

## **Accelerate the Pace of Cleanups and Return Sites to Beneficial Use in Their Communities**

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Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM)

Theme: Natural Resources and Environment, Community and Regional  
Development

# Overview

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## Goal Statement

- **Accelerate the pace of cleanups and return sites to beneficial use in their communities.** By September 30, 2019, EPA will make an additional 102 Superfund sites and 1,368 brownfields sites ready for anticipated use (RAU).

## Challenge

- Complex environmental problems, such as the presence or perceived presence of hazardous substances in soil, sediment, and groundwater, persist at many contaminated properties, and can threaten the health of American families. The Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) tracks more than 532,000 sites, representing about 20 million acres of land.

## Opportunity

- EPA's Superfund and Brownfields programs reduce risks to human health and the environment by assessing and cleaning up contaminated sites to enhance the livability and economic vitality of neighborhoods. The RAU Priority Goal offers an opportunity for EPA cleanup programs to identify lessons learned, efficiencies and opportunities to advance site cleanup.

# Leadership

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# Goal Structure & Strategies

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## Strategy

- Program managers at EPA headquarters coordinate the development of these goals with their regional counterparts and reach out to state and tribal co-implementers for their input. OLEM holds regional planning meetings and regularly scheduled monthly conference calls with regional management to assess performance. The outcomes of these conversations are incorporated into the reporting for the milestones.
- In addition, OLEM is moving forward on numerous recommendations in the Superfund Task Force to expedite cleanup, promote community revitalization, and engage partners and stakeholders. These efforts will help drive performance. We expect to utilize Task Force deliverables and apply lessons learned.
- There are 42 recommendations in the task force report. EPA has five goal groups working to refine those recommendations and to develop implementation plans for acting on the recommendations. We have created a public SFTF web page and quarterly report that show the implementation status of each recommendation. <https://semspub.epa.gov/work/HQ/100000869.pdf>

# Goal Structure & Strategies, continued

- EPA will be using the deployment of a new EPA Lean Management System (ELMS) to achieve the results set forth in the Strategic Plan. As part of ELMS, EPA will be conducting multi-day process improvement events to make significant progress in those priority areas identified in the Strategic Plan, including this one.

Visual management will then be used to ensure that improvements from the events are achieved and sustained over time. Poster boards with regularly updated performance data will serve as visual management for monitoring progress towards meeting the targets set forth in the Strategic Plan, while additional poster boards will be used to track the flow of the work that needs to be performed to achieve the targets.

Managers and staff will have weekly stand-up huddle meetings in front of their visual management boards to discuss the performance and flow of the process. In addition, National Programs and Regional Offices will hold monthly business reviews to go over both the strategic measures tracked on scorecards, and the implementation plans that track progress on Strategic Plan and priority area projects identified for EPA under President Trump's Executive Order on a Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch. The Administrator will hold quarterly reviews to monitor overall progress on the agency's Strategic Plan and priority area projects.

ELMS is designed to make sure that EPA is regularly monitoring progress towards meeting the targets set forth in the Strategic Plan, and taking immediate action if expected performance is off track.

# Summary of Progress – FY18 Q1

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## **Superfund Highlights:**

- Two tools, the site-wide ready for anticipated use (SWRAU) decision tree and a Regional Best Management Practices document, were finalized and distributed at the end of FY 2017.
  - These tools will help the Regions identify site eligible for the measure and provide the Regions with strategies for meeting SWRAU targets in FY 2018.
- The SWRAU checklist form was updated to reflect the two Human Exposure Under Control indicators appropriate for achieving SWRAU to ensure that all sites meet one of the two when achieving SWRAU.
- Headquarters and Regions have been working to review information collected during the FY 2017 national SWRAU audit to set appropriate targets and regional bids and identify sites that could achieve SWRAU in FY 2018.

## **Brownfields Highlights:**

- Provided training to communities, states, and tribes on the Assessment, Cleanup and Redevelopment Exchange System (ACRES) database.

