

# Region 6 - 2016 Plan

## Administrator's Priorities

1. Addressing Climate Change
2. Improving Air Quality
3. Making Visible Difference in Communities Across the Country
4. Taking Action on Toxics and Chemical Safety
5. Protecting Water: A Precious, Limited Resource
6. Working Toward a Sustainable Future, EJ and Environmentalism
7. Launching a New Era of State, Tribal and Local Partnerships
8. Embracing EPA as a High Performing Organization



## Looking ahead

*"As we enter this last year of the current administration, it is important to stay focused on our goals and mission at hand. We have made such a difference in our region and local communities, and the results will be long lasting. I have utmost confidence that, as a cohesive Region, we are on target for another successful year while meeting and exceeding our goals."*

- Ron Curry

### Addressing Climate Change

Promote innovative energy projects to meet the nation's energy needs:

- Conduct outreach and educational efforts on the final CAA 111(d) rule for existing power plants
- Receive approval extension requests for CPP from all States
- Promote Federal Green Challenge; provide technical assistant to current participants to retain 80%
- Recruit/retain 44 partners in Sustainable Material Challenges, Federal Green Challenge and Food Recovery Challenge
- Provide 2 training events on water utilities climate resilience
- Conduct 2 energy management webinars and 1 workshop for water and wastewater utilities
- Conduct 2 sessions on sustainable practices funding opportunities
- Recruit 6 WaterSense partners
- Provide 2 training/discussion opportunities on carbon footprint reduction to disadvantaged communities at OK EJ Workshop and All States Summit
- Complete AR and OK EJ State Plans
- Award 4 EJ Small Grants that include community climate resiliency

### Improving Air Quality

Ensure clean air for communities:

- Issue grants for emission control technologies that reduce diesel engine related emissions
- Complete 3 technical system audits and 6 network assessment review for ambient air quality organizations
- Finalize AR Regional Haze Plan
- Complete designations under the SO2 standard for 20 largest emission locations
- Review/Comment on Camp Minden Comprehensive Test Plan; test burn and stack test results
- Educate 300 children, parents, elderly and caregivers on indoor environmental risks
- Train 50 health care professionals on indoor environmental risks
- Hold discussions on regulatory and non-regulatory actions that reduce air pollution in vulnerable communities at OK EJ Training
- Conduct 10 CAA compliance facilities evaluations in noncompliance
- Initiate 5 CAA enforcement actions at facilities in noncompliance
- Conduct 20 compliance evaluations at oil and gas facilities

### Making a Visible Difference in Communities Across the Country

Where EPA's Mission has an impact:

- Work with TCEQ and City of Frisco on Exide facility cleanup
- Assist with WIPP inspection, report completion and Biennial Compliance Report issuance
- Oversee NMEDs actions with WIPP, LANL and TCEQs Waste Control Specialists actions
- Issue 2 RfR determinations to promote land reuse with States
- Ensure Plains Terminals complete site-wide cleanup
- Conduct 3 projects with 2 MVD community local government officials
- Support White House Council for Strong City Strong Communities activities; Promise Zone work in linked communities to Urban Waters locations
- Support Urban Waters project work plans and partnerships
- Work with Nueces County to accept planning and design supported with Texas Water Development Board subsidy
- Facilitate discussions with federal and local agencies to reduce or resolve issues in communities
- Conduct 85 Brownfield property assessments
- Cleanup 5 Brownfield properties
- Complete 28 Superfund-lead and PRP lead removal actions/responses
- Conduct 60 Superfund site assessments
- Reach settlement or take enforcement action before the start of remedial action at 95% of Superfund site with viable PRPs
- Hold 20 community meetings at Superfund sites
- Complete 6 Superfund Remedial Action projects

### Taking Action on Toxics and Chemical Safety

Prioritize decisions to maximize environmental benefits:

- Reissue 17 state permits to ensure proper management of hazardous waste
- Control human exposure to toxins in 12 priority RCRA facilities
- Complete construction of final remedies at 17 RCRA facilities
- Complete 6 PCB evaluations on permits and cleanup plans
- Hold P2 Roundtable pollution prevention approaches meeting in OK



# Region 6 - 2016 Plan

*This year, we will focus our energy, talents and resources to accomplish these priorities:*

- Facilitate discussions with federal and local agencies to reduce issues at the gypsum waste are at the Pueblo of Zia
- Issue 10 CAFOs requiring worker training and contingency plans at hazardous waste generators
- Partner with DHS and DOL to conduct 32 Local Emergency Planning committee workshops

Protecting children where they live, learn and play:

- Coordinate ambient air quality monitoring for chloroprene in La Place, LA
- Promote IPM programs to decrease children's exposure in schools
- Partner to UT Public Health and TX Dept of State Health to train public health and health care professional in TX
- Promote lead safe work practices; use of trained professionals in RRP
- Conduct inspections at 5 child occupied facilities for Lead-based paint RRP
- Conduct soil kitchen testing event in Austin, TX
- Conduct or participate in 8 exercises to improve emergency preparedness

## **Protecting Water: A Precious, Limited Resource**

Ensure safe drinking water for communities:

- Ensure drinking water standards for 90% of the regional population
- Provide technical assistance to 5 tribal drinking water systems to improve compliance with SDWA standards
- Assess EPA disposal well permits on OK tribal lands for induced seismicity concerns
- Provide tools and support to OK to address seismicity trends
- Finalize EPA policy document on aquifer exemptions
- Partner with 5 WaterSense partners for Fix a Leak week activities
- Assist TWDB with large DWSRF ULOs to ensure funds are loaned to communities in need of new and or refurbished systems
- Address priority tribal Public Water Systems using Enforcement Targeting Tool
- Support Kirtland AFB Bulk Fuel Facility Spill Modeling Workgroup; assist with monitoring, extraction and injections wells.
- Assist NMED with work plans and technical documents review of remediation of the fuel spill
- Work with State partners to address/resolve 450 significantly noncompliant public water systems
- Work with state and federal funding agencies on drinking water requirements at public water supplies
- Achieve groundwater migration under control at 4 Superfund sites

Provide leadership to restore and protect watersheds and coastal waters:

- Partner with agencies and communities to collect unused pharmaceuticals
- Lead 1 Earth Day activity to promote water quality
- Maintain NPDES permit currency rate of 90%

- Hold stakeholder meeting on reissuance of Offshore, Texas Territorial/Coastal Oil and Gas General permits expiring in FY17
- Review/comment on 5 State CWA 303(d) lists of impaired waters
- Work with states to curb sources of nonpoint pollution; develop 5 new watershed plans; host RTAG on nutrient targets
- Work with states to document 3 success stories of nonpoint source impaired waters
- Partner with coastal consortiums to restore coastal wetlands and habitats
- Negotiate Intra-Agency Partnership Agreement for compliance for large water supply projects
- Partner with federal/water agencies on 10,000 acre reservoir review
- Assist NM in monitoring the San Juan and Animas River watersheds to assess impacts from historical mining activities
- Conduct 80% of CAFO inspections in impaired watersheds and water bodies or citizen complaints
- Conduct 60% of NPDES inspections in impaired watersheds or sensitive water bodies
- Conduct 100 SPCC and 30 FRP inspections and response exercises at OPA regulated facilities
- Respond to oil spills impacting waters of the US that meet regional response criteria

## **Working Toward A Sustainable Future, Environmental Justice and Environmentalism**

Partner with vulnerable communities to address concerns related to environmental justice priorities:

- Address human health concerns in Alexandria/Pineville LA community
- Improve Indian Country drinking water compliance through training
- Recruit 2 new partners that encourage environmental education/outreach
- Collaborate with federal, state and local partners to address water issues in underserved communities
- Conduct conference calls for leaders from vulnerable communities on EJ issues
- Conduct quarterly conference calls to discuss broad EJ priorities
- Update AR, TX, NM and LA EJ state plans
- Issue 5 CAA enforcement actions at facilities impacting communities
- Review draft NEPA documents for impacts to EJ/tribal communities

Improving the environment along the US/Mexico Border

- Participate in Joint Air Coordinating binational committee meetings
- Co-report on US-Mexico Border air quality trends for ozone and particulate matter for State of the Environment Report
- Partner with TX to develop/host decentralized septic system best management practices workshop for along US-Mexico border
- Assist the Lower Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Watershed Initiative with a planned model project workshop



**W**orkforce Diversity, **E**nvironmental Stewardship

**C**haracter, **A**ccountability, **R**espect, **E**xcellence

# Region 6 - 2016 Plan

*This year, we will focus our energy, talents and resources to accomplish these priorities:*

- Provide 500 additional homes with safe drinking water
- Provide 40,000 additional homes with adequate wastewater sanitation
- Secure local, state/federal funding for drinking water/wastewater service connections to 1 US-Mexico Border community
- Generate PROAIRE SIP for the State of Chihuahua's shared air basins with NM and TX
- Increase efforts on binational water quality planning through stakeholder collaboration
- Dispose of 1M used tires through a business partnership
- Continue work with Anthony, NM on EPA's Building Blocks workshop
- Train and equip US and Mexican responders to address hazmat incidences along the border communities

