



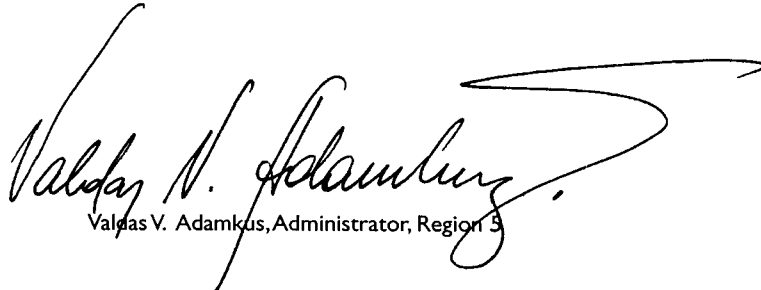
# AGENDA FOR ACTION



# VISION

**A sustainable environment where  
air, water, and land resources are  
restored and protected to benefit all life.**

**Together,  
we can solve environmental problems with  
communities in common-sense ways.**



Valdas V. Adamkus, Administrator, Region 5



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## ***INTRODUCTION***

### ***Background***

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 has a long and proud tradition of protecting the Midwest environment. With intensive industrial development, numerous major urban areas, and extensive agricultural cultivation, the natural resources of the Region have been under great pressure over the years. The Great Lakes, the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, the air over our urban areas, our land, ground water, and many other resources have all been subject to extensive pollution for a long time. The employees of Region 5 have met the challenges presented by this pollution for over 25 years, and now the air, water, and land are much cleaner than before.

While we have pride in these accomplishments, we must recognize that many challenges remain and that times have changed dramatically since we began our work. The threats from urban sprawl, habitat destruction, global warming, toxic contamination, and many other sources represent very difficult problems to solve. State, local, and tribal governments are working with EPA as partners in the environmental decision making process. Other stakeholders including industry, environmental groups, labor unions, and citizens are expecting more from us and want a bigger role in solving environmental problems. The pace of technological and societal change continues to increase.

All of these require that we actively pursue new and more effective ways to protect the environment. Over the past 3 years, there have been many new initiatives in Region 5 as part of the overall reinvention efforts in Government. Probably the most significant is our reorganization, which retained the structure based on air, water, and waste, but added regional teams to focus on specific environmental priorities, principal places, and critical approaches to solving environmental problems. As part of the reorganization, there has been an effort to allow for more decision making at the staff level and more streamlining by reducing the layers of management. These changes have been difficult for everyone, but we are now at a point where the benefits from the changes are becoming more evident.

To move into fiscal year 1997 in a way that will take full advantage of the changes and put the Region in the best possible position to solve environmental problems even more effectively in the future, our Teams and Programs have prepared detailed plans which support this "Agenda for Action." This document presents the highlights of the goals and key actions of the Region. Much more detail is included in the full plans of the Teams and Programs. This "Agenda for Action" is a dynamic document that can and should be adjusted based on interaction with our partners and based on changes in the issues we are addressing. Our aim is to provide clear direction for everyone in Region 5 as to where we are going and how we plan to get there.

### ***Vision, Mission, Values***

We developed our environmental vision, mission, and values over an 18-month period in 1992 and 1993, with extensive employee involvement. Our environmental vision describes our desired state. The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) added an operational vision in 1995 to describe how we will achieve that vision. The operational vision serves as a roadmap to guide us in this pursuit.

The end product of our work will be a sustainable environment, where we utilize resources in a way that does not compromise the use and enjoyment of the environment by future generations. To accomplish this, we must engage in a continuing process of working together with communities to solve environmental problems. Common sense must be one of the benchmarks in our approaches to solving problems, with solutions that are effective in accomplishing the desired results without creating too many undesirable side effects. As set out in our mission, our work is to protect, preserve, prevent, abate, serve, and lead. Our values serve as our foundation and do not change. They include respect, integrity, honesty, communication, action, leadership and partnership. By carrying out this mission with these values as our foundation, there will be a higher quality of life for the people of the Midwest, this country, and the world.

### ***Priorities, Places, and Approaches***

Because of the large number of challenges we face, it is necessary to focus our attention on the most serious problems and the most threatened places, using the most effective approaches we can. If we do not, we will find ourselves making only minimal progress on a broad range of problems. As a result, the SLT considered information from a range of sources and decided to focus on six major environmental priorities:

- ◆ Reducing toxicants, especially mercury;
- ◆ Redeveloping Brownfields;
- ◆ Ensuring environmental justice;
- ◆ Cleaning up sediments;
- ◆ Protecting and restoring critical ecosystems;
- ◆ Attaining the air quality standard for ozone.

In addition to these priorities, there are 10 principal places where the resources we protect are so important, or the environmental stresses are so great, that we must concentrate our efforts to make sure that these resources are restored and the quality of life improved. These 10 principal places are:

- ◆ The Great Lakes
- ◆ The Upper Mississippi River
- ◆ Northwest Indiana
- ◆ Greater Chicago
- ◆ Southeast Michigan
- ◆ Gateway (St. Louis, East St. Louis)
- ◆ Northeast Ohio
- ◆ Crandon Mine (proposed mine in Wisconsin)
- ◆ Tribal Lands
- ◆ International

To solve the priority environmental problems and address other concerns in these principal places, we have used new approaches to finding solutions, along with the existing ones that have served us over the years. The critical approaches we will be using more in the future are:

- ◆ Community-based environmental protection (CBEP);
- ◆ Common-sense measures;
- ◆ Pollution prevention;
- ◆ Partnerships with States, tribes, local governments, other Federal agencies and Industry;
- ◆ Enhanced public communication;
- ◆ Enforcement and compliance assurance;
- ◆ Multimedia perspectives;
- ◆ Risk- and science-based decision making;
- ◆ Measurement and management for environmental results;
- ◆ Internal resource investment for change.

The SLT is committed to empowering the employees of Region 5 to use these approaches in a way that will make more progress toward solving the priority environmental problems, especially in the principal places, even more effectively in the future than in the past.

### ***Region 5 as a System***

One of the important keys to success in the future will be our ability to understand and operate our Region as a highly interactive, effective system, where every element contributes to the mission. We must understand that this relates to our internal operations and to our interactions with external organizations. Internally, we are made up primarily of Divisions, Offices, and Teams. Four Divisions, Air, Water, Superfund, and Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics, are organized around our media programs. The Resource Management Division provides our internal resource services. The Office of Regional Council provides legal services, the Office of Public Affairs provides public outreach services, and the Office of Strategic Environmental Analysis frames emerging issues, develops environmental management tools, and pilots new multimedia program initiatives. Finally, our Great Lakes National Program Office focuses on our predominant

natural resource, the Great Lakes. The media Divisions conduct the primary work related to implementing the national statutory programs for environmental protection. The other Division and Offices provide critical support for carrying out these programs.

