



GOAL 4: Pollution Prevention and Reducing Risks

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GOAL 4: PREVENTING POLLUTION AND REDUCING RISK IN COMMUNITIES, HOMES, WORKPLACES, AND ECOSYSTEMS

Pollution prevention and risk management strategies aimed at cost-effectively minimizing and, where feasible, eliminating emissions and contamination will result in cleaner and safer environments in which all Americans can reside, work, and enjoy life. EPA will safeguard ecosystems and promote the health of natural communities that are integral to the quality of life in this nation.

OVERVIEW

Responding to the complex array of pollutants and threats to human health and ecosystems requires that public agencies take a preventive, multimedia approach to protecting the public. Experience has shown that it is cheaper and smarter to prevent pollution before it causes harm than to clean it up afterward. Vital to EPA's pollution prevention strategy are cooperative and voluntary activities, including making data available to the public on the risks posed by pesticides and industrial chemicals and promoting the use of safer alternative technologies, greener chemicals, safer farm practices, and industrial processes that use less or recycle. In carrying out these activities, the Agency places special emphasis on protecting children's health, as children are often more susceptible to harm from exposure to hazardous compounds than are adults.

EPA's pollution prevention efforts draw on many of the Agency programs, including pesticides, chemical management, indoor air pollution, waste management, and supportive research. In addition, many pollution prevention activities require sharing responsibilities with other Federal agencies, States, Tribes, private industry, and nonprofit organizations.

In its Strategic Plan, EPA established seven objectives to work toward this goal: reducing community exposure to pesticides, fighting lead poisoning, ensuring safe use of commercial chemicals, creating healthier indoor air, fostering pollution prevention, reducing the quantity and toxicity of waste, and assessing environmental conditions on Tribal lands. The following pages discuss progress toward these objectives.

FY 1999 PERFORMANCE

Reducing Community Exposure to Pesticides

By 2005, EPA's objective is that public and ecosystem risk from pesticides will be reduced through migration to lower-risk pesticides and better pesticide management practices, improving education of the public and at-risk workers, and forming "pesticide environmental partnerships" with pesticide user groups.

The Agency is currently developing a policy to assess cumulative risks of pesticides. Presently, the Agency has no precise means of determining the amount of risk reduction resulting from regulatory activities. Further, national indicator data, such as the incidence of pesticide poisonings, do not exist or have proven unreliable (APG 21). EPA has, however, undertaken a number of efforts aimed at reducing risk. In FY 1999, the Agency concentrated on increasing its education efforts targeted at workers and health care providers, developing rules to protect groundwater resources, and continuing the development of the pesticide environmental stewardship program.

As a part of its education efforts, EPA established the Pesticide Safety Website (<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/safety>) to provide information about pesticide safety, in both English and Spanish, to workers, certified applicators, and health care providers. EPA also published "Pesticides and National Strategies for Health Care Providers," which outlines recommendations for improving the training that health care providers receive on health concerns related to pesticide exposures.

URBAN PESTICIDE MISUSE

In FY 1999, EPA funded 33 projects to address the problem of urban pesticide misuse, including the following:

- A Florida project that developed posters about safe pesticide use for elementary, middle, and high schools.
- An innovative public education project in Pennsylvania to inform consumers about the dangers and misuse of pesticides.
- A Washington State University effort to train pesticide retail outlet salespersons.

With continued public education through projects such as these and enforcement of pesticide laws, EPA expects to see the number of cases of accidental pesticide poisoning and misuse decline.

Pesticide contamination threatens groundwater throughout the United States. EPA is developing a groundwater rule that will prohibit use of certain leaching pesticides unless a State or Tribe has an EPA-approved Pesticide Management Plan. Also, the Agency supported States in the development of groundwater plans while developing the final rule, which is called the Groundwater Management Plan. EPA approved 19 State plans and one Tribal plan to manage the use of specific pesticides to ensure the protection of groundwater.

The Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP) is a voluntary program that helps pesticide users, such as farmers and applicators, identify specific risk reduction activities. In FY 1999, EPA reviewed and approved 69 strategies that lower the risk of pesticide use. The Agency exceeded its target of 42 strategies (cumulative). These partnership strategies provide information on how the member plans to use Integrated Pest Management (IPM), conduct grower education, implement use reduction, improve pesticide application techniques, and employ other means to reduce risk from pesticide use.

Fighting Lead Poisoning

By 2005, EPA's objective is that the number of children with high levels of lead in their blood will be significantly reduced from the early 1990s.

Almost one million children in the U.S. have blood-lead levels of 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ or above, high enough to impair their ability to think, concentrate, and learn. Many of these children live in low-income or minority communities. To help address the problem, the Agency awarded a grant to Hope for Kids to conduct a national door-to-door campaign to provide parents with lead exposure prevention information and initiated a major effort to increase awareness of lead hazards among the Hispanic community.

EPA implemented many components of the Agency's lead-based paint poisoning prevention program in FY 1999. The program seeks to ensure that there is a well-qualified, trained lead hazard control workforce; to promote public awareness of lead-based paint hazards and ways to prevent lead poisoning; and to establish necessary standards for the elimination of lead hazards. *Through FY 1999, EPA continued building the lead-based paint abatement training and certification program by approving programs in 28 States, one territory, and the District of Columbia. EPA also approved programs for two Tribes. EPA had hoped that more States would have completed the process of picking up the program by the end of FY 1999. Two additional States have picked up the program since the end of FY 1999, and others are expected to pick it up during the remainder of FY 2000. EPA is, however, reassessing plans for managing the training and certification program in the future (APG 22).*

In FY 1999, EPA initiated or established several regulations necessary to address the hazards from lead-based paint, including the Lead Renovation Information Rule. Under this rule, apartment owners must provide renters with information on the dangers of lead poisoning and ways of protecting their children during building renovations. EPA also is working to address comments received on the proposed Lead Hazards Standards Rule, which will identify hazard levels for lead in dust and soil and hazardous conditions associated with lead-based paint. The Agency continued to make progress toward issuing training and certification rules on renovation and remodeling activities and de-leading of bridges and structures. Once all these regulations are issued, EPA will have established a full set of national standards for safe, effective reduction of lead-based paint hazards.

Ensuring Safe Use of Commercial Chemicals

By 2005, EPA has committed that of the approximately 2,000 chemicals and 40 genetically engineered microorganisms expected to enter commerce each year, the Agency will significantly increase the introduction by industry of safer or “greener” chemicals, decreasing the need for regulatory management.

The Agency conducted a number of important activities to support this objective during FY 1999. EPA continued its work in the New Chemicals Program, launched the Chemical Right-to-Know (CRTK) Initiative, began implementing the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program (EDSP), issued green chemistry awards, and conducted research on risk assessment models and tools.

ADDRESSING ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS

In recent years, EPA has focused attention on the potentially disruptive effects of synthetic chemicals on the hormone, or endocrine, systems of humans and wildlife. Concerns about these impacts prompted Congress to direct EPA in the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act to implement a program for evaluating chemicals for potential impacts on endocrine systems. The Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program (EDSP) will screen pesticides and industrial chemicals for estrogenic, androgenic, and thyroid effects. EPA completed a number of key activities to implement EDSP in FY 1999, including convening a formal peer review on a proposed statement of policy on EDSP, augmenting understanding of endocrine disruptors by completing a high-throughput pre-screening (HTPS) feasibility demonstration study, initiating the development of a Priority Setting Database, and commencing work on standardizing several screens and tests for use in the EDSP.

Under its New Chemical Program, EPA reviews chemical information submitted by manufacturers to evaluate the risks these new chemicals might pose to human health and the environment before the chemicals are allowed to be used in commerce. When potential new uses of a chemical could pose an unreasonable risk to human health or the environment, EPA can restrict the conditions of its use.

