



Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs)

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U.S. EPA Region 6
Air Toxics Section



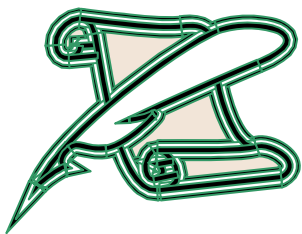
Definition

An environmental project that a violator voluntarily agrees to perform as part of the settlement of an enforcement action.

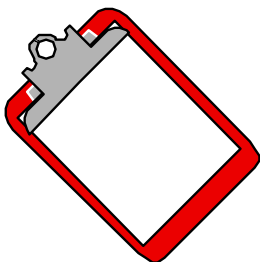




Traditional Approach



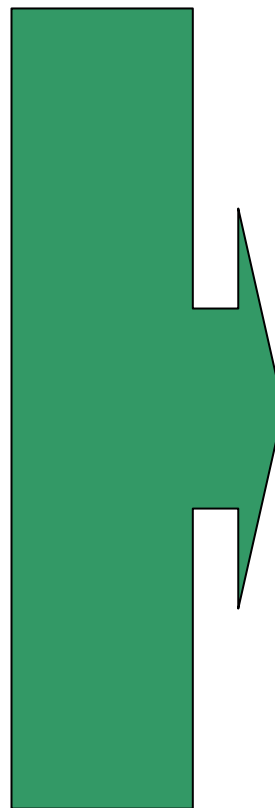
Laws



Regulations &
Inspections



Enforcement

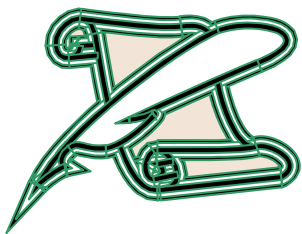


Penalties

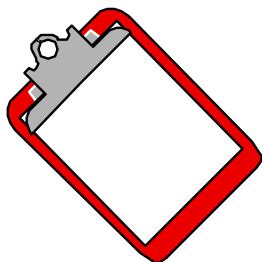


Compliance

With SEPs



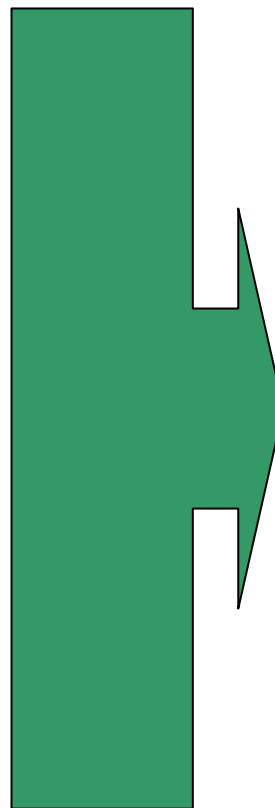
Laws



Regulations &
Inspections



Enforcement



Penalties



Compliance

SEP Categories

- Public health
- Pollution prevention
- Pollution reduction (control)
- Environmental restoration and protection



SEP Categories

- Assessments and audits
 - Pollution prevention assessments
 - Environmental quality assessments
 - Environmental compliance audits
- Environmental compliance promotion
- Emergency planning and preparedness

SEP for:

Pollution Prevention



- Before pollutants are generated
- Eliminates pollution
- Lowers overall pollutant amount and/or toxicity



Example



Pollution Prevention

- Situation:

- Plant in Mexico shipped hazardous waste to U.S. for disposal. Violated many hazardous waste requirements.

- SEP:

- Solder facility changes resulted in eliminating waste-water discharges
- Reduced employee exposure to solvent fumes



SEP for:

CompliancePromotion



- Training or technical support to other members of the regulated community
- Only for similar regulatory requirements



Example

Compliance Promotion



- Situation

- Oil Company with multiple air and water violations in three states

- SEP

- Created training program for small business, developers, and agriculture



SEP for:

Restoration



- Ecosystem focus
- Natural or artificial environments
- Applies to "at risk" area



Example

Restoration



- Situation
 - Chromium wastes causing water quality and other violations
- SEP
 - Restoration of tidal marshland
 - Non-profit Nature Conservancy served as contractor



SEP for:

Pollution Reduction



- After pollutants or waste streams are generated
- Recycles, treats or contains pollution
- Goes beyond basic legal requirements



SEP for:

Public Health



- Provides diagnostic, preventive, or remedial components of health care
- Benefits "at risk" populations



SEP for:

Assessments Audits



- Assessments
 - Pollution Prevention
 - Environmental Quality
- Audits
 - Environmental Management System
 - Environmental Compliance



SEP for:

Emergency Response



- Non-cash assistance
- Supports local government's emergency response capability
- For violations related to emergency planning, reporting or spills





Helpful Resources

- Office of Enforcement and Compliance

<http://es.epa.gov/oeca/>

- Supplemental Environmental Projects

<http://es.epa.gov/oeca/sep/>

EPA Region 6

<http://www.epa.gov/region6/sep>



QUESTIONS

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