

EPA Regional Responses

Presented to the External
Advisory Panel of the Superfund
Basic Research Program, 1/20/09

All 10 EPA Regions Polled

- Responses received from the following 5 Regions:
- Region 1 – Boston, MA
- Region 3 – Philadelphia, PA
- Region 4 – Atlanta, GA
- Region 7 – Kansas City, KS
- Region 8 – Denver, CO

Regional Responses

- The raw responses are available.
- The following slides represent a summary of information provided by the five responding EPA Regions.

Q1 – Key Fundamental Scientific Issues for Research (7 total)

- Reducing risk assessment uncertainties.
- Development of emerging technologies for site remediation.
- Development of new field and analytical tools for site characterization.
- Nanotechnology applications to site characterization and remediation.

Q1 continued

- Development of tools for economic analyses of remediation technologies.
- Evaluation of new and emerging contaminants.
- Reassessment of historic contaminants.

Q2 – Emerging Health, Risk, and Remediation Issues (8 total)

- Green remediation.
- Reuse of remediated sites.
- Bioavailability issues.
- Nanotechnology applications.
- Emerging contaminants.
- Vapor intrusion.

Q2 continued

- Use of genomic data in risk assessments.
- Evaluating effects and exposures at asbestos sites.

Q3A – EPA Program Support of Findings Communication

- ORD Technical Liaisons.
- EPA intranet and internet.
- Workshops with researchers and users.
- Joint pilot projects between SBRP and the Superfund program at actual sites.
- EPA meetings such as NARPM, OSC Readiness, TSP Forums, and Risk Assessors Conference.
- Branch Chief/Division Director meetings.

Q3B – SBRP Facilitation of Communication

- Provide workshops in the Regions with RPMs, OSCs, and scientists.
- Conduct site demonstrations.
- Attend and present at major EPA conferences and consider separate breakout sessions.
- Interact with the EPA Lead Regions for Superfund and RCRA.

Q4A – Optimum Types of Research

- Overall, site and topic-specific applied research is the most useful.
- Applied research on sensors and remediation effectiveness is needed.
- Basic research on emerging contaminants and mixed/co-mingled wastes is needed.

Q4B – New Structures Needed for Data Sharing and Coordination?

- Overall, adequate structures exist in national meetings, ORD liaisons, conference calls, workshops, and the EPA intranet and internet. The primary challenge is effectively using these tools.
- The creation of an EPA/SBRP liaison working group to facilitate information sharing may be beneficial.

Q4C – Are SBRP Conferences and Work Shops Helpful, other Needs?

- More information and advertising of SBRP conferences/work shops is needed.
- More internet seminars (webinars) would be helpful due to time and travel constraints.

Q4D – Should SBRP Continue and Improve Community Outreach?

- Impacts of community outreach are not typically observed at the EPA Regional level.
- Increased use of the EPA intranet and/or internet may help.

Summary and Contacts

- The EPA Regional Superfund programs appreciate the opportunity to provide input.
- Presentation questions may be addressed to Dave Drake at drake.dave@epa.gov or 913-551-7626.
- Superfund Lead Region questions may be addressed to Wendy Lubbe at lubbe.wendy@epa.gov or 913-551-7551.