

Region 6 - 2019 Accomplishments

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



A YEAR IN REVIEW

“Region 6 is an innovative leader in environmental protection. Both our dedicated staff and our collaboration with state, local, Tribal, and other federal agencies help us achieve and exceed ambitious goals set by our leadership. We are proud of these achievements and motivated to do even more in 2020.”
Region 6 Administrator Ken McQueen

- Responded to the ITC fire in Deer Park, Texas – at nearly 1M barrels of hazardous substances released, it is one of the largest releases EPA has responded to in its history.
- Redesignated Independence County, Arkansas, from unclassifiable to attainment for SO₂ (the first such action in the country) and made a major step toward redesignating St. Bernard Parish in Louisiana to attainment for SO₂.
- Reduced Region 6’s State Implementation Plan (SIP) backlog by 42%, and eliminated it entirely in Arkansas.
- Returned more than 6,800 acres to the tax rolls and community development through the Ready-for-Reuse Program.
- Removed more than 1.5M tons of hazardous material and/or contaminated soil, more than 1,000 containers of hazardous materials, more than 8,900 gallons of liquid hazardous waste, and 66 cubic yards of radioactive materials through the Superfund program.
- Awarded 470 grants totaling \$430M, including:
 - » 216 water grants for \$344M,
 - » Superfund cleanup and community participation grants for \$75M,
 - » 61 General Assistance Program grants to Tribes for \$7.6M,
 - » Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) program grants to states for \$3.2M,
 - » three Environmental Education grants for \$300,000.
- Processed more than 80% of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests on time.
- Concluded over 300 enforcement actions resulting in \$13.3M in penalties, \$130,000 in stipulated penalties, \$2.7M in Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs), and \$50.2M spent in complying actions, resulting in 23.8M pounds of pollutants reduced and more than 9,000 people protected for drinking water.
- Reduced our backlog of judicial referrals by 57%.
- Reviewed 100% of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for delegated states on time.
- Moved into new office space in Dallas, saving an estimated \$50M through the lifetime of the lease.
- Won national competition for Non-Point Source (NPS) funds and awarded the first grant to incorporate Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development into a hazard mitigation plan for the city of Denton, Texas.
- Completed a partial deletion from the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) for the attainment of safe drinking water levels for most of the South Valley site in Albuquerque, New Mexico, clearing the way for future development.
- Issued complex Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit to the Los Alamos National Laboratory, which withstood rigorous legal challenge. Released a site-wide strategic plan for the Tar Creek Superfund site in Oklahoma, accelerating cleanup, recording the first national conservation easement on tribally-owned property at a Superfund site, and achieving removal from the Administrator’s Emphasis List.
- Interacted face-to-face 127 times with our states and 20 times with our Tribes at the Regional Administrator’s office level.
- Achieved our goal of 63 total EPA Tribal Environmental Plans.
- Achieved final cleanup with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) at the Plains/Encycle site, which is now redeveloped and making a significant contribution to the Corpus Christi economy.
- Collaborated with Louisiana’s Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to obtain \$39M to construct and nourish 928 acres of back barrier intertidal marsh for the Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation Project.
- Leveraged a projected \$23-25 for every federal dollar spent to plan, assess and clean up the former Evans-Fintube Brownfields site in the Greenwood historic district of Tulsa, Oklahoma, which will be the home of BMX Corporation USA headquarters.
- Achieved highest response rate (86%) of all EPA offices for 2019 Employee Viewpoint Survey.
- Negotiated a settlement to resolve enforcement actions taken against three operators of seven Underground Injection Control (UIC) wells near Bird Creek in Osage County, Oklahoma.