On the other hand, our region-wide Teams are organized around our environmental priorities, principal places, and critical approaches and provide a focal point for our resources and strategies to come together. The Teams rely heavily on the programs, and go beyond, to find solutions to environmental problems. The programs work with the Teams to help focus their efforts in the places, on the problems, and with the approaches the Teams have developed.

To be successful, our system must be fully integrated with our Headquarters, other Regions, and research labs located around the country. We must work especially closely with the States in the newly defined relationship under the National Environmental Performance Partnership System. The Native American tribes are particularly important because of our trust responsibility to them. We are working more with local governments as they increase their role in the environmental decision making process. Also very important to the overall process are the industries we regulate, the environmental groups, and various citizen groups and individuals. All of these entities are viewed as part of a system to help solve environmental problems.

EPA Regional offices have a special role in this system, as they are in a unique position to reconcile the tension that develops naturally among the priorities of the many stakeholders. The Regions, as part of the Federal Government, can bring the national and regional perspective to State and local problems in a way that is true to national policy, yet sensitive to local concerns. Regional offices are in a position to develop a consensus for solutions that will have broad acceptance and will be more lasting.

### *Linkages with Other Efforts*

The SLT designed this "Agenda for Action" with much help from many people in the Region, to bring together many of the innovations being implemented by EPA. The national goals project, which is nearing completion, defines the environmental goals we hope to achieve over the long term, working in partnership with other stakeholders. These goals are described in environmental and public health terms and cover 12 broad areas. The various memorandums of understanding (MOU's) with the Headquarters programs generally describe what we will be doing in the short term to help meet these national goals in the long term. Two other EPA documents, "Strategic Directions for the Midwest Environment", and the Agency's "Five Year Strategic Plan" also provide direction for us in our efforts.

In the performance partnership agreements (PPA's) with the states, we are taking the national priorities from the MOU's, the State priorities, and our own regional priorities and finding a balance among the three. Likewise, with the tribal environmental agreements (TEA's), we factor in the tribal priorities. These come together in this "Agenda for Action" where we describe our short-term actions for FY 97 that will lead us toward accomplishing the goals of EPA nationally,

the goals of the States and tribes, and the Region 5 goals. The common thread through all of these, which we are still developing, are the goals, milestones, and indicators against which we will manage for environmental results and measure our progress.

With the full support of everyone in Region 5 working to carry out the “Agenda for Action”, we will solve environmental problems and improve the quality of life.



## ***REGIONAL PRIORITIES***

- ◆ ***Reducing Toxicants, Especially Mercury***
- ◆ ***Redeveloping Brownfields***
- ◆ ***Ensuring Environmental Justice***
- ◆ ***Cleaning up Sediments***
- ◆ ***Attaining the Air Quality Standard for Ozone***
- ◆ ***Protecting and Restoring Critical Ecosystems***

## ***Reducing Toxicants, Especially Mercury***

### ***Problem***

Releases of toxic substances have had serious adverse effects on humans and the environment. Mercury and PCB levels threaten wildlife and make fish consumption advisories necessary. Lead poisoning is widespread among children. Toxaphene and endocrine disrupters are of great concern, but their exposure levels, effects, sources, and transport are not clearly understood. Agencies have focused on investigating and reducing releases of toxic substances, but most often independently and in single-medium contexts. We must assure that our toxicant reduction efforts reflect a multimedia perspective and that they are as coherent and effective as possible.

### ***Goal***

The goal of Region 5 is the virtual elimination of toxicants.

### ***Subgoals***

- ◆ Reduce mercury levels;
- ◆ Reduce levels of Binational Strategy (BNS) Toxicants;
- ◆ Reduce PCB levels;
- ◆ Reduce lead exposure;

### ***Actions***

- ◆ Reduce Mercury Levels: Reach out to industry, organizations, and citizens on pollution prevention; sponsor conference to spur actions; study alternative use and treatment-disposal options; provide clearinghouse support for Region and States; do studies on mercury transport, sources, and impacts in Lake Superior and Lake Michigan.
- ◆ Reduce Levels of other BNS Toxicants: Complete Binational Strategy and monitor and evaluate its implementation; conduct and coordinate toxicant reduction activities outlined in BNS.
- ◆ Reduce PCB Levels: Pursue voluntary-use reductions through the PCB Phase down Program; help achieve compliance; promote safe disposal of PCB's; provide coordination and clearinghouse support for Region and States; complete PCB Options Paper.
- ◆ Reduce Lead Exposure: Develop regional lead strategies; conduct education and outreach programs on lead exposure; improve regional coordination; support geographic initiative efforts.

## ***Redeveloping Brownfields***

### ***Problem***

Contaminated or abandoned-underutilized urban sites seriously damage the integrity of communities as a result of Brownfields' pervasive socioeconomic, health, and environmental impacts. The presence of these sites stigmatizes neighborhoods, furthers urban decay, and contributes to urban sprawl.

### ***Goal***

The goal of Region 5 is the virtual elimination of Brownfields.

### ***Subgoals***

- ◆ Promote cleanup of contaminated sites;
- ◆ Promote Brownfields prevention;
- ◆ Position EPA as a resource to States and local communities.

### ***Actions***

- ◆ Promote cleanup of contaminated sites by clarifying liability issues, providing technical assistance to stakeholders, and targeting our capacity-building efforts towards State and local entities.
- ◆ Identify and implement Brownfield prevention activities in Region 5.
- ◆ Form partnerships with a variety of stakeholders to further promote EPA as a resource in Brownfield redevelopment activities focusing our efforts on priority places identified by Region 5 and incorporating strategic approaches. In addition, identify opportunities to leverage both human and monetary resources at both the State and local level.

## ***Ensuring Environmental Justice***

### ***Problem***

Over the last decade, concern about the impact of environmental pollution on particular population groups has been growing. There is widespread belief that minority or low-income populations bear disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects from pollution.

### ***Goal***

The goal of Region 5 is the virtual elimination of disproportionate environmental impacts on minority and low-income communities.

### ***Subgoals***

- ◆ Promote public participation, accountability, partnerships, outreach, and communication;
- ◆ Collect data, and analyze to define EJ areas;
- ◆ Work with American Indian populations to integrate EJ policies;
- ◆ Focus EJ issues in enforcement, compliance assurance, regulatory review and permitting.

### ***Actions***

- ◆ Implement Regional Environmental Justice Performance Agreement;
- ◆ Develop a definition for environmental justice;
- ◆ Identify environmental justice communities of concern in Region 5;
- ◆ Develop grant-writing software and other educational materials for communities;
- ◆ Consider environmental justice concerns in enforcement and permitting activities;
- ◆ Provide technical assistance to communities and tribes.

