

Items in BOLD represent final updates for 2014-2016 plan.

Focus Area 1

FOCUS AREA 1: ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES IN COLONIAS

Goal: Address environmental hazards affecting colonia residents through local, state and federal partnerships.

	KEY ACTIVITIES	LEAD	COMMENTS / STATUS
<i>Proposed Activities for the Next Two Years</i>	1. <i>Create an environmental colonia advocate network and establish as assistance program for new and struggling grass roots.</i>	OEJTA	Identifying Colonia Advocate for New Mexico colonias. Identified colonia universe. 145 Colonias in 13 counties.
	2. <i>Develop a collaborative plan to address the most pressing environmental hazards for children in colonias.</i>	OEJTA & Children's Health	Identify grass root organizations in those counties. Collaborative plan to be initiated once networks are established. In progress
	3. <i>Work with Anthony, New Mexico to address flooding and sustainability concerns.</i>	MVD	Work In progress. The city received funding to bring in the "Building Blocks" workshop. The Feb 23-24, 2016 workshop focused on community visioning and the tools for effective prioritization and collaboration. EPA is also providing green infrastructure assistance.
	4. <i>Work with Vado to address septic tank issues and un-paved private roads</i>	OEJTA	Dona Ana County Commissioner Garrett and County Roads Department are working on easements for two private roads. Potential pilot project using shredded asphalt shingle for paving three roads. El Paso recycler donated 60 tons of shredded asphalt shingles for Cebolla Road. Residents conducted fundraiser to finance grader and roller to roll out material. Continuing efforts to finance two other roads. DAC requested technical assistance from BECC to address septic tank issues.

FOCUS AREA 2: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN THE US-MEXICO BORDER – (NM)

Goal: Address environmental justice challenges through local, state and federal partnerships and advance climate change adaptation through collaborative planning and technical assistance.

	KEY ACTIVITIES	LEAD	COMMENTS / STATUS
<i>Proposed Activities for the Next Two Years</i>	1. <i>Support activities leading to access to clean water and water conservation in the low income communities of the arid southwest.</i>	US-Mexico Border Program	The EPA and BECC, through the US-Mexico Border Program are helping to advance this goals through several grant-funding activities including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. New Mexico Environment Department project to improve rural drinking water quality through a number of initiatives including outreach/training on the proper maintenance and decommissioning of septic systems contributing to contamination of drinking water aquifers, and in-home demonstration of low-cost appropriate technology water filters to remove contaminants such as Arsenic. <i>Septic Tank Training conducted in Dona Ana and Luna County.</i> b. A similar project to help preserve ground (drinking) water quality through proper evaluation and decommissioning of septic systems is underway near in Dona Ana County in Southern New Mexico near El Paso. <i>In progress in Vado, NM.</i> c. Sponsoring “Green Infrastructure” workshops of city planners and public works officials. Such a workshop was held in the El Paso/Juarez area in 2014, <i>in Tucson later in 2015, Sonora Mexico in 2016.</i>
	2. <i>Protect children’s health from environmental impacts and provide education about environmental health factors</i>	Children’s Health	The Children’s Environment US-MX Border Symposium took place Sept 24-25, 2015 in El Paso, TX. <i>Presentations posted at: http://www2.epa.gov/border2020/region-6-childrens-environmental-us-mx-border-syposium-2015. Another Children’s Health Symposium is scheduled for Aug 2016 in Brownsville, TX. Presentations to be posted</i>

FOCUS AREA 3: COAL MINING, URANIUM AND COMMUNITIES CONCERNED WITH NUCLEAR SAFETY

Proposed Goals:

1. Work collaboratively with federal and state partners to identify, investigate and cleanup worst contaminated areas.
2. Enhance awareness on the superfund cleanup decision process and enhance transparency of regulators work and jurisdiction in the Grants Mining District.