## Launching a New Era of State, Tribal and Local Partnerships

Addressing State Priorities:

- Review new TCEQ ambient air quality monitor locations near SO<sub>2</sub> sources greater than 2,000 tons per year
- Address 40 SIP revisions reducing SIP backlog negotiated with States
- Partner with States developing/implementing a hazardous waste program 3-year training plan
- Hold Lead Paint meeting with State and Tribal partners
- Hold Pesticides Program meeting with State and Tribal partners
- Meet with state UST/LUST program managers to increase compliance, prevention, cleanup, address new releases and ensure financial assurance
- Host 1 NPDES Permit State Managers meeting
- Co-sponsor 1 regional MS4 conference for state and municipalities
- Participate in 1 pretreatment workshop for states and municipalities
- Conduct 1 on-site Permit Quality Review of a state NPDES program
- Hold 1 Whole Effluent Toxicity training for state staff
- Work to award all CWA and SDWA funds to ensure clean/safe water
- Achieve 90% CWSRF and 83% DWSRF Funds Utilization Rate; accomplish 460 DW Systems Initiations of Operations
- Oversee grants awarded to US-Mexico Border related entities
- Award GAP grants to federally recognized tribes
- Award EJ grants to organizations that reduce impacts to communities
- Conduct a State Review Framework with LDEQ
- Initiate a State Review Framework with TCEQ
- Hold 2 Superfund Regional Team meetings with State and Tribal partners

Safeguarding our Trust responsibilities:

- Hold Radon Stakeholders meeting
- Conduct 40 UST regulatory inspections at tribal UST facilities
- Offer Government-to-Government Tribal Consultation for tribes affected by NPDES permitting actions
- Assist 1 tribal partner measure quality of their waters, establish authorities and set standards/targets for waters in Indian Country
- Assist tribes develop E-Enterprise tool to manage water information

- Complete 17 EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans
- Facilitate 3 RTOC meetings
- Conduct Superfund Risk Assessment Training at RTOC meeting

## Embracing EPA as a High Performing Organization

Developing our People:

- Measure Lean results, implement projects from other successes and work with States on process improvement
- Assist ORD with deploying a community bench monitor in Houston
- Promote cross-program opportunities by assignments/reassignments
- Promote climate change adaption through on-line training and tools
- Lean 3 processes within Water Quality Division
- Co-host CWA dredge and fill permitting with federal partners
- Host training seminar to improve partnering with communities
- Conduct Annual Civil/Criminal Enforcement Training
- Conduct on-board training for 20 new hires in CAED
- Provide training to HQ and other regions on RCRA Data Mining
- Provide Inspector Training to States
- Provide 6 Employee Assistance Program trainings
- Provide 3 Job Swap Brown Bags
- Provide 1 Individual Development Plan Brown Bag Sessions for new employees
- Provide 8 Division Onboarding presentations for new employees
- Conduct mentoring speed dating; update mentoring roster

Ensure integrity of our financial management:

- Award and manage grants and cooperative agreements
- Perform 20 advanced reviews of federal financial assistance agreements
- Monitor and evaluate water grant recipients to ensure financial integrity
- Conduct programmatic advanced monitoring reviews on OEJTIA grants
- Ensure financial activities comply with FMFIA and internal controls
- Review 100% of required recorded ULOs; de-obligate unneeded funds

Advancing the role of science, research, and technological innovation:

- Evaluate use of low-cost sensors by community participants for collection of fine particulate emissions in urban areas with Region 4
- Provide support to fill information gaps on EPA's Hydrofracking report
- Host SRF training for Headquarters/regional EPA financial analysts
- Develop expanded capability to analyze for semi-volatile compounds at low part per trillion detection limits using new GC/MS/MS technology
- Complete ASTM Method for anion analysis in high dissolved solids matrices and initiate multi-laboratory validation study
- Initiate green chemistry study of the analysis of pharmaceuticals and personal care products in surface waters



**W**orkforce Diversity, **E**nvironmental Stewardship

**C**haracter, **A**ccountability, **R**espect, **E**xcellence

March 4, 2016

# Region 6 - 2016 Plan

*This year, we will focus our energy, talents and resources  
to accomplish these priorities:*

**Questions?  
Please talk with your supervisor about  
our goals**



**Our 2015 Accomplishments Report is  
available at  
[www.epa.gov/region6](http://www.epa.gov/region6)**