Workforce Diversity, Environmental Stewardship, Character, Accountability, Respect, Excellence

Region 6 - 2019 Accomplishments



Administrator's Strategic Goals

A Year In Review



GOAL 1: A CLEANER, HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT

OBJECTIVE 1.1: Improve Air Quality

- ✓ Worked closely with the State of Louisiana and impacted facilities to finalize approval of St. Bernard Parish Attainment Demonstration for SO₂, stopping a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) clock and taking a major step toward redesignation of the area to attainment.
- ✓ Redesignated Independence County, Arkansas, from unclassifiable to attainment for SO₂, the first such action in the country.
- ✓ Approved the Houston Reasonable Further Progress SIP, ensuring adequate progress is being made in reducing emissions.
- ✓ Approved rules confirming that Reasonably Available Control Technology was in place in the Houston area for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and in the Dallas/Fort Worth area for nitrogen oxides.
- ✓ Processed 32 SIP revisions during the 2019 calendar year and reduced our backlog of SIP revisions from 33 to 19, a 42% reduction.
- ✓ Eliminated the Arkansas SIP backlog, making it the third state in the nation to reach such a goal.
- ✓ Completed five data certifications for air monitoring data, reviewed six annual network plans to ensure monitoring networks continue to meet necessary requirements, and shifted resources for Technical Systems Audits (TSA), reducing the backlog of TSAs from five to three.
- ✓ Met with Texas and Louisiana to discuss ethylene oxide emissions from 10 facilities in Region 6 and to explain EPA's two-pronged approach to ethylene oxide (reviewing regulations and gathering emissions information).

- ✓ Approved an Arkansas Regional Haze SIP revision that replaced the FIP requiring controls on electric generating units.
- ✓ Proposed to withdraw the Startup Shutdown Malfunction SIP call for Texas, in response to a TCEQ petition.

OBJECTIVE 1.2: Provide for Clean & Safe Water

- ✓ Addressed 739 drinking water priority systems with formal enforcement action or resolution.
- ✓ Developed an interactive guide to help schools and child care providers identify potential funding sources for lead remediation and water quality-related projects/policies to reduce children's exposure to lead in drinking water.
- ✓ Collaborated with schools and Tribal partners to identify 99 facilities for drinking water sampling.
- ✓ Helped residents on both sides of the border near El Paso, Texas, address risk of waterborne diseases and heavy metals contamination in water storage by installing point of use filtering devices.
- ✓ Completed 216 water program grant funding actions totaling approximately \$343.8M, providing financial assistance to states, Tribes, and non-profits to improve water quality, finance wastewater treatment infrastructure, and protect and maintain drinking water quality.
- ✓ Won national competition for NPS funds and awarded the first grant for \$50K to incorporate Green Infrastructure/Low Impact



Workforce Diversity, Environmental Stewardship, Character, Accountability, Respect, Excellence

Region 6 - 2019 Accomplishments

This past year, we focused our energy, talents, and resources to accomplish these priorities:

Development into a hazard mitigation plan for the city of Denton, Texas.

- ✓ Restored 14 nonpoint source impaired water bodies in Oklahoma, surpassing our goal of six and continuing our run as #1 in the nation for the NPS program.
- ✓ Completed wastewater infrastructure projects in North Alamo, Texas residents and Sunland Park, New Mexico, benefiting more than 8,000 with an EPA investment of \$10.9M for total project costs of \$24.5M. Leveraged \$1.25 in other state funding sources for every EPA dollar spent.
- ✓ Certified a wastewater project for construction in Gustavo Diaz Ordaz (Mexico) to eliminate 600,000 gallons/day of untreated wastewater discharges to the Rio Grande.
- ✓ Successfully collaborated with Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to obtain \$39M to construct and nourish 928 acres of back barrier intertidal marsh for the Caminada Headlands Back Barrier Marsh Creation Project.
- ✓ Sampled drinking water for lead at 53 Tribal schools and day care facilities and employed mitigation at all of the sites with lead levels in drinking water exceeding 15 ppb, positively impacting an estimated 4,000 Native American children.
- ✓ Eliminated the backlog of Sole Source Aquifer reviews, ensuring federally funded construction projects over these primary sources of drinking water do not negatively impact the water quality.
- ✓ Processed five no migration petitions during FY2019, which almost doubled the annual output for many years prior to FY2018.
- ✓ Issued complex MS4 permit to the Los Alamos National Laboratory, which withstood rigorous legal challenge.