## ***Cleaning up Sediments***

### ***Problem***

Sediments are naturally occurring earth materials that are deposited on the bottom of rivers and lakes. Some sediments have become contaminated with chemicals, metals, or other pollutants that can be retained in the sediments for a long time. Contaminated sediments pose a threat to aquatic life and wildlife because the contaminants they contain can be slowly released into the environment. Humans can be at risk as well through exposure to contaminants or through consumption of contaminated fish and wildlife. Contaminated sediments are a significant and persistent source of pollution in many areas, identified as Areas of Concern, in and around the Great Lakes, in and around the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, and other waters in Region 5.

### ***Goal***

The goal of Region 5 is the virtual elimination of contaminated sediments in waters of Region 5 through remediation of contaminated sediments that pose a threat to human health, welfare, or the environment, and prevention of new or additional sediment contamination.

### ***Subgoals***

- ◆ Remediation of contaminated sediments that pose a threat to human health, welfare, or the environment;
- ◆ Prevention of new or additional sediment contamination;

### ***Actions***

- ◆ Initiate remedial actions at up to six priority contaminated sediment sites using enforcement, regulatory, and voluntary approaches.
- ◆ Work in partnership with Natural Resources Conservation Service, States, and others to initiate, and support actions for source control of contaminants to sediments and erosion control of soils.
- ◆ Work in partnership with Programs, Teams, States, tribes, and others to identify priority sites and initiate actions.
- ◆ Develop performance goals, performance indicators, and output measures at selected sites; participate in National Accountability Project.
- ◆ Facilitate and support ongoing remedial efforts including those in Northwest Indiana, Southeast Michigan, and Great Lakes Areas of Concern.
- ◆ Work in partnership with Natural Resource Trustees and others to facilitate and support ongoing Natural Resource Damage Assessment and other restoration actions initiated in conjunction with sediment remedial activities.

## *Attaining the Air Quality Standard for Ozone*

### ***Problem***

Twenty million people live in the seven urban areas in or bordering Region 5 (Chicago, SE. Wisconsin, NW. Indiana, SE. Michigan, Cincinnati, St. Louis, and Louisville) that do not meet the health-related air quality standard for ozone. New health data indicate that elevated ozone levels may adversely affect as many as 15 percent (3 million) of the exposed population and may require a tightened standard. Ozone is caused by volatile organic compounds (VOC's) and nitrogen oxides (NOX) reacting in the presence of sunlight.

### ***Goal***

The goal of Region 5 is to attain the national ambient air quality standard for ozone.

### ***Subgoals***

- ◆ By the year 2007 (or 2009 if a new standard is adopted), the national ambient air quality standard for ozone will be attained everywhere in Region 5.
- ◆ VOC emissions will meet each area's targets on schedule.
- ◆ Regional NOX emissions will meet the requirements of the OTAG strategy on schedule.

### ***Actions***

- ◆ Complete OTAG modeling;
- ◆ Develop ozone outreach strategy in partnership with States and other Regions;
- ◆ States and EPA assess 1994, 1995, and 1996 ozone data;
- ◆ Develop VOC compliance strategy in partnership with States and other Regions;
- ◆ OAQPS will propose the new ozone standard;
- ◆ Forward OTAG recommendations to EPA;
- ◆ Receive State's revised strategies;
- ◆ OAQPS will adopt the new ozone standard;
- ◆ States and EPA assess 1995, 1996, and 1997 ozone data;
- ◆ Develop NOX compliance strategy in partnership with States and other Regions.

## ***Protecting and Restoring Critical Ecosystems***

### ***Problem***

Ecosystem degradation and loss is one of the highest environmental risk problems facing the country today. This conclusion is consistent with the international community's Biodiversity Treaty, which identifies the loss of biological diversity as a global problem. Ecosystems in Region 5 and the Great Lakes Basin, beset by great ecosystem alterations and biodiversity losses, nevertheless sustain globally rare ecosystems, ecological communities, and species. These resources are being lost or degraded by physical impairment, chemical pollution, and the biological invasion of exotic species.

### ***Goal***

Region 5 will strive to protect, restore, and enhance the functions and structure, including biodiversity, needed to sustain healthy and diverse ecologically significant ecosystems that wholly or partially lie within Region 5 and the Great Lakes Basin.

### ***Subgoals***

- ◆ Protect ecosystems possessing ecological integrity, biodiversity, or rare ecological occurrences from the adverse impacts of anthropogenic stressors.
- ◆ Restore formerly degraded but potentially ecologically significant ecosystems to their full potential.

### ***Actions***

- ◆ Create a Regional Ecosystem Protection Team to further focus resources on this priority.
- ◆ Increase partnership building activities which will result in identification, description, and on-the-ground actions to protect or restore ecologically significant ecosystems, as well as support the formation of long-term commitments for acting on jointly developed ecological priorities. Partners include communities, States, tribes, non-government organizations, other State and Federal agencies, and the public.
- ◆ Provide support in solving site-specific ecological problems in Region 5 by integrating data from EPA and other partners, using environmental indicators for tracking results and analyzing trends, making data more accessible, and by helping to integrate ecosystem protection into existing Regional Programs and other authorities.

## ***PRINCIPAL PLACES***

- ◆ ***The Great Lakes***
- ◆ ***The Upper Mississippi River***
- ◆ ***Northwest Indiana***
- ◆ ***Greater Chicago***
- ◆ ***Southeast Michigan***
- ◆ ***Gateway***
- ◆ ***Northeast Ohio***
- ◆ ***Crandon Mine***
- ◆ ***Tribal Lands***
- ◆ ***International***



## ***The Great Lakes***

### ***Problem***

The Great Lakes are the largest system of fresh surface water, containing 18 percent of the world's supply. The Great Lakes ecosystem contains many diverse elements, including major centers of population, agricultural land, forests, dunes, wetlands, and globally rare plant and animal species. The Great Lakes have suffered over the decades from point and nonpoint sources of pollution, habitat loss and destruction, and threats to biodiversity. In recent years, the Great Lakes have seen major environmental improvements, but they still are affected by a wide range of continuing stressors, particularly toxins that bioaccumulate in the food chain, making numerous fish advisories necessary. Habitat loss and destruction and loss of biodiversity continue to be problems as well.

### ***Goal***

The goal of Region 5 for the Great Lakes is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem.

### ***Subgoals***

- ◆ Reduce and eliminate loadings of toxic substances, with an emphasis on persistent bioaccumulative substances using pollution prevention as a primary tool. Clean up contaminated sediments.
- ◆ Protect human health; protect and restore habitat; and maintain healthy and stable populations of fish and other aquatic life, wildlife, and plants in the Great Lakes ecosystem.
- ◆ Support other priorities, such as community-based environmental protection, partnerships, enhanced public communication, and measuring and managing for environmental results.

