U.S. EPA REGION 6 DALLAS TX

Region 6 Employee News Journal

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U.S. EPA REGION 6 DALLAS TX

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Front Lines Message from the Regional Administrator

300-Day Plan Roll Out

I have a great deal of enthusiasm and optimism that we will meet the challenge of making the next four years the greatest period of achievement for Region 6 and the thousands of communities that we serve.

Last month, I celebrated my second anniversary at EPA. The American people understand that there is something special and unique about the EPA. It is not only found in our daily work - although that is extraordinarily important and a notable achievement. It is found in the people – our EPA family. I am convinced that there is no place else in government where the employees are more committed and passionate, nor have a greater sense that what they do each day makes a difference, than here at the EPA. Your personal dedication and commitment has created our Agency's strong reputation.

Today, there is universal recognition of the connection between the future well-being of our environment and economy, the health of the people of our country, and the importance and value of our work. This realization gives us a foundation on which we can build something exceptional and an opportunity to accomplish something quite extraordinary.

Citizens, grassroots organizations and other institutions have partnered with us and supported our goals for many years. Many of the regulated corporate groups and individual companies have convinced us that they too, are committed to the goals that this agency was created to carry out.

We may now expect great progress to be achieved in many areas.

Because of all of these circumstances, I am absolutely convinced that over the next four years we in Region 6 can accomplish more environmental progress than ever in the history of the agency. In other words, that four years from now, we will be able to look back over this period of time and recognize that longer and healthier lives have been made possible as a result of our work.

To meet that goal, we need your skills and your personal resolve. You have proven yourselves to be motivated, innovative and able to work in partnership in addressing our challenges. It is because of these strengths that it is possible to realize unprecedented progress.

Our 300-Day plan identifies strategic priorities and sets out concrete actions we can take between now and the end of the calendar year to advance these priorities. It defines with great specificity the work we will undertake in order to produce real environmental results – results valued by our state and tribal partners

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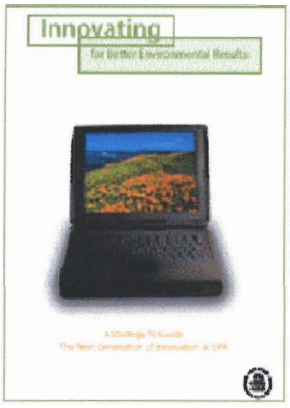
Innovations



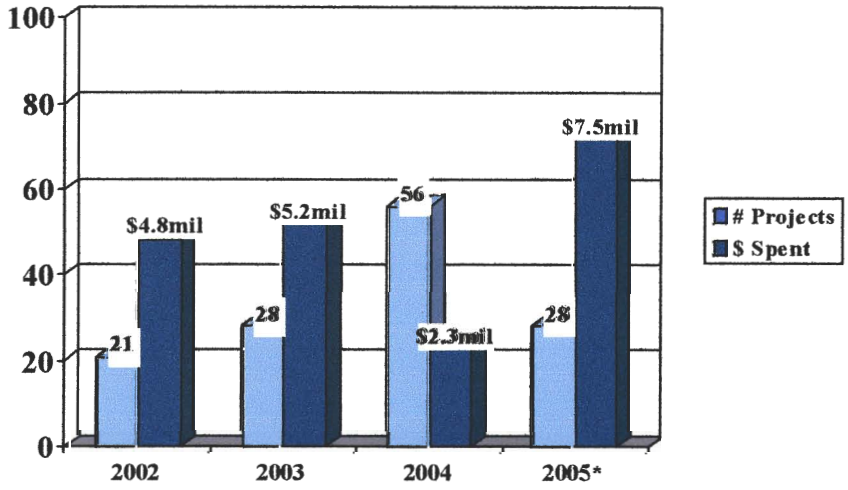
Innovation Success — SEPs Still Strong and Growing!

Innovation **requires each individual to view his or her job as an environmental problem solver, leader, partner and facilitator— as well as a program implementer.**

Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPS) have served as powerful tools in addressing environmental issues and are beneficial to communities suffering from the ill effects of environmental pollutants. This innovative process achieves a win-win situation and results in environmental success.

Region 6 has been utilizing SEPs for several years. During the settlement phase of an enforcement action, violators are encouraged to conduct environmentally beneficial projects. The fact that these projects result in satisfactory outcomes has been applauded for years. However, no one could have predicted the sizeable increase in the number of SEPs each year.

Region 6 SEPs Since 2002



*2005 numbers are as of 3/9/05

In the past couple of years, the number of projects has significantly increased and we anticipate an even higher number this year. In 2003, 28 projects were approved and this number doubled to 56 projects in 2004. As of March 9, 2005, 28 projects are underway, ten of them are targeted for environmental restoration. The cost of these projects is well over $7 million.

For more information regarding this article, please contact Teresa Cooks at 5-8145.

300-Day Plan Roll Out

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and the communities we serve. We tried to develop it in the context of the art of the possible by asking, "How realistic is this?" At the same time, we believe with great confidence that if it is a challenge, then that is exactly what we want it to be. I am confident in the talent of the people in this Region to meet such a challenge.

"Your personal dedication an commitment has created our Agency's strong reputation."

Of equal importance to program goals, the 300-Day Plan establishes goals for developing and maximizing the strength of our people resources. Since you are the key to our success or failure, we will implement strategies that support our workforce and seek to align employee skills to priorities. This will allow us to make the best use of the talent of the people in this Region. I am confident that by the end of this year, our success will prove our commitment to accomplishing these goals.

Our success will be as great as we make it. It will be determined by our own efforts and our own willingness to revisit our decisions when necessary. Thank you for your continued commitment to achieving our important goals.