OBJECTIVE 1.3: Revitalize Land & Prevent Contamination

- ✓ Responded to the ITC fire in Deer Park, Texas, one of the largest hazardous substances releases EPA has responded to in its history. Worked with responders from TCEQ and other State, Federal, and local agencies to ensure a coordinated response, providing water quality monitoring and more than 3,000 air monitoring readings from the ground and from more than 50 hours in an aircraft, ultimately collecting more than 3.8M data points. Provided technical support, expedited sample preparation and analysis, and final analytical reports on an accelerated schedule.
- ✓ Responded to an explosion and subsequent fire at the TPC

Group facility in Port Neches, Texas, in a Unified Command with Jefferson County, TCEQ and TPC, providing air monitoring, water sampling and data collection via the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft.

- ✓ Completed 46 Tribal Underground Storage Tank inspections.
- ✓ Completed over 600 Leaking Underground Storage Tank cleanups, exceeding our target of 580.
- ✓ Recruited and retained 119 partners for the EPA's Food Recovery Challenge, who diverted or recycled nearly 70,000 tons of food waste that would have normally been landfilled.
- ✓ Accomplished 54 Brownfields Ready for Anticipated Use (RAU) determinations (which beat our goal of 45), resulting in 1,303 acres that are Ready for Reuse.
- ✓ Constructed final remedies at 11 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) facilities (exceeding the goal by 38%), accomplished 17 facility-wide RAU determinations (exceeding our goal by 70%), and 20 remediation complete determinations (exceeding the Annual Commitment System (ACS) goal by 54%). These determinations increased the number of acres RAU by 5,000 acres.
- ✓ Determined three Superfund NPL sites, totaling 559 acres, were Ready-for-Reuse.
- ✓ Exceeded the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) goal for RCRA permits by 58% with a total of 19 hazardous waste management facilities with updated controls in place to prevent releases to air, soil, and groundwater.
- ✓ Achieved final cleanup with TCEQ at the Plains/Encycle site, which is now redeveloped and making a significant contribution to the Corpus Christi, Texas, economy.
- ✓ Accomplished 110 Brownfields assessments in FY2019, which exceeded the GPRA goal by 57%, and accomplished six cleanups in FY2019, which exceeded the GPRA goal by 50%.
- ✓ Negotiated agreements with the responsible parties for the San Mateo Creek Basin legacy uranium mines to perform comprehensive investigations on groundwater impacts from historic mine water discharges.
- ✓ Released a site-wide strategic plan for the Tar Creek Superfund site in Oklahoma, which accelerated cleanup, resulting in the first national conservation easement recorded on Tribally-owned property at a Superfund site, and achieving removal from the Administrator's Emphasis List.
- ✓ Partially deleted one NPL site and completed seven remedial



Region 6 - 2019 Accomplishments

This past year, we focused our energy, talents, and resources to accomplish these priorities:

- designs, six remedial actions, 13 Five-Year Reviews, 22 removals, 58 facility response plan inspections, and 136 Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) inspections.
- ✓ Completed design, contracted a funding match with Texas, and funded remedy construction for the Donna Canal Superfund site.
- ✓ Selected remedy and negotiated engineering plans for the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site.
- ✓ Awarded \$75M to cleanup sites/support communities' participation in the Superfund program.
- ✓ Oversaw significant response actions for flooding in Oklahoma and Arkansas.
- ✓ Collected \$10.9M through Superfund settlements.
- ✓ Acquired over \$20M from the Multi-State Trust to fund four Superfund site cleanups.
- ✓ Agreement in principle reached on the Griggs & Walnut Superfund site litigation for \$11M; \$2M for past costs and \$9M for work.
- ✓ Implemented a process for tracking and evaluating \$275M in financial assurance that ensures cleanup actions continue if the Potentially Responsible Party refuses or is unable to complete the response actions.
- ✓ Completed treatment and disposal of 1,239 total containers at the HP Gases site in Baytown, Texas.
- ✓ Completed the removal and disposal of over 3,200 tons of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) soils and over 6,000 tons of other contaminated soil from the F.J. Doyle Salvage site in Leonard, Texas.
- ✓ Completed the removal of tanks, hazardous liquids, and sludges at the EVR-Wood Tank facility, in Jennings, Louisiana, including over 200,000 pounds of pentachlorophenol.
- ✓ Conducted air monitoring at a barge collision incident in Bayport, Texas, that resulted in a 25,000-barrel gasoline discharge into the Houston Ship Channel.
- ✓ Finished removing 150,000 pounds of chromium hazardous waste and other wastes at the US Cooling Towers and Supply site in Plainview, Texas.
- ✓ Finished removing 50 cubic yards of radiological contaminated materials under a roadway in the Lowerline neighborhood of New Orleans, Louisiana.
- ✓ Conducted community air monitoring at the ExxonMobil Baytown Olefins Plant distillation tower fire involving polypropylene in Baytown, Texas.
- ✓ Removed mercury from inside a residence in DeQuincy, Louisiana, as well as other residences and a hospital that were cross-contaminated.
- ✓ Removed 19 debris piles and over 19,000 tons of demolition debris contaminated with asbestos from the Goodrich Asbestos site in Miami, Oklahoma.
- ✓ Removed almost 2,400 tons of soil contaminated with asbestos from rural areas which previously housed a vermiculite and exfoliation process in Llano, Texas.
- ✓ Removed 1,297 tons of soils containing PCBs (non-Toxic Substances Control Act) and 16 cubic yards of naturally occurring radioactive materials from the Henryetta Iron and Metal facility in Henryetta, Oklahoma, the former location of a metal recovery facility.
- ✓ Removed about 89,000 gallons of liquid hazardous waste and 162 cubic yards of hazardous solid waste (involving chromated copper arsenate) from the Walker Wood former wood treating facility in Livingston, Texas.
- ✓ Removed 1.5M to 2M tons of lead-contaminated battery casings from Wood Industries in San Antonio, Texas, a former recycling facility.
- ✓ Plugged 69 wells and repaired three leaking flow lines at Lake Oologah in Winganon, Oklahoma.
- ✓ Signed a Record of Decision that ensures residents can receive a vapor mitigation system to remove harmful contaminants from their homes if the indoor air is contaminated by the Eagle Picher Carefree Battery site in Socorro, New Mexico.
- ✓ Completed a partial deletion from the NPL for the attainment of safe drinking water levels for most of the South Valley site in Albuquerque, New Mexico, clearing the way for future development.
- ✓ Completed construction and began operating a soil vapor extraction system to remove residual contamination in the soil near the Jones Road Groundwater Plume Superfund site in Houston, Texas.
- ✓ Authorized extending a public water supply line to supply clean water to residents whose wells have been impacted by chromium groundwater contamination from the Odessa Chromium #1 Superfund site in Odessa, Texas.
- ✓ Evaluated lead contamination observed in yards near the Trottnier Iron and Metal Superfund site in San Antonio, Texas.



Region 6 - 2019 Accomplishments

This past year, we focused our energy, talents, and resources to accomplish these priorities:

- ✓ Leveraged a projected \$23-25 for every federal dollar spent to plan, assess, and clean up the former Evans-Fintube Brownfields site in the Greenwood historic district of Tulsa, Oklahoma, which will be the home of BMX Corporation USA headquarters.

OBJECTIVE 1.4: Ensure Safety of Chemicals in Marketplace

- ✓ Took 20 actions to ensure 70,640 pounds of pesticidal products either entered the U.S. commerce legally or were prevented from entering the U.S.

GOAL 2: MORE EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

OBJECTIVE 2.1: Enhance Shared Accountability

- ✓ Had 127 face-to-face interactions with our states and 20 face-to-face interactions with our Tribes at the Regional Administrator level.
- ✓ Fostered cooperative federalism and effective partnerships by championing joint planning with R6 states, working with our state partners to develop state specific plans of action to augment our regional strategic plan, and to develop alternate Compliance Monitoring Strategies.
- ✓ Worked with our state partners in joint EPA/state judicial settlements resulting in \$663K in state penalties.
- ✓ Awarded more than \$3.2M in grant funds to State Lead Agencies and Tribes to implement and enforce the FIFRA Program.
- ✓ Helped two Tribes develop a draft Community Integrated Pest Management policy.
- ✓ Awarded 470 grants totaling \$430M.
- ✓ Achieved 63 total EPA Tribal Environmental Plans.
- ✓ Completed and processed 61 General Assistance Program (GAP) funding actions totaling \$7.6M, ahead of expectations as compared to previous years. The cumulative total of 18 Tribal Performance Partnership Grants (PPGs) was a 33% increase in number from FY2018.
- ✓ Hosted three Regional Tribal Operations Committee meetings and one Tribal Summit, ensuring enhanced participation from stakeholders, with two sessions on EPA's Lean Management System presented at the Summit.
- ✓ Coordinated six Tribal consultation opportunities.
- ✓ Presented 17 Tribal Environmental Excellence Awards to highlight environmental protection on Tribal lands.

