiatives

Major initiatives in FY97 address enforcement, economic redevelopment and Brownfields initiatives, measuring program progress, federal facilities, community outreach, environmental justice, increased state and tribal involvement, and consistent program implementation. Exhibit ES-4 provides highlights of these and other initiatives undertaken by the Agency in FY97.

**Exhibit ES-3
Statutory Requirements for the Report**

CERCLA Section	CERCLA Requirement	Report Section	Report Content
301(h)(1)	Annual Report to Congress on the progress achieved in implementing Superfund during the preceding fiscal year	Executive Summary	Initiatives to improve the Superfund program
		Chapter 1	Site evaluation progress
		Chapter 2	Emergency response progress
		Chapter 3	Remedial progress
		Chapter 4	Enforcement progress
		Chapter 5	Federal facility cleanups
		Chapter 6	Resource estimates
301(h)(1)(A)	Detailed description of each feasibility study (FS) at a facility	Chapter 7	Superfund program support activities
		Section 3.3	Overview discussion of RODs signed during the fiscal year, including the number of treatment and containment remedies selected
301(h)(1)(B)	Status and estimated date of completion of each FS	Appendix C	List of RODs signed in the fiscal year
		Appendix A	Status and estimated completion date of each ongoing FS in progress at the end of the fiscal year
301(h)(1)(C)	Notice of each FS which will not meet a previously published schedule for completion and the new estimated date for completion	Appendix A	Scheduled completion date published for the last fiscal year, the scheduled completion date recorded in CERCLIS as of end of the current fiscal year, and identification of schedule changes
301(h)(1)(D)	An evaluation of newly developed feasible and achievable permanent treatment technologies	Section 3.5	Evaluation of newly developed technologies through the Superfund Innovative Technology Evaluation Program
301(h)(1)(E) 121(c)	Progress made in reducing the number of facilities subject to review under CERCLA Section 121(c), which requires the report to Congress to contain a list of facilities for which a five-year review is required, the results of all such reviews, and any actions taken as a result of such reviews	Section 3.4	Annual update on progress being made on sites subject to review under CERCLA Section 121(c)

CERCLA Section	CERCLA Requirement	Report Section	Report Content
301(h)(1)(F)	Report on the status of all remedial and enforcement actions undertaken during the fiscal year, including a comparison to remedial and enforcement actions undertaken in prior fiscal years	Section 3.2.2	Information on fiscal year remedial activity starts (including PRP involvement) with a comparison of fiscal year activities to those of previous years
		Section 4.2	Information on fiscal year enforcement activities with a comparison of fiscal year activities to those of previous years
		Appendix A	Information on the status of each RI/FS and RA in progress at the end of the fiscal year
		Appendix B	Information on the status of RDs in progress at the end of the fiscal year
301(h)(1)(G)	Estimates of the amount of resources, including the number of work years or personnel, which would be necessary for each department, agency, or instrumentality which is carrying out any activities to complete the implementation of all duties vested in the department, agency, or instrumentality	Sections 6.1 and 6.3	EPA resource estimates for completion of CERCLA implementation
		Section 6.4	Other federal agency's and department's estimates for completion of CERCLA implementation
301(h)(2)	Review by the Inspector General and submission of any report related to EPA's activities for reasonableness and accuracy	Appendix D	Review of the Inspector General on this Report
105(f)	Brief description of the contracts which have been awarded to minority firms under Superfund and the efforts made to encourage the participation of such firms in the Superfund program	Section 7.2	Information on minority contracting awards by EPA, states, Indian tribes, and other federal agencies using Superfund monies. EPA efforts to encourage increased minority contractor participation in the Superfund program
120(e)(5)	Annual report to the Congress concerning EPA progress in implementing remedial activities at its facilities	Section 5.3	Report on EPA progress in CERCLA implementation at EPA-owned facilities, including a state-by-state report