	KEY ACTIVITIES	LEAD	COMMENTS / STATUS
Proposed Activities for the Next Two Years	1. Continue to make progress in the designated Superfund mining areas – while keeping the public informed on progress.	6SF	Superfund site status reports are posted at: http://www2.epa.gov/superfund/search-superfund-sites-where-you-live . Information regarding the Grants Mining District are posted at: http://www2.epa.gov/grants-mining-district
	2. Implement outreach/education plan to increase awareness of baseline studies, processes, regulatory involvement, and the public’s right to know.	6SF	In succession to the 2010 – 2015 Five-Year Plan for the Grants Mining District, the 2015 – 2020 Five-Year Plan for the Grants Mining District will be available to the community for review and comment in mid-October 2015. The 2015 – 2020 Five-Year Plan for the Grants Mining District was finalized in June 2016 and is at http://www2.epa.gov/grants-mining-district
	3. Plan and secure funds for groundwater quality testing and monitoring in contaminated areas and conduct, and conduct strategic outreach to communities with impaired groundwater.	6SF	A public meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2015, to discuss the work in the Grants Mining District and the draft 2015 – 2020 Five Year Plan. Additional meetings and workshops will follow. Additional monitoring wells are being installed and sampling is being conducted. A community meeting to explain previous groundwater results is scheduled for October 27, 2015. Two community meetings were held on October 27, 2015 in Grants, NM discussing the Draft 2015-2020 Five Year Plan and to discuss the Ground Water monitoring results in the Homestake mining district.

	<p>4. <i>Work collaboratively with federal and state partners in exchanging technical data and research, and in environmental clean up within the Grants Mining District., e.g., DOE, NRCE, EPA, USGS, NMED, NMSEO, NMMD (Recommendation from MASE member, Mr. Gilbert Petuuche).</i></p>	6SF	<p>The EPA Superfund Division has been working collaboratively with federal and state partners to assess and address contamination and to eliminate, reduce or manage risks to human health and the environment within the Grants Mining District. These partners include: U.S. Department of Energy – Office of Legacy Management; U.S. Department of the Interior – Bureau of Land Management; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry; U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service; the Pueblo of Acoma Environmental Department; the Pueblo of Laguna Environmental and Natural Resources Department; the New Mexico Environmental Department; the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department – Mining and Minerals Division; and the New Mexico Department of Health. The EPA Superfund Division, with our federal and state partners, will continue to provide community engagement with residents and communities regarding ongoing and planned activities within the Grants Mining District. These activities include the assessment of water supply sources, surveillance and maintenance of former uranium mills, and the assessment and cleanup of legacy uranium mines. In respect to health studies, the main recommendation of a previous health study (i.e., biometric study) in the Grants/Milan area and Laguna Pueblo was to reduce exposure to uranium in water and other sources. The EPA Superfund Division will continue to facilitate efforts to assess and address contamination that eliminate, reduce or manage risks to human health and the environment. Ongoing</p>
<p>5. <i>Collaborate with federal and state partners in performing groundwater quality assessment and groundwater modeling in assessing the San Andres Glorietta Aquifer and contamination movement (Recommendation from MASE member, Mr. Gilbert Petuuche).</i></p>	6SF		
<p>6. <i>Collaborate with federal and state partners in doing a comprehensive health study in regard to uranium mining and milling impacts in the Grants Mining District (Recommendation from MASE member, Mr. Gilbert Petuuche).</i></p>	6SF		
<p>7. <i>Use community input to develop realistic plans supported by affected communities to make progress in the designated Superfund mining areas – while keeping the public informed (Recommendation from MASE member, Candance Head-Dylla).</i></p>	6SF		

FOCUS AREA 4: CHEMICAL SAFETY IN EJ COMMUNITIES

Proposed Goal: Prevent chemical accidents and minimize exposure risks through partner collaboration, strong enforcement, community awareness and public involvement