- ✓ Reviewed 19 Draft Environmental Impact Statements and 19 Final Environmental Impact Statements.
- ✓ Reviewed two North American Development Bank Projects and two Tribal GAP grant projects involving about \$8.9M in federal funding support, which directly benefit approximately 6,400 residents.
- ✓ Completed eight Border 2020 projects with 47% of the \$657K cost funded by project sponsored institutions.
- ✓ Joined the City of Juarez Ecology team in effectively maintaining the binational air monitoring network that provides real-time data for reporting US-AirNow and Mexico's SINAICA.
- ✓ Signed a Memorandum of Notification on transboundary overflows of raw sewage along Dona Ana County, New Mexico – Anapra, Ciudad Juárez, border region, resulting in zero transboundary sewer water overflow through FY2019.
- ✓ Exceeded 1M tires appropriately disposed through a binational public-private partnership program in the Laredo/Nuevo Laredo and El Paso/Dona Ana County/Ciudad Juárez areas.
- ✓ Improved response time at U.S.-Mexico border crossings by using binational communication protocols and exercising them through nine border-wide annual binational drills.
- ✓ Encouraged engagement of states and Tribal leadership in Border 2020 program by holding two regional workgroup meetings.
- ✓ Developed videos to highlight three Tribal recycling programs and celebrate America Recycles Day 2019.
- ✓ Promoted collaborations with stakeholders on issues related to Department of Energy legacy uranium mining sites and the Waste Isolation Pilot Project in New Mexico, encouraging a national plan for transuranic waste disposal.
- ✓ Completed a significant agreement with Texas to use scrap tires as fuel in kilns, creating a path to eliminate over 16M tires.
- ✓ Conducted a study in conjunction with the Quapaw Nation and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality to calculate soil concentrations protective of human consumption of produce and livestock from a portion of the Tar Creek Superfund site in Oklahoma being used for agriculture and pasture land.
- ✓ Conducted two Regional Response Team meetings attended by 191 federal, state, local, and industry personnel.
- ✓ Tested coordination and response capabilities in a full-scale oil pipeline discharge exercise in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with other federal, state, and local officials.



Region 6 - 2019 Accomplishments

This past year, we focused our energy, talents, and resources to accomplish these priorities:

- ✓ Successfully transitioned the groundwater treatment operations at the Sprague Road site in Odessa, Texas, to the state.
- ✓ Developed a Community Advisory Group to represent residents near the Lane Plating site in Dallas, Texas.
- ✓ Working with developers, industry, and cities for future use, Superfund sponsored three reuse assessments: a solar reuse assessment at the Tar Creek Superfund site; an economic development reuse assessment at Eldorado Chemical in San Antonio, Texas; and an economic development reuse assessment at Oklahoma Refining Company in Cyril, Oklahoma.
- ✓ Established a process with the state for follow-up actions if elevated blood-lead levels are identified at the Tar Creek Superfund site in Oklahoma.
- ✓ Recognized stakeholders at two Excellence in Site Reuse Award events for their outstanding efforts to sustainably reuse and redevelop Superfund sites (Eagle Picher Henryetta is now a non-profit health clinic and Tulsa Fuel is home to rescued bee hives for local honey production).
- ✓ Hosted the national Superfund Reuse Coordinators conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, in April 2019.
- ✓ Submitted the Mine Prioritization Methodology and the Removal Site Evaluations to the EPA's Office of Inspector General to support prioritizing the Tronox Navajo area uranium mines and allocating funds from the settlement.
- ✓ Worked with United States Postal Service offices in Oklahoma and Texas to clean up two mercury spill and Federal Aviation Administration control towers in Texas to clean up four mercury spills.
- ✓ Approved Treatment as a State for Pueblo of Nambe and Pueblo of Laguna under the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319 program.
- ✓ Oversaw, developed, or implemented restoration plans consisting of 43 Texas and Louisiana projects with an estimated cost of \$325M as a member of Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustee Implementation Groups.
- ✓ Formed a senior-level Task Force between TCEQ, Texas Railroad Commission, and EPA to address critical issues associated with transferring jurisdiction for the NPDES permitting program in Texas.
- ✓ Held one Smart Sectors event with representatives from 20 critical agriculture leadership organizations and state government entities.