**Exhibit ES-4
Fiscal Year 1997 Superfund Initiatives**

Superfund Initiative	Status
Economic Redevelopment	
Reinventing Site Assessment	The purpose of reinventing the site assessment process is to lower costs, aid economic development and environmental recovery, encourage more efficient site cleanups, and to allow States to have more responsibility. The site assessment process has been redesigned to focus more on redevelopment of Brownfields, to heighten state and tribal programs' expertise, and to address sites in CERCLIS and on the NPL. Some priorities of the site assessment process include listing appropriate sites on the NPL and evaluating non-CERCLIS sites in conjunction with the Brownfields initiative.
Brownfields	Fiscal year 1997 saw the announcement of 121 Brownfields pilots. Funding will be allocated to 25 new pilot recipients, 29 old recipients (prior to 1996), and the State Cleanup Program. Additionally, funding will be provided to implement outreach programs for existing pilot recipients in order to foster stronger partnerships between tribes, states, and federal, and local governments.
Archiving CERCLIS Sites	EPA continued archiving sites which are no longer of concern to the Superfund program. Of over 41,000 sites placed into CERCLIS, only about 5 percent of these have been determined as NPL sites.
Prospective Purchaser Agreements	Prospective Purchaser Agreements (PPAs) allow people to purchase contaminated land for redevelopment while releasing them from potential future liability. Four guidance documents on PPAs were issued to aid the approval of future agreements. Sixty-eight PPAs existed by the end of FY97.
Better Waste Management, Restoration of Contaminated Waste Sites, and Emergency Response	By continuing to regulate waste management, the Agency reduces the risk of human health exposures and environmental exposures. As a result, there will be fewer "new" Superfund sites. EPA can greatly reduce the effects of uncontrolled exposures on local communities and their sensitive environments by restoring contaminated sites. The Agency can minimize the risk caused by emergencies with rapid response and levying PRP resources to fund responses to the maximum extent. These measures are being taken to make each program more effective and efficient.
Measuring Program Progress	
Environmental Indicators	Environmental indicators serve as a visible, easily expressed means of conveying the success of the Superfund program. Through the use of indicators, the benefits of Superfund become apparent, especially in terms of reduced threats to human health. EPA continued to develop two environmental indicators to address human health risk reduction (Indicator D), and ecological risk reduction (Indicator E) for implementation by the end of FY97.
Construction Completions	The Agency has set a goal of 650 construction completions by the end of the year 2000. Sites in the remedial design/remedial action stage will be managed effectively to see that they are quickly brought through to construction completeness. The Agency stresses the importance for states and regions to work together to determine opportunities to expedite construction completions and response actions.

Superfund Initiative	Status
Federal Facilities	
Federal Facilities	A primary mission of Superfund is to make sure that federally-owned or operated hazardous waste facilities are cleaned up as quickly as possible. Regional attention is given to advance these sites to construction completeness, whether it is by removal or remedial authority.
Base Closures	Currently, 113 military installations are scheduled for closure or realignment. Twenty-one of these sites are on the NPL and others need some amount of decontamination. The Agency will continue to assist the DoD with the assessment, cleanup, and listing of appropriate sites on the NPL. They will also ensure that the remedies at the 21 NPL sites meet Superfund criteria.
Environmental Justice	
Jobs Training Initiative	The Jobs Training Initiative strives to train and employ those residents living near NPL sites through worker training the classroom and in the field. A minority worker training program was begun and pilots were started at five Superfund sites in hopes of increasing job opportunities in communities with hazardous waste sites.
Community Involvement and Outreach	
Superfund Ombudsman for each Region	Ombudsmen were established in each Region in 1996 to resolve concerns and provide guidance to stakeholders on Superfund and other environmental issues. During 1997, increased requests for assistance from stakeholders in several Regions made the Superfund program more responsive to community concerns.
Consistent Program Implementation	
Worst Sites First	EPA's highest priority and guiding principle is to remove imminent risk from humans and the environment. When the Agency has decided that a site does not pose an imminent risk, they will move on to other priorities. Until that point, any site which poses an imminent risk to public health and the environment is considered top priority.
Guidance for Remedy Selection	The Agency continued developing guidance aimed at improving removal cost and time savings on the subjects of soil screening, land-use, and presumptive remedies. Soil screening guidance serves to work in conjunction with SACM, and future plans call for the development of ecological soil screening levels. EPA has estimated a 36 to 56 percent time savings based on the use of the presumptive remedies guidance at municipal landfills alone.
Innovative Technologies	The innovative technologies which are being developed or implemented include the use of presumptive remedies for the cleanup of municipal landfills, a method for rapidly assessing the presence of dense non-aqueous phase liquid (DNAPL) contamination, national soil acceptance levels, and the continuation of Superfund Accelerated Cleanup Model (SACM). These innovative technologies will be assessed at federal facilities. In some instances, EPA is sharing the risks associated with implementing innovative technologies by reimbursing up to 50 percent of the costs of such technologies, if they should fail.