### ***Actions***

#### ***Lake Michigan***

- ◆ Complete Volume 1 (partial Stage I and II) of the Lakewide Management Plan (LaMP) incorporating mass balance data, loadings and source analysis, and adding ecosystem objectives, beneficial-use impairment assessments, and indicators.
- ◆ Continue work with the 10 Remedial Action Plans (RAP's) through partnership established with the Lake Michigan Forum and U.S. Corps of Engineers, to clean up contaminated sediments.
- ◆ Support reduction of toxicants activities, including the P2 Primary Metals project, and initiation of a PCB Clean Sweep.

### ***Lake Erie***

- ◆ Complete Volume 1 of the LaMP, including development of ecosystem objectives, beneficial-use impairment assessments, pollutant source and loadings analysis, and public involvement activities.
- ◆ Increase Federal assistance to Remedial Action Plans, promoting increased environmental progress in Areas of Concern (AOC's).
- ◆ Increase pollution prevention activities, as well as habitat protection and restoration activities, in the Lake Erie Basin.

### ***Lake Superior***

- ◆ Complete Volume 3 of the LaMP, including analysis of current regulatory programs and development of reduction strategy using tools and incentives.
- ◆ Increase Federal assistance to Remedial Action Plans to address sediment remediation and reduction of toxicants in AOC's.
- ◆ Identify and fund habitat restoration-protection projects and data-base development for land use and planning decisions.
- ◆ Sponsor sustainable development workshops with land-use planners and local governments, to support community development efforts towards sustainability in the Lake Superior Basin.

### ***Special Initiatives***

- ◆ Complete the Great Lakes Initiative (GLI) by working with States to ensure timely adoption and implementation of consistent water quality standards, antidegradation policies, and related procedures by statutory deadline.
- ◆ Complete and implement the Binational Virtual Elimination Strategy, which will further promote the reduction and elimination of toxic inputs into the Great Lakes. Emphasize mercury and PCB's as key targeted chemicals.
- ◆ Finalize the Lake Michigan Mass Balance study by completing field, lab, modeling, and data work and develop and publish reports outlining findings, key recommendations, and implications for environmental management of the Great Lakes.
- ◆ Continue to ensure that the goals of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, which emphasizes an ecosystem approach as well as calling for a broader focus on the reduction of toxic chemicals in the Great Lakes, are met. This will be achieved by coordinating with Environment Canada, other Regions, Federal agencies, and States to ensure that programs and projects result in clear and measurable progress against goals.

### ***The Upper Mississippi River***

The Upper Mississippi River basin extends from the Mississippi's confluence with the Ohio River, northwards to the Mississippi's headwaters in Minnesota. The Mississippi and its ecosystem have been heavily influenced by man and his activities, navigation structures, 27 locks and dams on the main channel, flood protection levees, and changes in land use and land cover. Within the basin are some of the most highly productive agricultural lands in the world. Also within the basin there are a significant numbers of species, including fish, birds, and mammals. However, the river is experiencing significant adverse environmental impacts.

The goal of Region 5 for the Upper Mississippi River is to assure the long-term sustainability of the Upper Mississippi River Basin ecosystem. The subgoals are to address three areas of major concern: sedimentation, nutrient loading contributing to the hypoxia (reduced oxygen) problem in the Gulf of Mexico, and the loss of habitat.

During the coming year we intend to identify and prioritize watersheds and subwatersheds that are contributing significant amounts of sediments and nutrients. We will be working with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, National Biological Service, and U.S. Geological Service to identify problem watersheds and to line-up activities. We will also be working with the States to develop Best Management Practices to address the sediment and nutrient problems. Some of these actions will require us to work with the agricultural community. Where possible, we will identify wetlands, forests, and prairies that can be restored or enhanced. Emphasis will be on habitat opportunities within the Mississippi River floodplain.

### ***Northwest Indiana***

Northwest Indiana, spanning the southern shore of Lake Michigan, has experienced a century of severe environmental degradation. This was largely because of the steel and petroleum refining industries, because of major alteration of the natural ecosystem by filling of dunes and wetlands, and because of overall development. Ozone and particulate nonattainment, 10 million cubic yards of contaminated sediments in the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal and the Grand Calumet River, millions of gallons of free-floating petroleum products in ground-water, and numerous sites contaminated with hazardous waste - including 15 Superfund sites - are some of the many environmental challenges facing the area.

The goal of Region 5 for Northwest Indiana is environmental restoration of the Northwest Indiana area and elimination of environmental stressors that affect the quality of life. The subgoals are to implement the Northwest Indiana Environmental Action Plan, to support and further the Region's priorities, and to build community capacity.

During FY 97 we will continue to implement the Northwest Indiana Environmental Initiative Action Plan with our partner, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. This includes cleaning up contaminated sediments, remediating land and ground water, coordinating

compliance and enforcement, developing a Remedial Action Plan and a Lakewide Area Management Plan, improving air quality, and preventing pollution. Region 5 will also pursue additional activities, outside of the Action Plan, that support our Regional priorities. In addition, community education and outreach will include: setting up community-based risk assessment training, establishing a Mighty Acorns project, developing interactive software on the environmental history and current sustainable-development issues of the area, and participating in the Northwest Indiana Sustainable Development Task Force.

### ***Greater Chicago***

In the Greater Chicago area there are numerous environmental problems, including, non-attainment of the ozone standard, large-scale ground-water and soil contamination, deterioration of critical habitat and biodiversity, illegal dumping, and contaminated sediments. Region 5 is working with our Federal, State, local, and other partners to develop strategies that will address these problems.

The goal of Region 5 for Greater Chicago is to protect and restore environmental health and beauty in Greater Chicago. The subgoals include: reestablishment of the steering committee for the Greater Chicago Initiative, which will continue to develop and implement an overall strategy for the area and support the environmental priorities of Region 5; evaluating the overall strategy based on a scientific understanding of the area's environmental problems; addressing Region 5's top environmental priorities.

Activities for this year will include public outreach on the need to attain the ozone standard and the relationship of ozone alert days to health effects, such as asthma; developing public dialogue on dealing with large-scale contaminated ground-water and soil areas, including the need to preserve or restore critical habitat for biodiversity; working to build State and local illegal dumping programs; developing programs with business and the community for pollution prevention; and collecting existing data on contaminated sediments.

### ***Southeast Michigan***

The Southeast Michigan Initiative (SEMI) area has major environmental problems, including rivers with impaired uses, contaminated sediments, combined sewer overflows, major toxic pollutant releases, a polluted airshed, and the continuing destruction of critical habitat. Many SEMI areas are subject to environmental justice concerns due to high minority-low income populations near major pollution sources and blighted urban areas.

The goal of Region 5 for Southeast Michigan is to facilitate action to protect and improve the environment and the natural resources of this area. The subgoals address the top regional environmental priorities, the development of a CBEP Action Plan, and the completion of the RAP for the area bordering Lake Erie. The Region's community-based problem solving approach uses partnerships with stakeholders, including those represented at SEMI's

Environmental Forum meetings. The forum is an open roundtable, which is the primary means of communication and coordination with stakeholders and serves to insure that limited government resources target the most pressing environmental issues, as defined by regional priorities and by the community.

