Preliminary List of Future EPA Program Evaluations and Applied Research Supporting Development of the FY 2014-2018 EPA Strategic Plan

Preliminary List of Future EPA Program Evaluations

Strategic Area	Office/ Name of Program to be Evaluated	Scope of Evaluation/Research	How this evaluation or research is expected to inform Agency strategy or the Agency's approach to meeting strategic objectives, or improve Agency decision making
1, 2, 3, 4	Office of Research and Development (ORD) plans to evaluate each of its six research programs: Air, Climate, and Energy; Chemical Safety for Sustainability; Human Health Risk Assessment; Homeland Security; Sustainable and Healthy Communities; and, Safe and Sustainable Water Resources.	The evaluation will provide an assessment of the relevance, quality, and performance of the science and engineering research that falls within the scope of ORD's six research programs. ORD uses a federal advisory committee, the EPA Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC), to conduct the evaluations.	Relevance of ORD research is determined by assessing whether it addresses the EPA Strategic Plan in general and specifically the extent it is meeting EPA Program and Regional needs. ORD implementation of BOSC recommendations is expected to improve the relevance and quality of the Agency's research and performance of its programs. As a result, the likelihood of Agency use of ORD research and products is increased, which strengthens the scientific basis for both Agency decisions and the implementation of those decisions leading to improved environmental outcomes and impacts.
1	Office of Air and Radiation/Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards 2011 National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA)	The research will continue the work of the 2005 NATA to identify and prioritize air toxics, emission source type, and locations that are of greatest potential concern in terms of contributing to population risk.	NATA helps air agencies focus resources on geographic areas, pollutants, and types of emission sources for closer investigation. Once risks are further characterized, agencies can determine steps to

			reduce air toxics emissions where necessary.
1	Office of Air and Radiation/Office of Transportation and Air Quality Internal Controls Over Renewable Fuel Credits	The evaluation will determine whether EPA's Renewable Fuel Standards program has established controls to manage Renewable Identification Numbers and whether those controls are effective.	The review process is expected to develop recommendations to improve internal controls that the Agency can implement.
1	Office of Air and Radiation/Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards Air Quality Trends	The research will track the levels of the Clean Air Act defined criteria pollutants in the air and how much of each pollutant (or the pollutants that form them) is emitted from various pollution sources.	This information informs the regulatory development process. This information is helpful in identifying issues that need to be addressed at the national or state level.
2	Region 3 Chesapeake Bay Program Office Chesapeake Bay Program Internal Evaluation: "2017 Mid Point Assessment"	The December 2010 Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) called for an assessment in 2017 to review progress toward meeting and maintaining the nutrient and sediment pollutant load allocations identified in the TMDL through the Phase I and Phase II Watershed Implementation Plans and Milestones. This evaluation was designed as a mid-course check on progress to allow necessary adjustments in strategies to ensure that the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership could achieve its 2025 goals for putting the necessary practices in place to meet water quality standards, as well as to update the decision support tools that guide implementation.	Internal evaluations being conducted as part of the 2017 mid-point assessment may influence implementation approaches used to achieve the new Chesapeake Bay strategic measure in EPA's FY 2014-2018 Strategic Plan (to assess progress toward achieving the water quality outcome contained in the "Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed"). Additional internal evaluations (e.g., 2013 and 2015 Milestone Evaluations) may also influence implementation approaches used to achieve the new strategic measure.
3	Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST) Effectiveness and protectiveness of third party programs in both the	OUST is interested in examining third party inspection and cleanup programs to see if they are viable, cost effective approaches for meeting program requirements and goals. OUST would like to identify the key	These programs are in a resource constrained environment. Depending on funding, EPA may choose to support and market this approach with other state programs as a cost-

	Underground Storage Tank Inspection (Prevention) and Leaking Underground Storage Tank Cleanup programs	components of successful programs as well as any barriers so that we this information can be shared with states who may be considering developing their own third party programs. OUST proposes to evaluate third party inspection and cleanup programs in several states to examine the effectiveness of these programs by looking at the quality of the inspections/cleanups, oversight costs, the types of cleanup decisions/remedies selected, the time to closure, and other factors.	effective and efficient way to improve results and achieve Agency environmental goals and performance measures.
3	Office of Underground Storage Tanks Impact of the change in the frequency of inspections on Underground Storage Tank (UST) compliance and/or releases.	The program plans to quantify the impacts of the three- year inspection mandate on UST compliance and/or releases.	For years the program has observed the apparent correlation of increased inspections and increased compliance but has not proven the connection. This evaluation is important because with declining resources, it can be anticipated that there will be a push to move to fewer inspections (to reduce cost).
3	Office of Underground Storage Tanks Economic benefits of cleaning up high profile Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) sites	This study will help characterize the impact of high profile LUST sites on property values	The results of this study will be helpful in quantifying the economic benefits of the Underground Storage Tank program.
3	Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation Superfund Remedial Program Review	The Superfund Remedial Program is conducting an overall program review in a comprehensive, coordinated effort among headquarters and regional remedial programs. The goal of this review is to minimize reductions to the Superfund Remedial Program's effectiveness in protecting human health and the	By reviewing all aspects of the Superfund Remedial Program's operations, and developing action plans to implement changes, this effort will help minimize reductions to the program's effectiveness in meeting the Agency's mission to protect human health and the

		environment by more efficiently managing its site cleanup process and program resources.	environment, and, in particular, to support Goal 3 to clean up communities and advance sustainable development. Several areas are being considered in this program review to capture important technical developments in the cleanup process, as well as innovations in remedial project management.
4	Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics/ Environmental Assistance Division / Planning & Assessment Branch 2015 Biennial Review of Lead, Premanufacture Notification (PMN) Fees	The purpose of the review will be to determine whether the fees that PMN submitters and Lead RRP and Abatement certification applicants are required to pay are adequate to cover the cost of these programs. In FY 2015, EPA will examine the fee structure and program cost profile for FY 2014, the previous fiscal year.	The results of this review will inform the Agency's decision making on the level of fees that need to be collected in order to adequately support these key programs. Given federal budget challenges, it is essential that the parties benefiting from EPA's review of incoming PMNs and Lead applications bear an appropriate share of the overall cost of carrying out these functions.
4	Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP)/ Information Technology and Resources Management Division/ Financial Management and Planning Branch 2015 Registration Review	Over the last few years as a part of the OPP-wide efficiency efforts, many new approaches have been implemented to improve the efficiency of the Registration Review Program. Many of the new approaches involve additional attention during the early stages of the each chemical review process with the expectation of resource savings during the risk assessment and risk management stages of the review.	It is anticipated that the results of this review will provide additional information to make further modifications to the statutorily mandated first cycle of Registration Review. This review will help ensure that the first cycle of Registration Review decisions is completed on schedule in 2022notwithstanding current budgetary restraints.
4	Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics/ Environmental Assistance Division/ Risk Assessment Division	The purpose of this review is to evaluate whether the planned risk assessments are being carried out within projected timeframes, the manner and extent to	This review will help the agency determine whether the risk assessment program for TSCA Work Plan Chemicals is achieving its goals in

	Risk Assessment Program for TSCA Existing Chemicals	which peer review comments are being addressed, and other factors critical to the effectiveness of the program, particularly with respect to the set of Work Plan Chemicals announced in March 2012.	a timely and productive fashion. Insights gained from the research will be applied as appropriate to improve the functioning of the program.