# Key Milestones

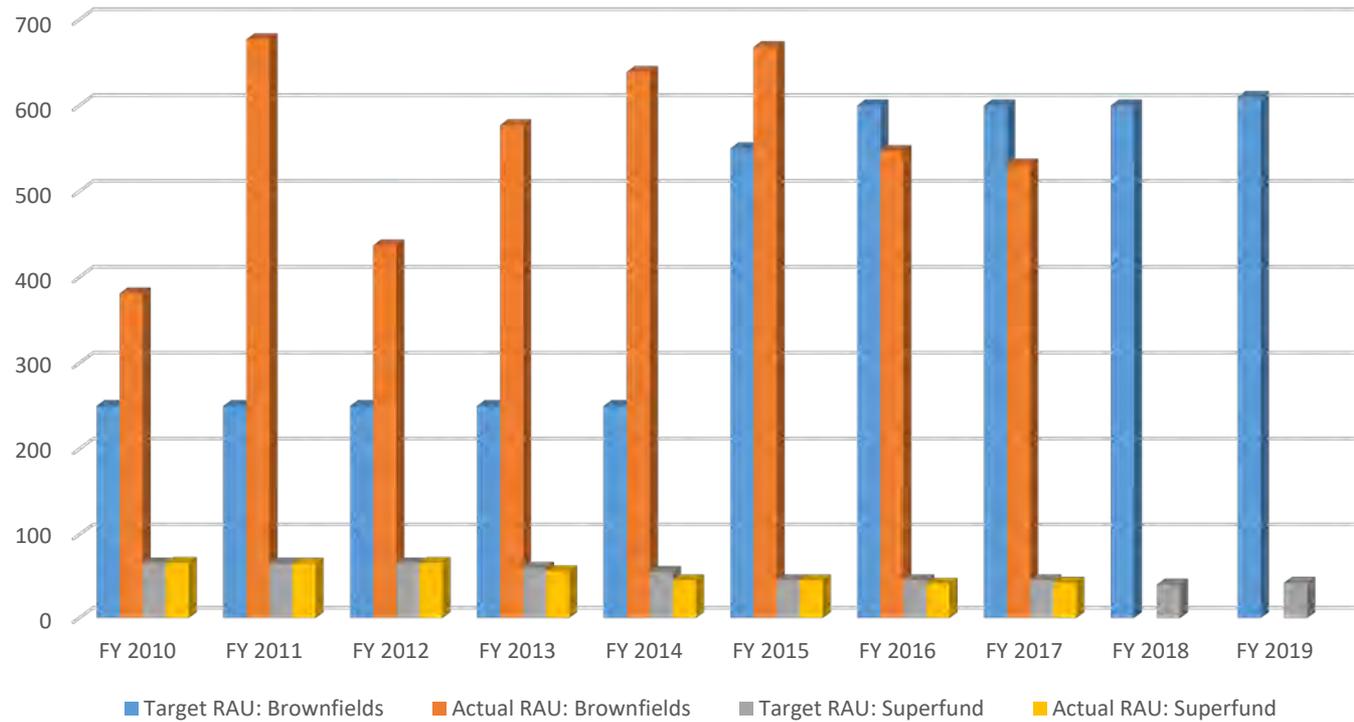
Milestone Summary					
Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner	Comments
Number of Superfund sites RAU - 6	Q1/FY18	On-track	NA	Jim Woolford	10% of FY18 target of 51
Number of brownfields sites RAU - 161	Q1/FY18	On-track	NA	Dave Lloyd	24% of FY18 target of 684
Q2 Data reporting: SF & BF RAU	Q2/2018			Jim Woolford & Dave Lloyd	
Q3 Data reporting: SF & BF RAU	Q3/2018			Jim Woolford & Dave Lloyd	
Q4 data reporting: SF & BF RAU	Q4/2018			Jim Woolford & Dave Lloyd	

## QUARTERLY TARGETS

SUPERFUND RAU	BROWNFIELDS RAU
EOY – SF TARGET = 51	EOY – BF TARGET = 684
SF – Q1 = 5	BF – Q1 = 171
SF –Q2 = 0	BF- Q2 = 171
SF – Q3 = 8	BF –Q3 = 171
SF-Q4 = 38	BF –Q4 = 171

# Key Indicators

## FY 2010-19 Sites Ready for Anticipated Use (RAU)



# Data Accuracy and Reliability

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- Data for the RAU measures are reported to systems administered by Superfund and Brownfields programs.
- EPA's authority and control over contaminated sites varies depending on the statutory authority under which the site is being addressed. Brownfields data are self-reported by grantees.
- EPA has certified Data Quality Records for each of the RAU measures describing management controls, quality procedures and other pertinent metadata associated with the performance data lifecycle, intended to enhance the transparency and objectivity of the performance results.

# Additional Information

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## **Contributing Programs**

### **EPA Organizations:**

- The lead office is the Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM). The key official is Barry Breen, the Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator of OLEM. The Superfund and the Brownfields programs contribute to this goal and take positive action to protect human health and the environment through the cleanup and revitalization of contaminated properties. These programs collaborate with EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance to deliver environmental results.

## **Other Federal Agencies / Stakeholder / Congressional Consultations**

- EPA also works in concert with the states, tribes, local governments, and other federal agencies to ensure the efficiency, efficacy, and coordination of our overlapping and complementary efforts. In some cases, states are authorized to operate cleanup programs, while in others they are partners. Where other federal agencies are designated as the lead for the cleanup actions at their sites, EPA's environmental cleanup goals are subject to, and reliant on, the lead federal agencies' cleanup budgets, execution, and site cleanup performance. EPA recognizes the need to work with co-regulators to build tools and strategies that enhance coordination and manage resources effectively.

# Additional Information, continued

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- RAU is an aggregate performance measure and is not a reporting of site-specific risk. The RAU determination by the appropriate entity is based on information when the determination is made and may change if the site's conditions change or if new or additional information is discovered regarding the contamination or conditions at the site. The RAU Performance Measure is defined as the number of sites at which: 1) there are no complete pathways for human exposures to unacceptable levels of contamination based on current site conditions; 2) all cleanup goals have been achieved for media that may affect current and reasonably anticipated future land uses of the acres or sites so that there are no unacceptable risks; and 3) all institutional or other controls identified as part of the response action to help ensure long-term protections have been put in place. Review of the data for these prerequisite measures is part of OLEM's evaluation process for determining the potential RAU universe.