

EPA Promotes Greener Cleanup Practices

Interim Greener Cleanup Policy

Region 5 – Ill., Ind., Minn., Mich., Ohio, Wis.

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For more information

For questions, comments or more information about Region 5's Greener Cleanup Activities, contact:

Brad Bradley

Superfund Greener Cleanup
Coordinator
Community & Land Revitalization
Branch

Superfund Division
EPA Region 5 (SE-7J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-4742

bradley_brad@epa.gov

Gary Victorine

RCRA Land Reuse Coordinator
Remediation and Reuse Branch
Land and Chemical Division
EPA Region 5 (L-9J)

77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-1147

victorine.gary@epa.gov

Region 5 toll-free:

800-621-8431, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30
p.m., Chicago time, weekdays

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 is advancing the goal of achieving greener environmental cleanups. Region 5's Superfund Greener Cleanup Coordinators have collaborated with other agencies to develop the Region 5 Interim Greener Cleanup Policy, hold a widely attended Greener Cleanup Workshop, and are developing several white papers to assist with implementing the various practices outlined in the interim policy. Region 5 has been training its remediation staff to recognize opportunities for using greener techniques and has begun several greener cleanup pilot studies.

Interim Greener Cleanup Policy

In November 2009 the directors of the Superfund and Land and Chemicals divisions signed the Region 5 Interim Greener Cleanup Policy (<http://www.epa.gov/reg5rcra/wptdiv/cars/remediation/>).

The Interim Policy identified 12 greener cleanup practices that Region 5 will promote and utilize to reduce the environmental footprint of its environmental work. Region 5 is currently developing white papers to assist with applying three of these practices:

- Employing energy conservation and efficiency approaches, including Energy Star equipment and renewable forms of energy.
- Using cleaner fuels, diesel emission controls and retrofits, and emission reduction strategies.



EPA Region 5 is performing several greener cleanup pilot studies. One of the greening/optimizing pilots is at the Fisher-Calo Superfund site in Kingsbury, Ind., where this ground water extraction system has been operating for a decade.



- Diverting from landfills, via reuse and recycling, at least 50 percent by weight of the uncontaminated construction and demolition materials generated at cleanup sites.

Greener cleanup workshop

On Feb. 9, 2010, EPA Region 5 hosted a Greener Cleanup Workshop (photo above) that was attended by 60 people with another 300 people participating via a webinar. Attendees representing state and local governments, consultants, developers, planners and industry were briefed on the status of current greener cleanup programs and practices in each of the six Region 5 states (Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin) and nationally. The agenda also included several case studies presented by state cleanup program specialists and consultants, and an open session for feedback regarding the Region 5 Interim Greener Cleanup Policy.

Pilot studies and other actions

Region 5 completed two greener cleanup pilot studies and has one more under way. The first two studies involved the inclusion of greener cleanup considerations as one of the factors in an "Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives" for two projects in Oshkosh, Wis., that were completed in March 2010. The grantee reported the cost for this extra analysis was negligible. The study resulted in a cleanup alternative being selected that minimized waste sent to the landfill and incorporated vapor barriers and bioswales into the construction.

A pilot study is currently being conducted to optimize and green up a 13-well ground water extraction system that has been operating for a decade at the Fisher-Calo Superfund site in Kingsbury, Ind. Suggestions for optimization and inclusion of greener cleanup practices are being compiled and will be presented to the Site Steering Committee. The steering committee will then decide which activities will be pursued. Data will be collected with respect to pre- and post-greening energy and water usage as well as air emissions including greenhouse gases.

Other greener cleanup actions in Region 5 have included:

- Developed language indicating which greener cleanup activities would be eligible expenses under brownfields assessment, cleanup and revolving loan fund grants (completed).
- Provided comments regarding inclusion of greener cleanup considerations in national brownfields grant guidelines for 2011 (completed).
- Applied for and received special Innovation Funds for a current project involving the capture and beneficial use in microturbines of lower-concentration methane emissions from landfills (under way).

Next steps

Following is an approximate timetable for completion of greener cleanup activities currently under way in Region 5:

- Develop white papers for implementation of several practices in the Interim Policy -- **End of 2010.**
- Completion of Fisher-Calo pilot study -- **Construction by Early 2011.**
- Innovation Funds project, full-scale application of microturbines -- **Summer 2011.**
- Application for additional funding for pilot projects -- **Ongoing.**



Wind farm near Fond du Lac, Wisconsin