Specific activities for this year will address: redevelopment of brownfields, ensuring environmental justice, preservation and restoration of critical habitat, remediation of contaminated sediments, maintenance of the ozone standard, and the reduction of toxicants in the environment. Activities in these areas include outreach and education, developing partnerships with local stakeholders, building local capacity, multimedia projects, enforcement and compliance assistance, and measuring for environmental results. A stakeholder group will be developing a scheme for setting priority goals and developing a database of relevant environmental indicators with which to measure environmental improvement over time.

### *Gateway*

The Gateway Initiative encompasses the Greater East St. Louis, IL, area. Over 70 industrial facilities - including oil refineries, chemical companies, a steel mill, a commercial hazardous waste incinerator, five active or closed hazardous waste landfills, as well as copper, lead, and zinc smelters - lie in this 60-square mile area on the eastern floodplain of the Mississippi River. The area does not meet health-related air quality standards for ozone and lead, and ambient air concentrations for cadmium are among the highest in the country. The community has expressed great concern over the prevalence of illegal dumping, open burning, abandoned and deteriorating houses, and flooding in largely minority or low-income neighborhoods.

The goal of Region 5 for the Gateway community is to improve the quality of life, protect the natural resources, and build sustainable community involvement on local environmental issues. The subgoals address the top regional environmental priorities, as well as other issues of concern to the local community.

In FY 97, Region 5 will continue to conduct tire cleanups, demolish abandoned structures, and enhance our partnership with local watershed planning agencies to address persistent flooding. We will also continue to support local efforts to redevelop Brownfields. Environmental justice remains a high priority. By offering training such as the Citizens' Environmental Academy and Basic Environmental Law training for local law enforcement, we will promote empowerment in environmental justice communities and build capacity within local organizations to support efforts at environmental stewardship. We will continue to work closely with the Illinois EPA, the Illinois Department of Public Health and other agencies involved in the area. Finally, we will increase our education, outreach, and community involvement, in conjunction with Region 7, to address air-quality issues.

### *Northeast Ohio*

Over 4 million people live in the 15-county Northeast Ohio area. Dramatic demographic and economic changes have occurred over the past 40 years. Historical practices and changing land-use patterns have introduced unprecedented stresses on the environment and public health. Traditional compartmentalized approaches need to be replaced with community-based regional approaches to address the challenges of the next decade.

The goal of Region 5 for Northeast Ohio is to improve protection of public health and the environment through establishment of new partnerships and linkages. The subgoals are to support State and local partners in achieving their goals, to achieve sustainable development, restore the quality of the urban environment, eliminate toxicants, achieve air quality standards, and eliminate impaired water quality uses. In addition, we will address the six Region 5 environmental priorities in Northeast Ohio, connect the EPA with the community, and further our overall goal of protecting public health and the environment.

For FY 97, key actions will include: providing information, experts, and financial and hands-on assistance to stakeholders; building stakeholder capacity; continuing both general and focused community outreach; developing a one-stop-shopping approach to respond to citizen inquiries and complaints; and coordinating the implementation of nondelegated programs to add value to stakeholder efforts.

### *Crandon Mine Project*

Region 5 has dedicated resources to support a comprehensive review of the Crandon Mine project, a proposed copper and zinc mine, near Crandon, WI. The proposed mine would be within the environmentally sensitive and culturally rich Wolf River Watershed, near the reservations of the Sokoagon Chippewa Community, Forest County Potawatomi Community, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, and the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. The proposed mine would be an underground operation that would produce 55 million tons of ore. Half of the 44 million tons of mine tailings produced would be backfilled into the mine and half would be secured within a 355 acre, above-ground, tailings management area to the east of the ore body. The tailings will be sulfide bearing, which means that the potential for acid mine drainage exists and that proper precautions and technology must be used to protect and preserve the environmental quality of the area. Water quality and quantity, wetland impacts, water diversion, tribal cultural impacts, and cumulative impacts are among the issues related to this project.

The goal of Region 5's involvement in the Crandon Mine project is to enable the Federal permit decision process to rely on environmentally sound, culturally sensitive, and technically correct facts and data. The subgoals are to assist the four federally recognized Native American Indian Tribes in protecting and preserving their tribal resources and to assist other Federal agencies (of which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the federal lead agency) by providing quality data, both factual and technical, and reviews.

Specifically, our activities for this year will focus on upholding the Federal trust responsibility to the tribes. In addition, we will be working with the tribes, other Federal agencies, the State and the mining company by contributing data and by providing quality reviews and comments on pertinent project documents.

### ***Tribal Lands***

Region 5 has a duty to uphold its trust responsibility to the 33 Indian tribes in the region. The tribes do not have the necessary resources or administrative infrastructure to adequately address environmental problems that effect their communities.

Region 5's goal is effective stewardship and implementation of tribal trust responsibilities. The subgoals are: recognizing each tribe's right to be at the environmental table as a sovereign nation; building the capacity of tribes to solve their environmental problems on their own, and, where capable, to achieve Treatment as a State (TAS), through financial and on-site technical assistance; direct implementation of environmental programs by EPA on reservations where necessary.

Region 5 will take on many activities this year. The Regional Tribal Operations Council (RTOC) will meet quarterly in Chicago to ensure frequent and open communications and resolution of issues. We will formally establish a Regional Tribal Team, consisting of representatives from all Divisions and Offices, that will report directly to the Senior Leadership Team. The Regional Administrator will be the Team's sponsor. The Team will be a focal point for Regional efforts to revise, enhance, and update the Tribal Environmental Agreements (TEA's), which define multiyear priorities. Each Division and Office will prepare a blueprint, which identifies activities it will fund or undertake in the coming year to help the Tribes accomplish their goals, as described in the TEA. The Team will develop a Region 5 tribal policy and will implement the communications strategy. In addition, the Team will work on tribal training needs, access to Clean Water On-Line, and enhanced grants management.

## *International*

Over half of the United States' population lives in 19 States that straddle the U.S. border areas with Canada and Mexico. Global and regional environmental threats are also local threats: whether they are dumping of foreign species in local harbors or long-range transport of persistent pollutants. United States cannot meet its statutory mission without international cooperation to address stratospheric ozone depletion, global warming, maintenance of global biodiversity, and sharing of ideas on new foreign technologies and even management techniques piloted elsewhere.

The goals of Region 5 for our international activities are: to work with neighboring countries to prevent transboundary pollution and resource degradation that threatens public health and shared ecosystems in North America, the Arctic, and the wider Caribbean; to protect the global commons as well as U. S. public health and ecosystems from global environmental threats; to strengthen environmental management and participatory decision-making in other countries in support of U.S. environmental, economic, foreign policy, and national security objectives; and to promote cleaner and more cost-effective environmental practices and technologies in the U.S. and abroad through public and private partnerships.

