EPA Open Government Progress Report: FY2012 – 1st Quarter

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Challenge Activity
- The public was able to vote openly for winners in the EPA Apps for the Environment challenge; the 5 winning apps as well as all submissions remain available to the public
- EPA announced winners of the Rachel Carson "Sense of Wonder" Challenge
- Visit http://challenge.gov/epa#&panel1-3 to see a current status of all EPA challenges

Transparency, Participation and Collaboration Actions/Opportunities:
- Over the past quarter EPA offered many ways for the public to get informed and involved including:
    - Published 7 speeches from Administrator Lisa Jackson
    - Posted 13 EPA Congressional hearing testimonies
- Please visit our open site (http://www.epa.gov/open/) for upcoming events

Greater Transparency: Progress Reviewing and Declassifying Chemical Identities claimed as Confidential Business Information (CBI)

- Since beginning our efforts to increase chemical transparency two years ago, a total of 577 chemicals have been declassified
- As of October 2011, EPA exceeded its goal to review, and challenge where appropriate, more than 1,125 existing TSCA cases with CBI claims for chemical identity, potentially containing health and safety studies
- 100% of CBI claims for chemical identity under the Toxic Substance Control Act are being reviewed, and challenged where appropriate in order to release health and safety studies

Making Data More Accessible: EPA Provides my Right-to-Know mobile app in Spanish

- myRight-To-Know is an EPA Web application designed for mobile devices
- For any location or address, myRTK maps nearby facilities that report to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), as well as large permit holders in EPA's Air, Water or Hazardous Waste programs that are expected to produce, manage or release TRI-reportable chemicals
- myRTK is compatible with most Web-enabled mobile phone browsers and most desktop browsers

Providing More Chemical Information to the Public

Chemical Search - A new "one-stop" gateway to EPA information and other federal agency resources on the active ingredients used in pesticides
- "Search and sort" web application - easier to find 20,000+ regulatory documents
- Easy access to over 800 dockets in Regulations.Gov for current and past pesticide decisions
- Consolidates information previously published in across EPA's website and Regulations.Gov

Pesticides InertFinder - A new application for pesticide manufacturers (often called registrants) to determine the current status of inert ingredients
- Easy to use "search and sort" options
- Detail pages allow users to determine if a substance is approved for food, non-food, or fragrance use
- Links to conditions and limits published in the electronic Code of Federal Regulations (eCFR)

Leveraging Partnerships and Technology: FOIA Module Progress

- Through the partnership formed between EPA, Department of Commerce (DoC) and National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), and the broad review by several other agencies interested in benefits anticipated from the FOIA Module, requirements and functional design were finalized
- The agency interface is being developed and will be reviewed with interested agencies and finalized in January 2012

Reaching Out: Community Engagement Flagship Initiative

Approach
- Highlights of our Flagship efforts, in varying stages of progress, are provided via links below
- To support sharing experiences internally and externally, we captured benefits, lessons learned and other qualitative information for many of the Flagship efforts

Flagship Theme: Expanding the Environmental Conversation with Communities:
- Urban Waters (Completed)
- Individual efforts under the Community Engagement Initiative conducted under EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response are being evaluated for coordination and realignment along major program objectives
    - Improve Communication of Sampling and Testing Results (Ongoing)
    - Improve Delivery of Information to Communities (Ongoing)
- Faces of the Grassroots (Completed)

Flagship Theme: Expanding Public Awareness & Involvement in Developing Rules and Regulations:
- Healthy Waters (Completed)
- Chesapeake Bay TMDL Webinar Series (Completed)
- NPDES Pre-proposal Involvement (Completed)
- Rulemaking Gateway (Completed)

Flagship Theme: EPA Mobile Apps to Empower Citizen's Environmental Decisions:
- See Apps for the Environment Challenge and EPA's Mobile web site for additional information

Collaboration for Better Modeling: Released Air Quality Model to Study Harmful Air Pollution

- In October, EPA released a new version of the Community Multi-scale Air Quality model (CMAQ) that uses up-to-the minute meteorology and air chemistry data to determine how weather conditions affect pollution, and how pollution can affect and change weather
- Version 5.0 of CMAQ allows scientists to analyze air quality at smaller, finer-resolution settings for individual towns and cities, and model air quality for the entire northern hemisphere
- The model represents collaborative work among scientists in the fields of engineering, chemistry, mathematics, computer science, atmospheric science, and meteorology

Fostering Energy and Cost Savings: EPA's **Energy Star for Healthcare** Tool Supports Greater Energy Efficiency in Hospitals

- Healthcare organizations spend $7.4 billion in energy costs each year, and thousands of hospitals rely on EPA's Energy Star tools to help track consumption and prioritize facilities for energy upgrades to improve energy efficiency
- EPA released an important update to Energy Star's national energy performance scale methodology for hospitals
- Energy Star's Portfolio Manager, an online energy measurement and tracking tool, will now include the updated hospital methodology
- Improving the energy efficiency of America's hospitals by 10 percent would save 7.3 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, 243 million therms of natural gas each year, and about $740 million annually in energy bills; it would also prevent greenhouse gas emissions equal to that from the annual electricity use of over 712,000 homes

Regional Innovations: EPA's Regional Offices Explore New Ways to Innovate

- EPA Region 2 launches new website to protect wetlands and urges public to report any violations of the law in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands
- EPA Region 3 sponsors free training on energy audits and healthy home technologies for contractors and home improvement workers in West Virginia
- EPA Region 9 finalizes California's list of polluted waters

Collaboration and Participation: Examples of Opportunities

- Great Lakes Week in Detroit October 11 – October 14
- Gulf Coast Task Force Released Ecosystem Restoration Strategy For Public Review
- Announced Public Comment Period on Proposal to Ban Dumping Sewage from Boats Into Lake Ontario
- Sought Public Comment on the Proposed Plan for the Chemfax, Inc. Site in Gulfport, MS
- Encouraged the Public to Attend Information Sessions on Newtown Creek Superfund Site Cleanup
- Public Availability Session Regarding the Capital City Plume Site, Montgomery, Alabama
- Public Informational Meetings on Woonasquatucket River Cleanup Plan
- Released Final Report on Air Toxics near Charles Russell Elementary, Crabbe School, Hatcher School and Whitwell Elementary
- Announced Most Areas Meet Air Quality Standards for Lead
- Released Draft Findings of Pavillion, Wyoming Ground Water Investigation for Public Comment and Independent Scientific Review

Partnering Across Government and with Industry: Examples of Opportunities

- Hosted emergency preparedness conference - The conference offers an opportunity for emergency responders to obtain valuable training in terrorism awareness, radiation accidents, and other emergency response challenges
- EPA and the Department of Energy (DOE) partner to develop renewable energy on potentially contaminated sites; clean energy project aims to benefit local economies and create jobs
- EPA partners with federal agencies to track Japan tsunami debris
- United States and Canada harmonize approach to save energy in commercial buildings
- EPA and Ponce School of Medicine promote environmental careers
- DOE and EPA Release 2012 Annual Fuel Economy Guide
- EPA and the General Services Administration (GSA) team up to promote energy efficiency in Federal Facilities in Boston and New England
- The California Department of Water Resources, EPA, Resources Legacy Fund, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released The Climate Change Handbook for Regional Water Planning, a publication to assist water resource managers