FY 2017 Program Evaluations

Project in Brief	Purpose and Brief Description	List of Results and Conclusions	Significance
Impacts of Brownfield Remediation on Residential Property Tax Revenue Completed: FY 2017 Office of Land and Emergency Management http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/689743	Estimated the impact of EPA's Brownfields Cleanup Grants program on residential property tax revenue.	Analysis of the data near 48 brownfield sites showed that an estimated $29 to $97 million in additional tax revenue was generated for local governments in a single year after cleanup. This is 2 to 7 times more than the $12.4 million the EPA contributed to the cleanup of those brownfields	The analysis provided OLEM with a better understanding of one of the benefits that accrue to local governments and communities as the result of brownfield cleanup. This information will be used to communicate to key stakeholders on the impact of the Brownfields Cleanup Grants program.
Evaluation of Homeland Security Research Program's (HSRP) Research Focused on Supporting a Wide-Area Biological Agent Cleanup Completed: FY 2017 Office of Research and Development Homeland Security Research Program	Assessed whether the program is doing the right research, provided recommendations on how the program can improve transition to end users, and assessed to what extent the program's work in this area will provide multiple benefits to our nation by addressing critical needs beyond those directly related to terrorist bio-attacks.	HSRP, with Agency support, should continue to build out its social and behavioral science capability. The Research Program evaluation recommendations included: (1) encouraging social and behavioral science experts to engage in steady and systematic dialogue with the program's physical scientists; (2) incorporating social and behavioral science perspectives, methods, and analysis into operational demonstrations and exercises that seek to capture "real world" conditions; and (3) supporting the ongoing networking of social and behavioral experts across different programs and divisions.	The recommendations from these program evaluations inform the overall research agenda and how it is implemented for the Homeland Security Research Program. Specific examples include: expanded engagement of research stakeholders outside of the Agency, application of HSRP research to non-CBRN (e.g., chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) environmental responses, and addition of research efforts to examine the social factors that impact outcomes of cleanup operations.