	KEY ACTIVITIES	LEAD	COMMENTS / STATUS
Proposed Activities for the Next Two Years	1. <i>Prevent, prepare for and respond to oil spills that occur in and around inland waters of the United States.</i>	6SF	Region 6 conducts over 200 inspections annually to ensure that necessary precautions are taken to prevent spills. When spills do happen EPA is ready to respond to them. When an oil spill occurs that threatens waters of the U.S. and exceeds 1000 gallons, EPA Region 6 will dispatch a response team to investigate and address the spill, if necessary. These response actions include plugging abandoned oil wells, removing oil from abandoned containers, pipes and barges and overseeing companies as they clean up oil that has spilled. All of these activities support citizens living in the shadow of the oil industry.
	2. <i>Build capacity with the local emergency planning committees (LEPCs) which include local officials, first responders, citizens, on roles responsibilities and best practices – as well as increase awareness of the chemicals in their communities.</i>	6SF	In order to strengthen LEPCs, Region 6 issues a quarterly LEPC newsletter, supports the national HOTZONE conference for local responders and conducts LEPC workshops. LEPCs are made up of local industry, government, first responders, elected officials and citizens. These LEPC are important organizations in responding quickly and effectively to emergencies. In July 2015, EPA, with Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the Department of Homeland Security conducted Local Emergency Planning Committee workshops in Farmington, Clovis, and Albuquerque. Approximately 90 personnel attended. These workshops focused on requirements of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act for industry and communities, emergency preparedness oil spills, and the Chemical Safety Executive Order. Similar workshops were held in 2016 in the same locations with some surrounding communities.
	3. <i>Continue to engage, as appropriate, with the NMED, facilities, and other stakeholders to assess and mitigate impacts from actual or potential releases of contaminants into the environment from hazardous waste facilities.</i>	6PD	The groundwater contamination at Kirkland AFB that threatens community water wells continues to be an ongoing priority. TCE Plume in the Saw Mill and Wells Park Neighborhood – work with Sawmill and NMED to identify health risks and cleanup plan including transparency.

	<p>4. <i>Facilitate cooperation of agencies and organizations working to minimize children's health risks in urban EJ communities.</i></p>	<p>OEJTA & Children's Health</p>	<p>Healthy Solutions and the "Dollar Store" Initiative are potential links to children's health. A brainstorming meeting was held on 7/8/15 to discuss potential collaborations and resources available. Study published showing exceedances of in canned food products and children's toys.</p>
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FOCUS AREA 5: RURAL AND AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES

Proposed Goals:

1. Prepare rural communities to respond to HAZMAT emergencies
2. Address water scarcity through conservation and adaptation strategies
3. Improve public involvement through better communications and with bilingual information

	KEY ACTIVITIES	LEAD	COMMENTS / STATUS
<p><i>Proposed Activities for the Next Two Years</i></p>	<p><u>Water</u></p> <p>1. <i>Implement a water scarcity, conservation & adaptation program</i></p>	<p>US-Mexico Border</p>	<p>See U.S.-Mexico Border projects for activities promoting water conservation and adaptation strategies. A new RFP for border grants is closed; but 6PD will collaborate with OEJTA on grant recommendations that promote this goal. Ongoing</p>
	<p>2. <i>Identify assistance for public and private well testing</i></p>	<p>NMED</p>	<p>NM Environmental Department and NM Finance Authority provide assistance for public and private well testing. WQ implements the State Revolving Fund program that awards funding to the New Mexico state agencies. EPA will be discussing the proposed activity with NMED.</p> <p>WRRRI provided free well testing for Luna County and Dona Ana County and found unusually high nitrates. NMDOH is seeking additional funding to expand monitoring to Hidalgo County.</p>
	<p><u>Pesticides</u></p> <p>3. <i>Create an interagency collaboration to expand awareness of the Worker Protection Standards (WPS) program and create bridges where gaps exist</i></p>	<p>6PD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expect finalization of update/strengthening of pesticide Worker Protection Standards (WPS) Fall 2016. 6PD will inform OEJTA of any planned outreach activities to increase awareness and enhance implementation of these new rules: http://www2.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety
	<p><u>Emergency Response</u></p> <p>4. <i>Coordinate a HAZMAT and emergency response training workshop targeting rural communities</i></p>	<p>6SF</p>	<p>This request is covered under Focus Area 4 response number 2. Local Emergency Planning Committee workshops conducted in July 2015 included Farmington, Clovis, Albuquerque and representatives from surrounded communities.</p>

FOCUS AREA 6: CROSS-CUTTING AREAS

Proposed Goal: Provide capacity building, technical assistance, tools, and resources to environmental justice communities