In FY 97 Region 5 will work within the International Activities Framework. We will continue to support the NAFTA environmental processes by providing staff for specific reviews and expert panels, as appropriate. Region 5 will help EPA Headquarters prepare a response to OECD review of U.S. environmental programs, continue coordinating the international visitor programs, and continue supporting EPA's Asian Environmental Partnership program for Korea and India. Region 5 will focus its capacity- building programs in the Baltics on development of regionally compatible environmental monitoring programs and environmental data managements systems to detect and control persistent organic pollutants, as per the Lithuanian FY 96 Funding Workplan. Region 5 will close out the Moscow water projects in partnership with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Minnesota's Office of Water. We will also provide limited assistance with our national experts and environmental software group to help other EPA Region leads in Russia and Asia. Region 5, in coordination with Regions 4 and 8, will help EPA fulfill its commitments in Ukraine to present EIA training, develop a pesticide registration program, and computerize the Ministry of Environment, increasing its capacity to introduce newer "greener" pesticides and reduce reliance on persistent pesticides. We will provide limited technical oversight and project development support to EPA's Polish and Ukrainian risk management projects. Region 5 will serve as EPA lead to develop a model program for implementation of the Environmental Security initiative, which focuses on military base cleanup to address POP's and mercury, building on previous successes with hazardous materials emergency response programs and site remediation in the Baltics. We will continue to support an environmental literature and software repository network as a means to disseminate information on U.S. methodology, priorities, and technology and to minimize direct information requests to EPA.



## ***CRITICAL APPROACHES***

- ◆ ***Community-Based Environmental Protection***
- ◆ ***Common Sense Measures***
- ◆ ***Pollution Prevention***
- ◆ ***Partnerships with States, tribes, local governments, and other Federal agencies***
- ◆ ***Enhanced Public Communication***
- ◆ ***Enforcement and Compliance Assurance***
- ◆ ***Multimedia Approaches***
- ◆ ***Risk - and Science-Based Decision Making***
- ◆ ***Measuring and Managing for Environmental Results***
- ◆ ***Internal Resource Investment for Change***

The critical approaches represent the most important tools that Region 5 will be using to address our environmental priorities and to find solutions to environmental problems in our principal places. Although every approach is not applicable to each environmental priority or principal place, our expectation is that these critical approaches will be used to the maximum extent possible when they apply. The following narratives describe how Region 5 plans to use these critical approaches more effectively during FY 97 and to achieve better environmental results in the future.

### ***Community-Based Environmental Protection***

The Community-Based Environmental Protection (CBEP) approach is one of our techniques that helps EPA maximize environmental results by collaborating with other agencies, State and local governments, tribes, businesses, organizations, and individuals to solve environmental problems. This problem solving approach provides a setting in which EPA works with communities which are affected, involved, or interested in identifying environmental problems, ranking these problems, developing solutions, and initiating work towards eliminating the problems. Recently, Region 5 reorganized many of its staff and resources into geographic initiatives to focus work in locations. The Region created a CBEP workgroup that is committed to building and developing EPA's capacity to work in communities. The CBEP workgroup is responsible for providing leadership and establishing CBEP policies and guidance in the media programs and regional teams: for mediating CBEP-related issues, for institutionalizing CBEP activities into the Region's daily activities and strategic planning, and for working directly with the Senior Leadership Team on setting CBEP priorities. The CBEP workgroup will also establish linkages with the six environmental priority managers, the Regional Teams, other principal place and critical approach managers, as well as members of the Divisions and Offices. Linkages with the States, tribes, and other Federal agencies is a priority so that information and data can be shared and partnerships can be built. The success of the CBEP approach will depend on the ability of the Region's staff to recognize CBEP opportunities and to work effectively with other parties in resolving environmental problems. To this goal, the CBEP workgroup is responsible for developing a clearinghouse of tools, training, and organizational skills that will enhance and capitalize the regional staff's ability to work with our various publics.

### ***Common Sense Measures***

A central part of our vision is that we will use common sense in solving all environmental problems. The term "common sense" has caused some confusion and controversy. It simply means using good judgement in helping solve environmental problems. The solutions should make sense to the people in the communities most effected by the problem. There should be a reasonable expectation that the proposed solution will solve the environmental problem without creating additional complications. "Common sense" does not mean we throw out the rules or just give industry what it wants. It means we apply the rules in a way that makes sense and solves the problem.

### ***Pollution Prevention***

As one of its national goals, EPA holds that by relying on pollution-prevention techniques and strategies in the way we produce, consume, reuse, and recycle materials we can ensure that all Americans will live in contaminant free, sustainable communities. Furthermore, it is Region 5's position that environmental protection and economic prosperity are inextricably linked: Pollution prevention is both good business and good for business. Members of the regulated community, the general public, Region 5 employees, and other interested stakeholders seek pragmatic, bottom-line ways to eliminate or minimize pollution at its source - be it at home, industry, or office. To advance the widespread implementation of pollution-prevention practices within public and private sectors, Region 5 seeks to instill and help foster a holistic and dynamic pollution-prevention ethic among Regional employees, teams, base programs, external stakeholders, and the general public. The aim is to achieve a measurable reduction of pollution, especially in Region 5's geographic and priority areas. Specifically, during FY 97 we will strive to reduce mercury usage in the dental profession and chlor-alkali industry, seek further trade association opportunities and partnerships through the Great Lakes Pollution Prevention Round table, and support interagency and intra-agency pollution-prevention efforts to advance the pollution-prevention ethic that will bring all Americans closer to the goal of living in contaminant-free, sustainable communities.

### ***Partnerships***

Partnerships are essential for achieving our vision of a sustainable environment in which air, water, and land resources are restored and protect to benefit all life. Region 5's goal is to establish effective partnerships with States, Tribes, local governments, other Federal Agencies, communities, and environmental groups that allow all partners to capitalize on effecting environmental results. These partnerships include the formal agreements of Environmental Performance Partnerships Agreements with States, Tribal Environmental Agreements, and grants to communities, to informal collaborations with individual communities and organizations.

For FY 97, Region 5 will work with its partners to develop and incorporate new approaches for protecting the environment. We will continue to build strong partnership through various forms of outreach, including the use of focus groups, meetings, and the joint development and signing of agreements. We will work with Federal partners to renew support for the Environmental Round table. The Sustainable Development Challenge Grants provide another opportunity to work with new and different partners as they develop and implement their vision and plan for an environmentally sustainable future.

Federal environmental statutes have been very successful for over 25 years in positively changing the Nation's mind set toward protecting the environment. The success of environmental laws has also significantly changed the perception of environmental requirements by business and industry.