- ✓ Increased use of e-public notice processes to provide more public access.

OBJECTIVE 2.2: Increase Transparency & Public Participation

- ✓ Hosted three compliance assistance forums in New Mexico to help small communities or trailer parks with limited financial or technical resources comply with the CWA.
- ✓ Conducted six community Integrated Pest Management and pesticide safety outreach events attended by 223 pest management professionals, among others.
- ✓ Conducted a National Tribal Pilot Lead Curriculum training workshop in Albuquerque, New Mexico, attended by 43 Tribal members representing 22 Tribes.
- ✓ Provided technical and contract support to our states in meeting GPRA goals with sampling, institutional controls/long term stewardship documentation, and disaster recovery.
- ✓ Provided RCRA Fundamentals training to 30 Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality staff.
- ✓ Conducted 12 introductory Brownfields/grant writing workshops and webinars with our state partners to further enhance the Region 6 Brownfields program.
- ✓ Created a Lead-Based Paint Public Service Announcement that was released during Children's Health Month and Lead Pollution Prevention Week, and a Lead-Based Paint Planner, which will be released in 2020.
- ✓ Conducted Lead-Based Paint all-states meeting and contacted 34 local entities about the Lead-Based Paint program.
- ✓ Conducted eight Environmental Justice (EJ) training and education sessions and completed 72 Convening/Consulting activities and four Tools and Products.
- ✓ Developed and hosted a state EJ training webinar on Enhancing Community Involvement in the Regulatory Process attended by over 1,000 attendees from government agencies in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- ✓ Developed and hosted the El Paso Emergency Preparedness Workshop under the Community Driven Solutions initiative to improve access to emergency preparedness and communication assistance for EJ communities and strengthen community environmental resilience.



Region 6 - 2019 Accomplishments

This past year, we focused our energy, talents, and resources to accomplish these priorities:

- ✓ Reached about 3,500 residents potentially impacted by Superfund sites by emailing, conducting 160 community meetings, publishing 159 public notices or ads, and creating or updating 35 Community Involvement Plans and communication strategies.
 - ✓ Processed more than 80% of 2019 FOIA requests on time, including 90% of complex requests, exceeding the goal of 50%.
 - ✓ Provided nearly 40 workshops for all 10 Region 6 state environmental and health agencies on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) issues, collaborating with other agencies on 12 PFAS sites.
 - ✓ Co-sponsored the annual HOTZONE training in Houston for about 550 first responders to improve responses to hazardous materials incidents.
 - ✓ Conducted outreach to the Pueblos of Laguna and Acoma, non-governmental organizations, local communities, and other external stakeholders to address significant environmental problems caused by legacy uranium mining and milling operations in the San Mateo Creek Basin area of New Mexico.
 - ✓ Developed a preliminary Conceptual Exposure Model for Tar Creek Superfund site operable Unit 4 5 baseline human health risk assessment with input from Tribal stakeholders.
 - ✓ Provided training to more than 100 state regulators and Tribal water system operators on disinfection by-product rule compliance, as part of our Small Community Water System Compliance Initiative.
- ✓ Lodged a Consent Decree with Georgia-Pacific (GP) with agreement from GP to pay a penalty of \$600,000, implement three SEPs valued at \$1.8M, and implement a mitigation project valued at \$2.9M at its facility in Crossett, Arkansas.
 - ✓ Shared 85% of inspection reports with the facility within 60 days of the inspection.
 - ✓ Filed largest Consent Decree in the nation for a municipality involving sanitary sewer overflows and effluent violations, with agreement to pay \$4.4M in penalties and \$2B in corrective measures and improvements by the City of Houston.
 - ✓ Reached a settlement with Evangeline Enterprises, LLC for a civil penalty of \$300K for violations of the CWA.
 - ✓ Reached a settlement with Shell Offshore, Inc. to resolve violations of RCRA for a penalty of \$514K
 - ✓ Settled RCRA violations against Trussco for \$2.594M for storing and generating hazardous waste without proper notification and/or permitting, and followed up with a statewide compliance outreach effort with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association.
 - ✓ Concluded over 300 enforcement actions resulting in \$13.3M in penalties, \$130K in stipulated penalties, \$2.7M in SEPs, and \$50.2M spent in complying actions, resulting in 23.8M of pollutants reduced and more than 9,000 people protected for drinking water.
 - ✓ Prevailed in a challenge in the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals over the approval of the Louisiana Regional Haze SIP.
 - ✓ Facilitated prosecution of environmental crimes in our region when two Regional Criminal Enforcement Counsels obtained Special Assistant U.S. Attorney appointments in the two Districts of Texas.
 - ✓ Achieved a 57% reduction in backlogged judicial referrals, exceeding our 25% goal.
 - ✓ Reached a settlement in principle with Churchill Downs Race Track regarding violations of its Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, providing for a \$2.8M civil penalty and injunctive relief.
 - ✓ Negotiated a settlement to resolve enforcement actions taken against three operators of seven UIC wells near Bird Creek in Osage County, Oklahoma.
 - ✓ Provided for a \$616K penalty, the hiring of an independent third party auditor, and the purchase of a hazardous materials incident command vehicle for the Beaumont Fire & Rescue Service in a settlement stemming from a fire at ExxonMobil's oil refinery

