

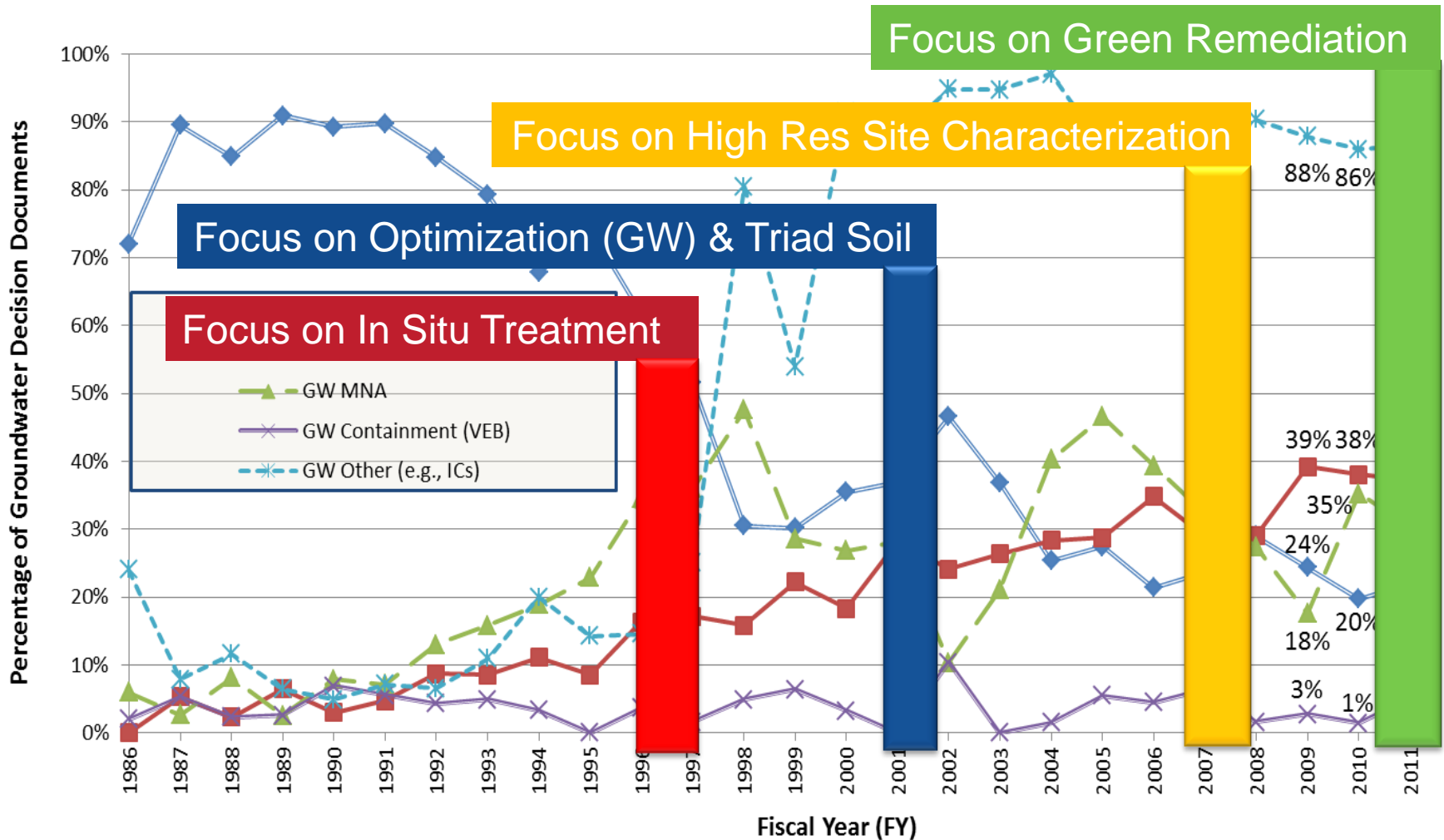
Policy and Management Changes Maximize Investments in Innovative Field Practices: Insights from EPA's Superfund Program

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Introduction

- ◆ Traditionally EPA presentations at ICCL presented information on technology developments or how we overcome environmental challenges
- ◆ Technology advances create program and strategic options
- ◆ We have been advocating for innovation for years and feel we are making inroads into programmatic changes.
- ◆ A recent EPA internal Superfund Program Review resulted in 49 specific actions, most of which are underway or completed
- ◆ Today's briefing presents some examples of how our Superfund program is incorporating best practices into its changing program approach

Groundwater Remedy Trends & Innovations in Superfund Remedies



Superfund Remedial Program Review

Goal Statement: Maintain the Superfund Remedial Program's effectiveness in protecting human health and the environment by more efficiently managing its site cleanup process and program resources

◆ Why?

