



## EPA SUPERFUND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM

### 2000 UPDATE

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### EPA Region III

Delaware  
District of Columbia  
Maryland  
Pennsylvania  
Virginia  
West Virginia

### A Message About Superfund Reform

EPA began improving its hazardous site cleanup process seven years ago. Today, after three rounds of administrative reform, the Superfund hazardous site cleanup program is fundamentally and demonstrably different. By considering different perspectives of the various stakeholders in the Superfund process in developing these reforms, EPA has succeeded in promoting cost-effective cleanup choices that protect human health and the environment over the long-term; reducing litigation so more time and energy is spent on cleanups rather than lawyers; and helping communities become more involved in the cleanup process.

Broad in scope, these reforms ensure that Superfund cleanups across the nation continue to be faster, fairer, and more efficient.

The program's accomplishments are substantial. EPA has already completed cleanup construction at 680 sites on the National Priorities List (NPL) of hazardous waste sites, and with appropriate funding, is committed to cleaning up 300 more by the year 2002.

Parties responsible for contamination continue to plan and perform about 75% of Superfund long-term cleanup actions, saving taxpayers billions of dollars. Billions more are saved by applying new technologies to update cleanup decisions. Superfund reform encourages reuse and redevelopment of sites by awarding national Brownfields Pilot grants each year, and by tackling liability concerns of prospective site buyers with over 115 agreements clarifying site responsibilities.

Successes in our region reflect these outstanding national trends. This brochure highlights the significant accomplishments of Superfund reform in EPA Region III, comprised of Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. *Superfund reform is making a positive difference in your community.*

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### Accomplishments in the Mid-Atlantic States

Since Spring 1999, six more hazardous waste sites have been proposed to the Superfund NPL in Region III. Another nine sites have been formally added to the list, making them eligible for long-term federal cleanup support. That brings the current number of Mid-Atlantic Superfund sites to 205, with 93 percent of these sites having undergone or are undergoing cleanup action. All physical cleanup work is complete at 89 sites, and cleanup activities are well underway at another 63. Since January 1999, we signed 24 Records of Decisions (RODs), an outstanding progress indicator formalizing the selection of site cleanup methods.

When science and technology updates become available, EPA reconsiders its cleanup remedies and saves money by revising them. Since this reform took effect in 1995, Region III has changed 52 RODs, resulting in estimated cost savings of \$180 million.

EPA in the Mid-Atlantic states is aggressive and fair in enforcing Superfund law. Region III, at 80 percent, outpaces the nation for the number of sites where responsible parties are designing upcoming Superfund cleanups. We have also removed over 1600 small-volume waste contributors, the 'little guys' caught in the liability web by other parties.

Recognizing the economic and community benefits of redeveloping formerly contaminated lands, Region III seeks to "recycle" Superfund sites. Publicker Industries, the nation's 500<sup>th</sup> cleanup completion, will yield 1,500 new jobs as it is redeveloped as a Port of Philadelphia shipping terminal. With community input, the Avtex Fibers Superfund site in Virginia is being transformed into a nature conservancy, commercial space, and sports fields.

The region's support of reform initiatives is reflected in customer service as well. Our Ombudsman responds to hundreds of calls from stakeholders with Superfund questions and concerns. Our website, <http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd>, provides user-friendly information on Superfund programs and sites, and over the past year alone, has received well over 1.6 million 'hits'.



Each day, industries  
in the Mid-Atlantic  
states generate 50,000  
tons of hazardous waste.

Superfund reforms ensure  
hazardous waste site  
cleanups are faster, fairer,  
and more efficient.

### Accelerated Cleanups of Toxic Waste Sites

The completion of 85 Superfund hazardous waste site cleanups, as of March 2000, is one indication of the record pace EPA in the Mid-Atlantic states has set for cleaning up sites while protecting your health and your environment. With a streamlined cleanup process and increased pace, Region III looks forward to completing 35 more sites by the end of 2002.