GOAL 3: GREATER CERTAINTY, COMPLIANCE, AND EFFECTIVENESS

OBJECTIVE 3.1: Compliance with the Law

- ✓ Completed 1,007 inspections, of which 124 were in support of National Compliance Initiatives Volatile Organic Compounds.
- ✓ Produced corrections of CWA violations through 92 administrative enforcement actions.
- ✓ Implemented 80.3% of State Review Framework Round 3 recommendations.
- ✓ Used aerial flyovers of more than 1,800 emission sources to identify 197 sources with potentially unauthorized emissions. Concluded 11 Administrative Orders on Consent and one Consent Agreement and Final Order related to these emissions, resulting in a reduction of more than 14M pounds of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) emissions and almost 440,000 pounds of H₂S emissions.



Region 6 - 2019 Accomplishments

This past year, we focused our energy, talents, and resources to accomplish these priorities:

in Beaumont, Texas, which killed two employees and injured 10 others.

- ✓ Resolved 10 RCRA violations and one CWA violation through a \$976K penalty and a compliance order requiring Ascend, the largest generator of hazardous waste in the U.S., to take the necessary steps to achieve full compliance with RCRA.
- ✓ Conducted over 150 SPCC inspections at oil storage facilities to determine compliance with oil spill prevention regulations.
- ✓ Conducted 69 Facility Response Plan inspections at high-risk oil storage facilities to determine compliance with oil spill preparedness regulations.
- ✓ Initiated or participated in 11 unannounced government initiated drills involving the U.S. Coast Guard and facility operators to assess the response capabilities of the specific facilities.

OBJECTIVE 3.2: Create Consistency and Certainty

- ✓ Worked with Texas and EPA headquarters to propose a path forward to address the South Coast court decision and repeal burdensome anti-backsliding requirements from previously revoked ozone standards.
- ✓ Established a new federal permitting program for Title V/PSD permitting for deep water port crude and Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) export facilities in coordination with MARAD/U.S. Coast Guard.

OBJECTIVE 3.3: Prioritize Robust Science

- ✓ Developed a new analysis method to measure wastewater quality in the oil and gas industry, which has been accepted and published by the American Society for Testing and Materials for use worldwide.
- ✓ Rapidly developed a unique new gas chromatography analysis method to help Texas confirm a drinking water system in Cherokee County could return water supply quickly to 1,500 customers after a contamination event.
- ✓ Conducted a research project in coordination with several Federal and Louisiana environmental, agricultural, and natural resource agencies to help dairy farmers develop approaches to resolve lagoon overflow issues.
- ✓ Initiated a project to improve efficiency in the laboratory with

EPA Method 8270E and shared it at the Pittcon Conference and Expo (the world's leading annual conference and exposition on laboratory science), which may lead to more efficient semi-volatile analytical run times at environmental laboratories worldwide.

