



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

Signed May 1, 2002

Dear Colleague:

This letter is a follow-up to an announcement last fall by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the selection of the first Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Showcase Pilots, which are part of the second round of RCRA Cleanup Reforms. I am pleased to announce that we will begin immediately accepting proposals for additional RCRA Showcase Pilots on a continuous basis. The new pilots will expand the opportunity for RCRA regulators, facilities, and other stakeholders to identify and implement innovative approaches to cleanup nationwide. The criteria and general process for designating the RCRA Showcase Pilots remain unchanged.

The RCRA Showcase Pilots are designed to illustrate innovative efforts towards meeting cleanup goals, and stimulate others to explore using similar efforts at their sites. There are 31 pilots underway in more than 20 States and spanning all 10 EPA Regions. I am very excited about the existing pilots and the potential new pilots because they will help us achieve several goals consistent with the RCRA Cleanup Reforms and help change the way we look at future corrective actions. Please refer to the RCRA Corrective Action web site (<http://www.epa.gov/correctiveaction>) for fact sheets on the pilots.

We encourage you to be active and full partners in this opportunity for positive change by developing or participating in a RCRA Showcase Pilot. If you have a preliminary idea for a pilot project, please contact your EPA Regional Office (see enclosure) or authorized RCRA State Agency with your pilot project ideas. It is important that interested States be informed and involved in any RCRA Showcase Pilots.

Criteria for RCRA Showcase Pilots

The following criteria are useful to consider as you develop ideas for the RCRA Showcase Pilots. The Regions are available to assist in the development of a pilot proposal and will forward pilot submittals to EPA Headquarters. Pilot descriptions should be brief (1- 3 pages

in length) and should address the following factors:

- What makes this project innovative? (Does the project speed achievement of Environmental Indicators? Why will the pilot project/cleanup work?)
- What are the benefits of this project (e.g., environmental, community, economic, other)?
- How have you involved stakeholders in developing this project (for example; owner/operator, Tribe, State/local agencies, local community, redevelopers, other interested parties)? Where applicable, please indicate the level of support of the owner/operator.
- Who are the pilot participants and what is their role (for example; States, Tribes, local agencies, other federal agencies, regulated industry, and environmental and community groups)?
- What is the potential for applying this innovative approach to other sites?
- What are the proposed project milestones and associated dates?
- Provide a brief description of the pilot facility, including location and regulatory status if pilot addresses a specific facility.
- How and when will pilot progress be measured and reported?
- Who will oversee the pilot (State, Tribal Council and/or Region)?
- Who are the key Regional/State contacts responsible for managing the pilot project (name, phone, e-mail, affiliation)?

For further information, please contact your EPA Regional Office or Gina Bowler in the Office of Solid Waste (703/308-7279 or bowler.gina@epa.gov), or refer to our RCRA Corrective Action web site (<http://www.epa.gov/correctiveaction>). Thank you for your time and effort in developing some thoughtful and innovative submittals. We look forward to working with you on this exciting effort.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Elizabeth A. Cotsworth
Director
Office of Solid Waste

Enclosure RCRA Showcase Pilots: Questions and Answers and EPA Contacts