	KEY ACTIVITIES	LEAD	COMMENTS / STATUS
Proposed Activities for the Next Two Years	<u>Capacity Building for Grass Roots</u> 1. <i>Initiate a capacity building initiative to enhance administration, leadership and communication strategies of grass roots organizations responding to EJ challenges</i>	OEJTA	OEJTA has drafted a proposal called “Raices” to help struggling grass roots and newly established organizations become organizationally and sound in order to address environmental challenges in their communities.
	<u>Brownfields</u> 2. <i>Continue to provide funding for community engagement, planning, inventory of brownfields properties, technical assistance, and/or training activities directed to revitalization of a specific area (such as a neighborhood, district, local commercial corridor, community waterfront or city block).</i>	6SF	Since the Brownfields Program inception in 1996, Region 6 grantees have been awarded over \$73 million in brownfields competitive grants. In FY 2015, approximately half a million dollars was awarded for nine Environmental Site Assessments in various New Mexico communities. Data on EPA grant-funded Brownfields sites is available at Cleanups in My Community . Continue coordinating with Dallas Brownsfield Coordinator on potential projects/opportunities in NM.
	<u>Urban Waters</u> 3. <i>Conduct an EJ NEPA Comment Writing/Presentation Workshop in partnership with the OEJTA (Urban Waters to Co-lead)</i>	6WQ	Completed in November 2014

	<p>4. <i>Conduct an EJ Grant Writing Workshop in coordination and partnership with Urban Waters.</i></p> <p>5. <i>Support the development of the EJ Strategic Plan for the Valle De Oro Refuge, capture lessons learned and use as a national model</i></p> <p>6. <i>Support the Bridge Blvd – Sustainable Development Project with EJ community regarding street up-grades.</i></p> <p><u>Climate Adaptation:</u></p> <p>7. <i>Plan charrettes focused on addressing urban climate vulnerability issues with green infrastructure.</i></p> <p><u>Middle Rio Grande Climate Change Pilot Scenario:</u></p> <p>8. <i>Address intertwined climate change challenges using scenario planning.</i></p> <p><u>Lead Paint</u></p> <p>9. <i>Reach out to building code officials in towns identified using the EJ GIS tool, to encourage them to require lead paint certification when issuing building permits.</i></p>	<p>OEJTA</p> <p>6WQ</p> <p>6WQ</p> <p>6WQ</p> <p>6PD</p> <p>6PD</p>	<p>Los Jardines was awarded a small EJ Grant to develop an EJ strategy for the communities surrounding the Valle de Oro. Coordination with Urban Waters Ambassadors for inclusion of EJ community in future trainings/workshops etc .</p> <p>In phase 1 of 3 phases Link to information: http://www.bridgeboulevard.com/ Project is needed because Bridge Boulevard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Is the third most congested roadway in metropolitan area o Is expected to exceed capacity by 2035 o Has crash rates above regional average o Lacks features like landscaping, visible crosswalks, continuous sidewalks, and gateways <p>Climate Resiliency Charrettes were held in Albuquerque early Fall 2015 AMAFCA, and SCAFCA representatives, Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) and Tetra Tech staff hosted two-day charrettes focused on addressing urban climate vulnerability issues with green infrastructure. EPA \$335,605 EPA grant awarded to the University of New Mexico to research challenges associated with protecting the air we breathe from the impacts of climate change. Specifically, the university will study how changes in land-use patterns and transportation systems affect greenhouse gas emissions and community exposure to vehicle pollution. Request results be presented to EJ grassroot organizations.</p> <p>Completed 04/2015: EPA R6 and a group of federal agencies and the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG), located in Albuquerque, NM, embarked on a project to help the region address these intertwined challenges using scenario planning. Scenario planning allows participants to consider the impacts of growth and evaluate the costs and benefits of various future scenarios. Request results be presented to EJ grassroot organizations</p> <p>A HQ initiative identified 10 largest cities in US to see if they were R&R certified. Reached out to several NM communities but no interest. Farmington expressed an interest and was provided</p>
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	<p><u>Underground Storage Tanks</u> 10. <i>Conduct Underground Storage Tanks (UST) inspections at tribal UST facilities</i></p> <p><u>Communication</u> 11. <i>Host monthly calls with EJ constituents</i></p> <p>12. <i>Complete quarterly reports to communicate progress to NM EJ constituents</i></p>	<p>materials. El Paso interested. Upcoming Lead paint certification training in Border area to include advertisement to EJ communities.</p> <p>Completed. Confidential.</p> <p>First teleconference was held on June 26, 2015. August teleconference was postponed until after the public meeting in the Grants Mining District. Two EJ Update Meetings will be held October 26(one in the Grants Mining District) and October 27 (One in Albuquerque).</p> <p>Completed 1st update report on June 24, 2015;</p>
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