

Contaminated Sediments Technical Advisory Group (CSTAG) Process Changes

The Superfund Task Force recommendation 4 focused on promoting national consistency and review and approval of proposed remedies, including the analysis and approval of remedies that are subject to review. A national workgroup assessed challenges associated with the board, and as a result of the assessment EPA identified opportunities for improvement to the CSTAG process. The resulting changes provide earlier and more frequent engagement during development of the remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS). A summary of the changes are below.

CSTAG reviews will continue to be limited to sediment sites and CSTAG will now be the only review board for the Tier 2 sediment sites. The National Remedy Review Board (NRRB) chair will participate as a CSTAG member, as appropriate. The CSTAG charter has been modified to replace a large, comprehensive review at the end of decision making to include additional reviews at site milestones in the RI/FS and ROD process. The updated CSTAG charter provides the topics and procedures for the site milestone and final meetings. The following chart provides a summary of the primary changes to the CSTAG process. The updated CSTAG charter provides the review topics and procedures for the site milestone and final meetings. Coordination with NRRB has also been changed and CSTAG will be the only review board for the contaminated sediment portion of Tier 2 sites. The following chart provides a summary of the primary changes to the CSTAG process.

| Element | Before | After |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Timing of Meetings | At NPL listing and prior to release of proposed plan. | Meetings take place at 4 site milestones of the RI/FS and ROD decision making process. |
| Accountability | Regional response. No formal elevation process. | Formal elevation process to address issues and improve accountability. |
| Membership | Set membership. | Set membership supplemented by ad hoc experts, as appropriate. |