### Using New Technologies to Save Money

Region III has changed 52 cleanup decisions\* when advancements in science and technology can assure a safe, effective cleanup. The cost savings for Mid-Atlantic taxpayers are tremendous, totaling approximately \$180 million dollars so far. At the Whitmoyer Labs Superfund site in Pennsylvania, five changes are saving over \$42 million and at least two years of cleanup time. One innovative technology now in place there uses waste from another industry (steel production) to chemically react with Whitmoyer's contaminated groundwater. The result? Clean, treated water and big savings.

### Fair and Aggressive Enforcement is Key

A core principle of the Superfund program is that the cost of cleaning up toxic-waste sites should be borne by the parties responsible for the waste. Our "Enforcement First" strategy has assured that responsible parties (RPs) perform or pay for 73 percent of all long-term cleanups in Region III and 83 percent of pending cleanups. RP funding has saved taxpayers more than \$2.4 billion to date in Region III.

At 'orphan sites,' where EPA bridges the funding gap when RPs are defunct or insolvent, Region III has now offered over \$32 million at 14 Superfund sites to cover all or some of the orphan share. In addition, Region III has now reached settlements, sometimes at no cost, with approximately 1600 small-volume waste contributors who were dragged into the liability system by large RPs at 26 sites.

### Redeveloping Superfund Sites

Region III has one of the most aggressive programs in the nation to promote redevelopment of contaminated sites by protecting prospective purchasers, lenders, and property



owners from Superfund liability. Region III has entered into 25 Prospective Purchaser Agreements, assuring that these buyers will not be responsible for cleaning up sites where they did not contribute to or worsen contamination. Sports enthusiasts are some of the big winners: a portion of the massive Avtex Fibers Superfund site in Virginia is being transformed into soccer fields; the Ohio River Park Superfund site near Pittsburgh is being redeveloped as a multi-million dollar sports complex; the Millcreek Landfill in Erie is being reused as a golf course, and the Kane & Lombard Drums site in Baltimore just opened as a golf driving range. And sometimes the land is simply returned to its natural state: at Army Creek Landfill in Delaware, the site was revegetated to attract migratory birds, and a portion of the Avtex Fibers site is being transformed into a spacious nature conservancy for the local community.

### Brownfields: Creative Reuse Solutions

The idea behind EPA's Brownfields Pilot Program is that environmental cleanup must go hand-in-hand with bringing life and economic vitality back to communities. The Brownfields reforms empower states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to assess, clean up, and reuse these properties. In Region III, abandoned and contaminated properties in 24 communities that were once used for industrial and commercial purposes have been designated Brownfields Pilots, making them eligible for grants and assistance. The Cape Charles Sustainable Technology Park in Virginia is a great example of what can be accomplished when efforts are pooled. Leveraging \$8 million in federal funds, including a Brownfields grant from Region III, the community has developed the nation's first eco-industrial park, emphasizing zero emissions, resource efficiency, and pollution prevention.

## Region III Superfund Scorecard Millennium Reforms Update



### Increasing the Pace of Cleanups

- Completed 85 hazardous waste site cleanups, 35 more cleanups expected by close of 2002



### Updating Cleanup Decisions

- 52 cleanup decisions changed since 1995
- \$179,000,000 in taxpayer savings



### Compensating for the Orphan Share

- \$32,600,000 offered at 14 sites



### Removing Liability Barriers to Site Redevelopment

- Signed 25 Prospective Purchaser Agreements, actively reviewing 13



### Promoting Fairness in Enforcement

- Settled with approximately 1600 small volume waste contributors at 26 Superfund sites



### Promoting Brownfields Redevelopment

- Awarded pilot grants of \$200,000 each to 24 communities
- Spearheaded federal brownfields partnership, involving 16 agencies, to expedite redevelopment
- Created the first-ever Brownfields Yellow Pages to assist communities in redevelopment



### Communicating with Communities

- Increased community involvement, resulting in greater satisfaction with selected remedies
- Created Internet site with information on Superfund sites, cleanup actions and links to states, receiving over 1.6 million 'hits' last year
- Ombudsman has responded to hundreds of stakeholder calls and provided neutral facilitation and mediation services

*\* figures cited as of March 2000*