

## Outline of EPA's Draft Integrated Cleanup Initiative

**Introduction** [Briefly describes the background of developing the draft Plan and how implementation is anticipated to proceed through all “three stages of the cleanup process common to all EPA’s land cleanup programs -- starting cleanups, advancing cleanups, and completing cleanups.”]

Also, note that EPA points out on its website that “The Integrated Cleanup Initiative [ICI] is examining opportunities for improvements across all of EPA’s land cleanup programs, including the Superfund, Brownfields, Federal Facilities, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and Underground Storage Tanks programs. In addition, the Initiative will include a focus on enforcement activities that are critical to ensuring that responsible parties are compelled to clean up contaminated sites, thereby preserving Superfund monies to be used to clean up other sites where viable responsible parties do not exist.”]

**GOAL: “Better use EPA’s assessment and cleanup authorities, in an integrated, transparent and accountable fashion, to address a greater number of contaminated sites, accelerate cleanups where possible, and put those sites back into productive use while protecting human health and the environment.”**

### **Objective 1: Starting Cleanups**

Under this Objective, EPA discusses proposed “Actions” (1 through 3, some including sub-actions) aimed at: improving efficiencies and effectiveness of site assessment and listing processes; re-evaluating the “Superfund Alternative Approach” for possible enhancements to “transparency” in its application; and evaluating current processes for initiating and completing PRP searches to identify opportunities for earlier and more thorough completions.

### **Objective 2: Advancing Cleanups**

Under this Objective, EPA discusses proposed “Actions” (4 through 15, some including sub-actions) aimed at: leveraging resources from different programs to bring more sites from assessment to cleanup and reuse; speeding up “human exposure” evaluations and resolution; improving efficiencies in administrative grant and contracting processes; streamlining Superfund remedial boards and panels; improving timeliness, transparency, and quality of remedy decision documents at Superfund sites; accelerating and improving remedy decisions for Federal Facilities; endeavoring to provide greater support in achieving “remedy optimization” at Superfund sites; expediting response action by holding all parties accountable to negotiation timeframes and scheduled cleanup commitments; undertaking earlier enforcement to maximize PRPs’ involvement in “removal” and “RI/FS” stages; increasing attention to enforcement at RCRA corrective action facilities to ensure timely and protective cleanups; partnering with states, territories and tribes to address backlog of Leaking Underground Storage Tanks; and evaluating and implementing improvements to the program related to brownfields assessments and cleanup grants.

### **Objective 3: Completing Cleanups**

Under this Objective, EPA discusses proposed “Actions” (16 through 19) aimed at: meeting the “RCRA Corrective Action 2020 Goals” (described as “aspirational goals to achieve remedy constructions and human health and groundwater environmental indicators for 95% of the 3,747 facilities believed to need corrective action); accelerating remedial action projects; improving information availability relating to “institutional controls” to enhance evaluating the use of same as well as to improve community understanding of “five-year reviews”; improving timeliness and quality of five-year reviews at federal facilities; and linking cleanup and revitalization efforts.

### **Objective 4: Evaluate performance metrics and the effectiveness of ICI Activities**

Under this Objective, EPA discusses proposed “Actions” (20 through 25) aimed at: crafting performance measures that will better communicate EPA’s accomplishments and progress across the spectrum of the site reuse process, from assessment through cleanup; developing, for use in reporting beginning in 2011, a new measure -- “Remedial Action (RA) Project Completions at National Priorities List (NPL) Sites” (providing valuable information to communities by demonstrating incremental progress in reducing risks to human health and the environment at local NPL sites); developing similar measurement tools relating to sites assessed under the Superfund Program but not listed on the NPL (having been deferred to other cleanup programs); addressing inconsistencies in measuring and reporting program accomplishments as between

(i) Department of Defense (and/or other federal agencies’) measurement tools and metrics at its/their site(s), and

(ii) EPA’s measurement tools and metrics,

thereby improving EPA’s communication with other federal agencies on measuring cleanup performance at their sites, increasing consistency of Quality Assurance Project Plans used in implementing clean-up activities.

### **Objective 5: Communicating the progress**

Under this Objective, EPA discusses proposed “Actions” (26A through E) aimed at articulating the impact EPA’s programs have on the environment and the socioeconomic status of site-affected communities.