

Improve Communication of Sampling and Testing Results Flagship Update - FY2012 – 1st Quarter



Description of Flagship Project

- The Improve Communication of Sampling and Testing Results project falls under the “Expanding the Environmental Conversation with Communities” Flagship Theme
- We are developing a new public communication methodology to notify citizens when contamination is found in their communities
- The goal is to simplify scientific language, provide visual illustrations and clear explanations of contamination levels and associated risks, and recommend actions the public should take to protect themselves
- We have identified regional offices willing to test the approach in real life situations including for Superfund remedial and removal sites and emergency responses
- After evaluating the effectiveness of the color-coding methodology, we will determine the potential for its expanded use in FY 2013 and beyond
- Additional project information can be found at:
<http://www.epa.gov/oswer/engagementinitiative/act12.htm>

Stakeholders

- Public
- Environmental community
- State and local Government
- Federal Government

Milestones/Status

- A color coding system is being evaluated at Superfund remedial and removal sites to explain the sampling results at residences and buildings

Highlights of Progress this Quarter

- Developed methods for obtaining feedback on the effectiveness of color-coded communications and received feedback from some Regions
- Began testing the tool in real-life Regional Removal and Remedial Sites

Planned Activity for Next Quarter

- Continue using and testing the methodology
- Continue conducting conference calls with the Regions to discuss progress of the color coding field tests
- Begin evaluating the results of color coding methodology, with the final report to be completed by the end of 2012/Q4

Metrics

- Status of testing the new communication methodology: In progress
- Status of methodology development and final analysis: 2012/Q4