Superfund Initiative	Status
Effective Contract Management	The Agency will continue to implement the suggestions of the task force on Alternative Remedial Contracting Strategy contracts as well as apply the Long-Term Contracting Strategy. The Special Analytical Service contract has been totally decentralized and new Regional Superfund contracts are currently being managed. EPA pays particular attention to conflicts of interest involving EPA contractors who also may be working for another federal agency.
National Remedy Review Board	In 1997, the National Remedy Review Board achieved both its objectives of promoting cost effectiveness and creating national consistency between Regions in remedy selection. Eight cleanup decisions were reviewed, saving approximately \$6 million in 1997 alone, bringing the grand total of savings to over \$31 million. A detailed analysis of Board operating procedures has altered key strategies.
Technical Review Workgroup on Lead	Consistency in risk assessments involving lead (Pb) has been improved through the Technical Review Workgroup (TRW), which issues fact sheets and issue papers on key parameters of risk assessment. The TRW has examined the Integrated Exposure Uptake and Biokinetic (IEUBK) Lead model to better determine the risks to people living near lead-contaminated sites.
Enforcement	
Enforcement Fairness/Reduce Transaction Cost	The Agency promotes fair treatment of all PRPs and tries to reduce private sector transaction costs associated with site cleanups. Six initiatives were developed during the past year: Orphan Share Compensation, "De Micromis Settlements," Alternative Dispute Resolution, Equitable Issuance of UAOs, Adopting Private Party Allocations, and Interest Bearing Site Specific Special Accounts. These programs either reduce transaction costs paid by PRPs as part of the settlement process, or ensure that PRPs only pay a fair portion of response costs for the sites where they are involved.
Enforcement First/Cost Recovery	The Agency will continue to emphasize early initiation of PRP searches, negotiations to bind PRPs into leading cleanup activities, Alternative Dispute Resolutions, and monitoring compliance violations. In the past few years, PRPs have lead the majority of new cleanup actions, which has accelerated the pace of Superfund cleanups. Early involvement of PRPs also keeps transaction and cleanup costs at a minimum.
Improved PRP Oversight	To help reduce project completion cost and time, a work group emerged in FY97 to put a 1996 guidance into practice. This guidance aims to reduce EPA oversight at sites where have PRPs are deemed "cooperative and capable." Regional Offices are responsible for notifying the PRP's of EPA's intentions and will meet with the PRPs to discuss the future of their various oversight activities.
State and Tribal Involvement	
Voluntary Clean-up Program	EPA distributed \$10 million in support of voluntary cleanup programs (VCP) in FY97. Guidance is pending consensus on certain critical aspects.. In all, 11 Memoranda of Agreement have been signed, dictating voluntary cleanup strategies and Brownfields redevelopment. The VCPs are extremely popular, with 35 states choosing to adopt them.

Superfund Initiative	Status
Enhancement of State/Tribal Role	The EPA is giving states and tribes an increased role in the cleanup of hazardous waste sites. Current programs will be transferred to the States and Tribes in order to support this goal. Tribes will be considered independent entities from the states.
Performance Partnership Grants (PPG)	Tribes and states may apply for a PPG in order to consolidate funds from their categorical grants into one or more PPGs. NEPPS (National Environmental Performance Partnership System) agreements will be required for each PPG. These agreements are program commitments describing the goals and objectives, results and benefits expected, plan of action, and projections of program accomplishments. PPGs cannot specifically contain Superfund resources. However, the EPA is working towards increasing state flexibility with Superfund funding.
State/Tribal Programs: State Remedy Selection	Under this pilot program, states and tribes are allowed to chose certain remedies for some sites as long as the remedy is in compliance with the National Contingency Plan (NCP). This program allows states and tribes to completely oversee the remedy selection process with minimal EPA supervision. The state/tribal program will be evaluated in 1997 to identify opportunities to offer states and tribes an even greater role in the Superfund program.

Source: Superfund Program Implementation Manual Fiscal Year 1997 (SPIM), Superfund Reforms Annual Report FY1997.

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