- ✓ Eliminated backlog of air monitoring technical audits, ensuring quality air data.
- ✓ Developed new analytical methods to address asbestos sites and to aid risk evaluators in determining the risks associated with asbestos sites.

OBJECTIVE 3.4: Streamline and Modernize

- ✓ Addressed a heavy air permitting workload, issuing all actions within statutory deadlines while providing extensive technical support to the regulated community.
- ✓ Issued three Tribal minor New Source Review permit actions.
- ✓ Completed timely permit application completeness reviews for all five Prevention of Significant Deterioration and five Title V permit applications for crude export and LNG export facilities received, meeting all regulatory timeframes and while continuing to provide technical assistance.
- ✓ Provided significant technical support to the company and worked closely with our Tribal partners to propose a Title V permit for a medical waste incinerator located on Tribal lands.
- ✓ Completed one Title V program evaluation for the New Mexico Environment Department (final report pending issuance) and continued to work on a solution with TCEQ to resolve Permit by Rule Incorporation by Reference issues.
- ✓ Worked extensively with TCEQ to develop and recommend a solution to recurring Title V permit issues.
- ✓ Issued nine PCB approvals, all within the six-month target timeframe.
- ✓ Completed two Accredited Renovation, Repair, and Paint training provider approvals with an average of 43.5 days per approval.
- ✓ Began the process of consolidating regulatory requirements for the NPDES permit into the Superfund process for the Chevron-Questa Mine Superfund site in New Mexico, which should streamline administrative operations.
- ✓ Reviewed 100% of NPDES permits for delegated States in a timely manner: 177 from Texas, 34 from Louisiana, 18 from Oklahoma, and 11 from Arkansas.
- ✓ Reduced backlog of New Mexico NPDES permits to be issued by 50% and to be renewed by 40%.



Region 6 - 2019 Accomplishments

This past year, we focused our energy, talents, and resources to accomplish these priorities:

- ✓ Reviewed about 360 CWA Section 404 Permit Public Notices, 127 mitigation plans, and 26 National Environmental Policy Act documents.

OBJECTIVE 3.5: Improve Efficiency and Effectiveness

- ✓ Used data mining to target hazardous waste facilities for on-site inspections, resulting in virtually a 100% hit rate for significant violations and an average penalty of \$112K.
- ✓ Reduced average time Consent Agreement and Final Orders spent in concurrence from 98 days to 43 days, for a 56% improvement.
- ✓ Improved FIFRA Inspector Credential process by decreasing the average approval time from one year to one week, for a 98% reduction.
- ✓ Reduced number of pending project reviews in-house over 45 days in the Sole Source Aquifer Program from 100 to 5, for a 95% reduction.
- ✓ Reduced the time to provide a Brownfields Phase 1 Targeted Assessments report back to the customer by over 25%.
- ✓ Moved into new office space in Dallas, Texas, saving an estimated \$50M through lifetime of lease.
- ✓ Increased efficiencies to complete 52% more Tribal GAP grants by Labor Day.
- ✓ Reduced correspondence response times from 15-20 days to 5-8 days, with rare exceptions.
- ✓ Developed a strategy for implementing the transition to the new Remedial Acquisition Framework contracts and coordinated site-specific priorities.
- ✓ Implemented a pilot to scan and upload Superfund files, creating a path to eliminate the future paper footprint.
- ✓ Implemented records management practices in processing hundreds of linear feet of paper to protect official documents while

- reducing facility records footprint.
- ✓ Expanded e-processing and e-signatures to the RCRA Pesticides, Toxics and Underground Storage Tanks programs, reducing processing time from about 10-30 days to 2-10 days.
- ✓ Helped formulate a more understandable National Airport Lead Emissions report, prompting an improved roll-out, enhanced data analysis, and more practical conclusions.
- ✓ By leveraging responsible parties in the Tronox settlement with their ownership at other non-uranium mining sites, Superfund awarded \$20M for site work at Colonial Creosote and American Creosote DeRidder, eliminating the need for Superfund Trust funding.
- ✓ Achieved highest response rate (86%) of all EPA offices for 2019 Employee Viewpoint Survey.

