BORDER 2012: U.S. - MEXICO ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

Accomplishments Highlights Reported at the 2005 National Coordinators Meeting (NCM) in Tucson - March 8-10

Border 2012: Commitment Renewed

➤ National Coordinators and Program partners, including the 10 Border States and Tribes, renewed their commitment to achieving the goals and objectives of the Border 2012 Program. ➤ National Coordinators met with state representatives to discuss ten state recommendations

intended to improve the development and implementation of the Program.

>The meeting resulted in a shared understanding of accomplishments to date, and the priority actions needed in upcoming years to address environmental and human health concerns.

Border 2012: Reporting Success

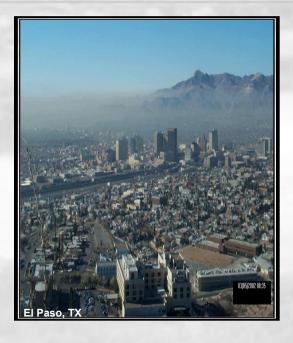
More Water and Sanitation

During 2003-04, the EPA provided 98.75 million dollars in grant funds through BECC and NADBank for critical safe drinking water and sanitation projects benefiting approx. 1.5 million border residents.

✓The cost for these projects was near 299 million dollars. Matching funds were provided for Mexican projects by SEMARNAT through its National Water Commission (CNA).

✓A new prioritization system to ensure that projects addressing the most critical human health risks are funded first has been established.





Cleaner Air

✓El Paso, Ciudad Juarez, and Doña Ana County are now moving towards meeting air quality standards for all pollutants.

√The management of 13 monitoring stations is now being transferred from U.S. agencies into the control of Mexican authorities in Mexicali, Tijuana and Playas de Rosarito.

✓Planned pilot projects will increase our understanding of the emission impacts from cross-border commercial truck traffic.

✓Diesel retrofit pilot projects will demonstrate the effectiveness of using ultra low sulfur diesel fuel.

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Improving Environmental Health

√The Border 2012 Environmental Health Workgroup is forming an alliance with the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission aimed at targeting resources and improving collaboration among environmental health agencies at all levels of government in both countries.

Reducing Exposure

✓ First responders have received training and conducted exercises to prepare for and manage chemical accidents, and respond to international terrorism.

Improving Enforcement & Compliance

- Compliance has been strengthened with the expansion of the Border Compliance Assistance Center at U.S.-Mexico Ports-of-Entry.
- Compliance will be further improved with the expansion of pollution prevention and environmental management systems (EMSs).

Cleaner Land

- Approx. 281,000 scrap tires removed from abandoned tire pile sites in Mexicali, Tijuana, and Ciudad Juarez and used as fuel in cement plants.
- Other alternatives for using scrap tires were explored through road surfacing pilot projects (Rubber Crumb Asphalt and *Llancreto*).
- √1,500 tons of hazardous waste are now being removed from the *Metales y Derivados* site, an abandoned secondary lead smelter and battery recycling facility in Tijuana. Authorities in both countries have invested more than \$600,000 dollars toward this effort. √During 2003-04, the NADBank funded 2.99 million from its Environmental Program for the Management of Solid Waste (SWEP), benefiting 421,060 border residents. The project cost sis of 6 million. In Mexico, the funds were matched with municipal, state and federal resources.



Border 2012: Immediate Priorities for 2005

- >Continue to increase access to and improve safe drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.
- >Retrofit diesel buses and trucks and improve availability of low sulfur diesel fuel on the border.
- Implement a demonstration project for the binational clean-up and restoration of abandoned sites contaminated with hazardous waste materials.
- >Continue to clean up existing tire piles.
- Promote financing mechanisms for landfill projects related to the Methane to Markets initiative.