- Decreasing budgets: Compared against the FY 2011 baseline, the cumulative funding loss for last four years totals approximately \$245M
- Administrator's interest in statutory/regulatory/policy ideas that would leverage others capabilities; demonstrate progress sooner, and make more efficient use of Superfund resources to maintain program accomplishments
- Changing workforce and support tools
- Realizing Superfund Remedial program lessons learned

◆ Who?

- Headquarters and Regional managers and staff

Content of Action Plan

Identifies 49 short & long-term measures and actions to maintain an effective remedial cleanup program under budgetary constraints

Cleanup Process Actions

- ◆ *Adaptive Management*
 - GW Remedy Completion Strategy
 - Deletion Criteria
- ◆ *Remedial Design/Remedial Action Integration*
- ◆ *Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Process*
 - Smart Scoping
 - Early Action
 - Proposed Plans and ROD improvements
- ◆ Pre-Listing
- ◆ Streamlining Five-Year Reviews

Program Management Actions

- Project Data Management
- *Acquisitions*
- Budget
- Alternative Parties to Perform Site Cleanups (e.g. developers)
- *In-house Resources*
- Special Accounts
- Superfund Enterprise Management System/IT
- Superfund Web
- Communications

Superfund Program Review: Results to Date in Four Areas

- ◆ Managing remedial project with the end in mind
- ◆ Achieving administrative efficiencies
- ◆ Managing increasing limited resources to maximize return on investment
- ◆ Strategic vision for data management from site level to corporate scale

The following 4 slides provide examples of how we achieving results in these areas

Managing to Completion

- ◆ Goal - Expedite site cleanups through process efficiencies
- ◆ Adaptive site management: an iterative approach to site investigation and remedy implementation
 - Issue a directive to employ adaptive management approaches at remedial sites
- ◆ Achieving groundwater remedial action objectives
 - Release a Groundwater Remedy Completion Strategy
- ◆ Improve site characterization and data collection
 - Release technical memorandum compiling tools to reduce costs and time developing and managing CSMs

Administrative Efficiencies

- ◆ Goal: Minimize resource intensity of document development, review and communication efforts without compromising their quality
- ◆ Improve the quality of proposed plans and Records of Decision
 - Issue revised pre-CERCLIS screening guidance
- ◆ Streamline Five Year Reviews (over 200/year)
 - Update guidance, currently 15 years old
- ◆ Reduce the administrative effort in preparing the documents necessary to delete sites from the NPL
 - Release new templates online

Resource Management

- ◆ Goal: More efficient and more creative ways to use limited resources
- ◆ Complete the \$500M Superfund Remedial Acquisition Framework
 - We anticipate that competition and refined labor rates will drive costs savings
- ◆ Consider multi-phase, multiple design remedies in future remedial acquisition strategies
 - Enable remedial action funding decisions early earlier in the fiscal year
- ◆ Expand options for non-labile parties to undertake voluntary cleanup activities at Superfund sites

Information Management

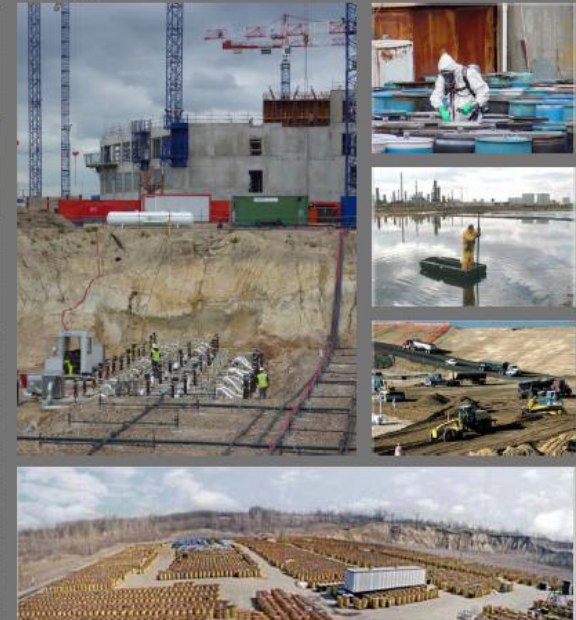
- ◆ Goal: Cost effective approach for timely, transparent, accurate and available site data and information
- ◆ Integrate Superfund business processes with site information across the 10 Regions
 - Deploy the Superfund Enterprise Management System (SEMS)
- ◆ Consolidate site-specific content that is duplicated on both Headquarters and regional webpages
 - Consistent with new Agency web restructure
- ◆ Increase the availability of data for a timely analysis and incorporation into a life-cycle CSM,

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FY
2014

Superfund Remedial Program Review Action Plan



U.S. EPA
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[http://www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/pdfs/Final_SPR_Action_Plan-11_26_2013_\(2\).pdf](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/pdfs/Final_SPR_Action_Plan-11_26_2013_(2).pdf)