

**Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Installations and Environment)
Environmental Management Directorate**

**Partnering with the
Environmental Protection Agency**

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Agenda

Acquisition, Technology and Logistics

- Munitions Response Forum (MRF)
- Goal Harmonization
- Federal Facility Cleanup Dialogue

What is the MRF?

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- The MRF is a state-led forum that brings together stakeholders to discuss and resolve differing views on the cleanup of munitions response sites
- Established in the spring of 2009 under a grant from EPA
- The forum is designed to increase communication between the Department of Defense (DoD), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), state regulators, and the federal land managers
- Replaces the Munitions Response Committee that was led by DoD

Stakeholders Participating in the MRF

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- Participants on the MRF
 - EPA (FFRRO)
 - State Regulators (IL, MA, CA, AK)
 - Federal Land Managers (USDA, DOI, FWS)
 - OSD and the DoD Components (including FUDS and Army National Guard)
 - Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO)
 - Environmental Council of States (ECOS)
- The MRF's organizational structure
 - A state chair (IL) leads the MRF
 - ASTSWMO/ECOS serve as the organizational lead
 - Professional facilitation

DoD Participation in the MRF

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- DoD is only a participant in the state-led MRF and cannot agree to specific policy/program changes
 - DoD can raise policy and program management issues to leadership for consideration as appropriate
- A whole different dynamic than the old Munitions Response Committee

Activities to Date

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- Regular and ongoing discussions between participants
 - Bi-annual face-to-face meetings
 - June and November 2009
 - May and October 2010
 - April 2011 and September 2011 (planned)
 - Teleconference calls in between face-to-face meetings
 - Issue-specific subcommittee teleconference calls
- The MRF is addressing these key issues
 - Interim Risk Management
 - Underwater Munitions
 - Emergency Response

MRF Sunset

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- Budget constraints and funding for the MRF
 - The last MRF meeting is September 2011
- What's next?
 - DoD supports a continuing dialogue with Federal and State environmental regulators, federal land managers, and other stakeholders.
- We will see – stay tuned!



Goal Harmonization Workgroup

- An effort to address real and perceived inconsistencies in how DoD and EPA measure and report cleanup program progress and accomplishments
- Goals of the project:
 - Develop a framework between DoD and EPA cleanup reporting frameworks to promote a more consistent, understandable, integrated tracking and planning process
 - Identify common performance metric elements to better align and track environmental cleanup progress and plan future cleanup strategies
 - Develop a common understanding for collecting data and reporting program performance
 - Collaborate in work planning/target setting efforts to identify greater efficiencies



Why Harmonize DoD's and EPA's Goals?

- Need for clearer and consistent communication
 - Inconsistencies in reported cleanup progress and accomplishments to Congress, OMB, and the public on program progress and accomplishments
- Potential disputes due to differences in performance data
- Potential increased costs and delays
- Unaligned performance measures/metrics
- Enhance government transparency



Activities to Date

- Conducted data reconciliation pilot
 - Initial pilot test at four installations
 - Expanded pilot test at Aberdeen Proving Ground
- Developed an EPA pilot tested percent construction complete (CC) checklist at ten installations
- EPA performed root-cause analysis of the CERCLIS data base to identify reasons for missed targets
- Developed and pilot tested percent Construction Completion (CC) checklist at ten installations
- Performed root-cause analysis to identify reasons for missed targets



Challenges

- DoD Challenges

- Mature, risk-based cleanup program with long history
- Different level of detail in both goals and data available to measure progress (e.g., DoD site vs EPA operable unit)
- Different management tracking of NPL installations
- Expanded DERP eligibility increasing size of program
- Last Remedy in Place not based on NPL vs. Non-NPL status

- EPA Challenges

- DoD and EPA do not have the same environmental cleanup measures
- Harmonizing non-common metrics and data systems (e.g., DoD has no Environmental Indicator (EI) measure)
- Improve collaboration in regard to work planning and target setting



Next Steps

- Continue to engage EPA Regions and States
- Continue working to resolve progress discrepancies
- Conduct pilot test to evaluate disagreement between DoD and EPA regarding EPA Environmental Indicators
- Evaluate feasibility of EPA establishing percent CC measure instead of current “all or nothing” approach
- Resolve data discrepancies in projected completion dates
- Identify opportunities for improved work planning collaboration



Federal Facilities Cleanup Dialogue

- EPA, DoD, and DOE met in October 2010
- Discussed cleanup at Federal Facilities with regulators, tribes, environmental organizations and other stakeholders
 - What is working well and should be shared with other sites
 - What the biggest cleanup issues were and what policy approaches could help resolve
 - Discussed a path forward for taking actions to improve cleanup and share lessons learned but no clear path was identified
 - Chief concerns were with long-term management and community outreach



EPA White Papers

- As follow-up to the Federal Facilities Cleanup Dialogue, EPA drafted two white papers to address concerns raised by stakeholders
 - Long-Term Stewardship and Five-Year Reviews
 - EPA proposes establishing a Workgroup of EPA, DoD, and DOE representatives to work collaboratively to develop an enhanced Five-Year Review process
 - Empowering Community Through Open Government
 - EPA proposes establishing and coordinating a Web portal in partnership with DoD and DOE



Next Steps

- DoD will discuss with EPA and DOE the ideas presented in their white papers
- DoD and EPA will meet within the next 30 days to discuss EPA's proposals