

# Regional Administrator's Action Plan 2008

*Environmental stewardship and economic growth work hand in hand, and it is our responsibility to continue to progress on this critically important path.* - Alan J. Steinberg, Regional Administrator

## Environmental Stewardship In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



## Looking ahead 300 days

Our mission statement is clear and to the point - to protect human health and the environment. But today, the environmental problems we face are more difficult to define and harder to solve than they were 35 years ago. We must set the right goals to carry out our mission; we must acquire the best available scientific and economic information; and, we must take the most creative approach to implementing our plan and carrying out our mission. Our work in the next 300 days will go a long way toward determining the success of our efforts.

### REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR'S SEVEN ACTION GOALS -- to be achieved during Alan J. Steinberg's tenure at EPA Region 2

- Approve State Implementation Plans for New Jersey's areas of non-attainment for ozone and PM2.5
- Approve State Implementation Plans for New York's areas of non-attainment for ozone and PM 2.5
- Implement the renewal of the New York City Filtration Avoidance Determination with all necessary ancillary remedies in place
- Commence investigations for any Onondaga Lake sub-sites for which remedial investigations have not begun, and proceed to finalize all decisions and enforcement instruments for sub-sites where investigations are complete, to ensure a comprehensive cleanup of Onondaga Lake and its sub-sites
- Implement a comprehensive solution for solid waste management in Puerto Rico
- Select all interim actions for the Passaic River remediation and accelerate the pace of the study regarding final remediation
- Substantially complete construction of the sediment processing facility to allow dredging start-up in the late spring of 2009 of the Hudson River General Electric Superfund dredging project.

### Clean Air and Global Climate Change

- Reduce diesel emissions through voluntary programs to supplement national standards
- Reduce air toxic emissions
- Use voluntary programs to reduce air emissions from Ports sector, implement follow-up actions from the September 2007 Ports Summit, and plan the Faster Freight/Cleaner Air Conference
- Reduce indoor air pollution to reduce asthma

### Clean and Safe Water

- Support, assist, and use enforcement to ensure adequate and compliant water infrastructure
- Reduce pollution discharges resulting from wet weather
- Ensure that drinking water quality and wastewater discharges in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands meet Federal and Commonwealth requirements
- Work with VIDPNR on issuance of final VI Rum permit
- Address thermal pollution in Puerto Rico
- Improve watershed management
- Improve water quality at recreational beaches
- Manage contaminated sediments to reduce risk
- Increase utilization of DWSRF and CWSRF

### Land Preservation and Restoration

- Encourage reduction, recovery and recycling of solid waste
- Complete clean up of hazardous waste sites
- Advance the Navy's clean-up efforts at Vieques
- Maximize responsible party participation at Superfund sites
- Ensure RCRA corrective action facilities are controlled
- Reduce the number of priority chemicals from waste stream releases and in products through the National Partnership for Environmental Priorities (NPEP) program

### Healthy Communities and Ecosystems

- Work with municipalities to encourage the reuse and redevelopment of the Region's Brownfield sites
- Focus on environmental quality in schools by reducing exposure to lead.
- Enhance information on fish contamination for the protection of children's health
- Convene solution-oriented dialogues (partnering with state and local government agencies) to highlight and address the environmental, health, and quality-of-life concerns impacting minority and low-income communities

### Compliance and Environmental Stewardship

- Apply consistent and certain enforcement to sustain compliance
- Make enforcement decisions focusing on desired environmental benefits
- Work with states in assessing financial assurance instruments for hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities
- Pursue integrated strategies and innovative approaches to enforcement and compliance for sector-based initiatives.

### CROSS-CUTTING AREAS

#### Enhance Communication

- Provide clear and meaningful information to the public, the media and elected officials using a broad range of tools
- Ensure that people living near contaminated waste sites are well-informed about conditions in their communities and EPA efforts to address them
- Create Web content that is comprehensive, current, mirrors regional priorities, and provides mechanisms for feedback

#### Develop Collaborative Networks

- Address regional science priorities and the environmental benefits and impacts of new and emerging technologies
- Strengthen State/tribal partnerships, reduce reporting burdens, and more effectively use performance measures to manage for environmental results
- Promote energy conservation, pollution prevention and stewardship through public outreach and voluntary programs, such as EnergyStar and Change-a-Light

#### Help Protect the Security of America

- Enhance laboratory capacity to respond to emergencies
- Enhance readiness to respond to significant incidents
- Reduce risks to drinking water systems in Region 2
- Continuously improve the Region's continuity of operations plans

#### Manage Resources Wisely

- Work to ensure an efficient and effective grants management program
- Implement our Environmental Management System plans
- Support the Administrator's priority to create a Stronger EPA
- Implement the President's Management Agenda