EPA has adopted a sector-based approach to partnering with industry. The goal of the sector-based approach in Region 5 is to provide greater and more efficient protection of the environment through the development of new and innovative approaches to achieve and maintain compliance with environmental statutes. This will be done in partnership with Headquarters; State, tribal, and local environmental protection agencies; trade associations; environmental activists; environmental justice advocates; and the general public. Specifically, Region 5 will continue to actively participate in the EPA's Common Sense Initiative and in each of its six targeted industrial sectors. Region 5 will also manage or participate in pilot projects to test new approaches and to use the results of pilots and other innovative alternatives in bringing industry into the mainstream of the Region's programs. In addition, by working with industry on the Regulatory Reinvention initiatives such as Project XL, Environmental Leadership Program, and compliance incentives for small businesses and communities, we can leverage our resources and achieve more and better environmental results for all businesses.

### ***Enhanced Public Communication***

Public opinion polls continue to show that the majority of American's strongly support protecting the environment. However, the public has a right to know what it receives for its support and to participate in decision-making, particularly when it involves the local community. EPA has a responsibility to provide understandable environmental information to the public, to provide effective means for public participation and feedback, and to help the public make informed environmental decisions. This responsibility belongs not only to employees in the Office of Public Affairs, but to all employees. The Public Affairs staff will provide tools, training, and professional consultation services to the whole Region, to help all employees communicate effectively with the public.

### ***Enforcement and Compliance Assurance***

The primary objective of Region 5's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance program is to protect human health and the environment by having all regulated parties attain, maintain - and even go beyond - full and timely compliance with all environmental requirements. Because pollution does not respect political boundaries, EPA must take a consistent enforcement approach and ensure that a level playing field exists across the Nation. As methods of environmental protection continue to develop - and new relationships are created with governments, industry, and the public - changes in the methods for achieving, monitoring, and maintaining compliance with environmental requirements are necessary. While strong, vigorous enforcement remains an essential tool to assure compliance, it is not the only tool. Other tools, such as compliance assistance, when used appropriately, can supplement and enhance enforcement, although compliance assistance is not a substitute for enforcement. A credible enforcement presence, based upon the assurance of a credible enforcement response, provides an incentive for regulated parties to follow through on compliance assistance offered. EPA performs this vital function by providing leadership when addressing environmental problems that cross State, regional, and national borders and by ensuring that a consistent level of

environmental protection is maintained for all citizens. Enforcement activities are critical to ensuring that regulated entities who violate environmental requirements do not gain a competitive advantage over those who comply with environmental laws. The collection of penalties through enforcement actions serves to level the playing field and deter violations. Obtaining prompt and effective resolution to enforcement actions is essential to return violators to compliance. Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP's) offer an opportunity for violators to obtain penalty credits in return for undertaking innovative approaches (such as pollution prevention) to environmental problems. In FY 97, the goals of Region 5's Enforcement and Compliance Assurance program are: increase compliance with environmental statutes and regulations through the use of enforcement, compliance incentives, and implementation of the Regional Compliance Assistance Strategy; develop partnerships with all Region 5 States and encourage resource sharing to optimize our collective resources; routinely use SEP's as part of the resolution of enforcement actions in order to achieve increased environmental benefits; and, where appropriate, include impacted communities in the development of SEP ideas.

### ***Multimedia Approaches***

Region 5 has a long history of multimedia coordination, including the Great Lakes National Program Office, In-Place Pollutant Task Force, Pollution Prevention Roundtable, and Geographic Enforcement Initiatives. Since 1990, we have successfully taken a multimedia approach to enforcement, whenever feasible. It is increasingly evident that the solution to most complex environmental problems requires a multimedia approach. Also, many of EPA's newest initiatives have moved away from a single-media approach. The future success of the Region depends on our ability to address a wide range of multimedia issues. Groups of people with diverse disciplines and skills working together can achieve better solutions. Although we have largely retained a media-based organizational structure, we expect to expand the use of region wide teams, committees, and workgroups in the future. Furthermore, some regional offices have adopted an internal multimedia structure - ORC, OPA, and OSEA. This multimedia approach will be more appropriate to address and resolve the environmental problems that will confront us for the remainder of this decade.

### ***Risk - and Science-Based Decision Making***

Region 5 will ensure that our environmental management decisions are clear, consistent, and reasonable. In addition, we will ensure that they protect human health and the environment through the generation and consideration of technically excellent, publicly accessible, risk and scientific information in our decision-making process. This requires two key commitments: that EPA technical staff have the necessary tools and access to information to provide the best available scientific information to decision-makers and that EPA management incorporate science and risk in their decisions and communicate the basis for their decisions. For FY 97, key actions will include: providing technical assistance and applying a risk- and science-based decision-making approach to the top 6 environmental priorities, as well as to the 10 critical places; conducting risk characterization-risk management training for managers; getting

training and information to technical staff on critical science or risk issues (such as endocrine disruptors, peer review, and ecological risk); enhancing the technical exchange mechanisms currently in-place (Risk Policy Forum, Ecological Risk Forum), which are key mechanisms for communication and collaboration throughout the Region. During FY 97, the Region will establish a Science in Decision-Making Forum, made up of management and technical staff, to explore the integration of the best scientific information into decisions. Region 5 has established a Regional Science Council (RSC) which will design research needs, integrate existing research into decision-making, and strengthen links with ORD and EPA's internal and external research efforts.

### ***Measuring and Managing for Environmental Results***

Region 5 is committed to relying heavily on environmental data to evaluate conditions, identify existing and emerging problems, set priorities, and make decisions to address the top hazards facing public health and the environment. For FY 97, Region 5 will identify and further refine environmental goals, indicators and performance measures for our top 6 environmental priorities and our 10 critical places. We also will work with the States to develop goals, indicators, and measures for our joint priorities. We will strengthen our partnerships with other Federal, tribal, State, and local agencies to facilitate the sharing of environmental data and information. We will develop a pilot state-of-the-environment report that will first focus on the Gateway geographic initiative and the contaminated sediments priority and will use information generated by the National accountability pilots for the Government Performance and Results Act. Finally, we will conduct quarterly reviews against the "Agenda for Action" to evaluate progress toward achieving our goals, and we will evaluate program performance and environmental results through our partnership commitments with EPA HQ, States, and tribes on a regular basis.

### ***Internal Resource Investment for Change***

The most important assets of any organization are its people. Region 5 recognizes that it is the dedication and efforts of regional employees that have enabled this organization to achieve past successes and will continue to help meet future challenges. Therefore, Region 5 is committed to providing an environment that fosters the recruitment, development, and retention of a high-quality, diverse workforce to support the environmental priorities, principles places and critical approaches. Several projects have been designed to address these needs and to improve career development opportunities for all regional employees. Three of these activities were completed in FY96 through the Region's Human Resources Council (Environmental Leadership Advancement Profile, Career Development Inventory, and Career Development Policy). Three other projects (Needs Assessment, Core Curricula-Skills Inventory Database, and Multiple Career Paths) are underway in FY 97. Region 5 will work closely with the Union to ensure that a strong partnership is developed on these issues.

## ***REGION 5 MEDIA PROGRAM DIVISIONS***

- ◆ ***Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division***
- ◆ ***Superfund Division***
- ◆ ***Air and Radiation Division***
- ◆ ***Water Division***

### ***Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division***

Our mission is to insure the proper management of wastes, pesticides, toxic substances, and petroleum products by building the capacity of states, tribes, and local governments, industry and the public. Our primary goals are:

1. Safe homes, schools and workplaces: To ensure that Region 5 citizens live, learn, and work in safe and healthy environments. This is accomplished through our asbestos-in-schools, lead-based paint, and pesticide worker protection programs.
2. Toxic-Free communities: Relying on pollution prevention, reuse, and recycling in the way we produce and consume materials, to ensure that Region 5 citizens live in communities free of toxic hazards. This is accomplished through our toxic release, pollution prevention, waste minimization, and solid waste management programs.
3. Safe Waste Management : Wastes produced and handled by every person in Region 5 will be stored, treated, and disposed of in ways that prevent harm to people and other living things. This is accomplished through our underground storage tank, PCB, solid waste and hazardous waste programs, with an emphasis on combustion facilities.
4. Restoration of Contaminated Sites : Places in Region 5 currently contaminated by hazardous materials will not endanger public health and the natural environment and will be restored to uses desired by surrounding communities. We accomplish this through our hazardous waste, PCB, and leaking underground storage tank corrective action programs.
5. Empowering People with Information and Education and Expanding their Right to Know : Region 5 citizens will be informed and educated participants in improving environmental quality. This is accomplished through our information management systems, including the toxic release inventory and hazardous waste biennial reporting systems. The Waste, Pesticides and Toxics' programs also contribute to the national goals of clean air, clean waters, healthy terrestrial ecosystems, safe drinking water, safe food, preventing accidental releases, and reducing global and regional environmental risks.

### ***Superfund Division***

The mission of the Region 5 Superfund Division is to protect public health and the environment by addressing releases of hazardous substances from abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. The long term goal of the Superfund program is to cleanup all Region 5 sites listed on the National Priority List (NPL). For FY 97 there are five short term goals:

1. Make significant progress in addressing NPL sites;
2. Use the Superfund removal authorities to address emergency and short term clean-ups;
3. Support implementation of the Superfund Administrative Reforms until such time as the law is reauthorized;
4. Respond to oil spills and prevent their recurrence;
5. Support State and local emergency response agencies.

The Superfund Administrative Reforms specifically challenge the program to improve in these areas: make smarter cleanup decisions that protect the public at less cost; increase fairness in the enforcement process and reduce transaction costs; increase State, tribal, and community involvement in cleanup decisions; and promote the economic redevelopment of Brownfields sites. Day-to-day Superfund activities are directly linked to three of the Region's priorities: Brownfields, reduction of toxicants, and sediments; Superfund also has a very active environmental justice program.



### ***Air and Radiation Division***

The mission of Region 5's Air and Radiation Division is to insure safe air for our citizens to breathe, a healthy global atmosphere, and an environment free of undue radiation risk. We have identified seven environmental goals to guide our efforts: 1. Attain and maintain ambient air quality standards; 2. Prevent deterioration of the Region's clean air; 3. Reduce air toxicant emissions to protect public health and to reduce deposition to the Great Lakes; 4. Reduce the emissions of acid rain precursors; 5. Reduce the emissions of stratospheric ozone depleters; 6. Reduce the emissions of global climate change precursors; 7. Reduce exposure to indoor air pollutants. In addition, the following program priorities have been set for FY 97: create with our State partners a joint effort that blends compliance assistance with aggressive enforcement to achieve our environmental goals; continue timely State rule and redesignation processing; maintain a comprehensive and quality assured air monitoring network; begin good State operating permit programs; fulfill our trust responsibilities to the Region's Native Americans; consider environmental justice in our day to day activities; carry out a Great Lakes air toxicant-water quality management plan with emphasis on early control of mercury; promote the EPA's pollution preventing Green Programs; employ to the fullest the emerging information technology to achieve our program goals.

### ***Water Division***

The Water Division envisions a world that has abundant, safe, and clean water to sustain all living things - now and in the future. During FY 97, we will focus on these goals: 1. No net loss of wetlands: To protect these critical resources, we will use tools such as advanced wetlands identification projects and coordinated wetland enforcement and compliance assistance efforts in geographic priority areas; 2. Reduce Nonpoint source (NPS) loading of sediments and nutrients that threaten water quality locally and in the Gulf of Mexico: We will form partnerships, in particular with the agricultural community, and focus our NPS tools on the Illinois River watershed; 3. Reduce point-source toxic discharges that threaten water and sediment quality: We will focus our wastewater enforcement and compliance-technical assistance efforts to improve pretreatment and combined sewer overflow controls in the Detroit area; 4. Protect drinking water from nitrate-nitrite and pesticide contamination : We will build State, tribal, and local capacity, especially in small rural communities, using tools such as the State Revolving Funds program for drinking water and Clean Water On-Line for information sharing. We will also promote Wellhead Protection Programs, underground injection Class 5 Well technical assistance, and State pesticide management plans to prevent source-water contamination; 5. Promote water quality improvement in our lakes and rivers : We will provide technical assistance to States and tribes toward completion of total maximum daily load lists by 1-1-97 and adoption of the Great Lakes Water Quality Initiative by each State by 3-23-97.

## ***Conclusion***

We have set a very ambitious “Agenda for Action” for ourselves. Anything less would not be true to our tradition of being an action based organization. There are many serious problems that need our attention and the attention of our partners. There is an urgent need to sharpen our focus and to change our approaches so that we can meet the challenges of the future. To deliver the quality of life that the people of the Midwest and the entire country want and deserve, we must get on with the task at hand. Together, we can solve the problems and bring about a sustainable environment for future generations.

# MISSION

Our mission is to:

- 🌱 Protect human health and preserve natural resources
- 🌱 Prevent and abate pollution to improve the environment
- 🌱 Serve the public with education, innovation, action, and results
- 🌱 Lead the way in restoring and protecting the Great Lakes and all Midwestern ecosystems

# VALUES

Region 5 aspires to be a Region which respects all people, personally and professionally, and which demonstrates integrity and honesty in all of our dealings. We strive to communicate effectively in our work and to listen to the people we serve, with a preference for action to solve problems and achieve results.

In doing so, we hope to provide effective leadership and build strong partnerships with State, Tribal, and local governments and other Agencies in protecting the environment, and ensuring a future where air, water, and land resources are restored and protected to benefit all life.