The Agency reviewed 1,717 new chemicals and organisms, which represents achievement of the FY 1999 goal of reviewing for safety all new chemical submissions each year (APG 23). The Agency restricted environmental releases and set protective standards for workers for five percent of these chemicals. In addition, EPA reviewed 36 submissions of chemicals with the potential for being persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) and took regulatory action on the 13 identified as PBTs.

In FY 1999, EPA launched the Chemical Right-To-Know Initiative to better understand the effects of high production volume (HPV) chemicals on human health and the environment and to increase public understanding of the hazards of these chemicals in commerce. HPV chemicals are those that are manufactured or imported at volumes exceeding one million pounds per year. EPA plans to make available basic screening-level information on 2,800 HPV chemicals that may impact public health and the environment and to ensure that detailed information is available for those industrial chemicals to which children may be exposed.

Through the HPV Challenge Program, EPA asked industry to generate data on the effects of the chemicals they manufacture and/or import. By December 1999, over 400 companies and consortia had voluntarily committed to make public, before the end of 2005, basic hazard data on over 2,000 of 2,800 HPV chemicals. Their commitments include identifying existing information and conducting the testing necessary to fill essential data gaps.

In 1999, EPA received 134 nominations in five categories for the Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards. This was more than two and a half times the target. The pollution prevention efforts outlined in these nominations, many of which are already being employed by industry, have led to reductions in the use and emissions of hazardous substances, savings in capital investments, reduced worker exposure, and improved product yields.

Research Contributions

Structure-Activity-Relationship (SAR) screening of pesticides and industrial chemicals and in-vitro screening methods are important complements to

the work performed under the CRTK Initiative and the Green Chemistry program. This work supports EPA's efforts to screen thousands of chemicals for a range of toxic effects. For example, EPA completed work on biochemical and cellular techniques to measure the metabolism and toxic responses of representative reactive industrial organic chemicals that can cause toxicity through a variety of mechanisms.

Creating Healthier Indoor Air

EPA's objective is that by 2005, 15 million more Americans will live or work in homes, schools, or office buildings with healthier indoor air than did in 1994.

Indoor air pollution can pose high human health risks, especially to sensitive populations such as children. EPA's efforts focus on raising public awareness of the potential risks of indoor air and forging partnerships with community-based groups to influence individuals and schools to take action to reduce potential risk.

Since the indoor environments program relies on voluntary efforts, tracking progress toward goals presents challenges. *The lead time needed to conduct and analyze survey results means that the Agency will not be able to report FY 1999 data until December 2000. 1998 data suggest that EPA is progressing toward its FY 1999 goal of having 700,000 additional people live in healthier residential environments (APG 24).*

One important component of achieving healthier indoor air is reducing exposure to radon. In 1998, a total of approximately 211,700 radon-resistant homes were built. Approximately 565,000

people live in these homes. In addition, based on estimated sales of radon mitigation fans, EPA estimates that 138,800 people now live in radon-mitigated homes. In September 1999, radon-resistant construction techniques were incorporated into the new International Residential Code.

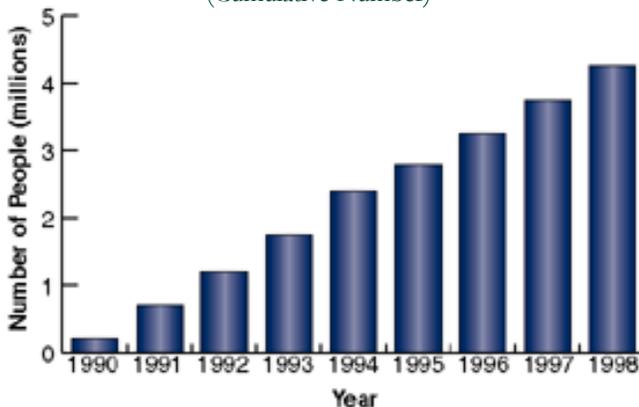
EPA conducted a number of additional activities aimed at reducing indoor air pollution in FY 1999. For example, EPA collaborated with the American Medical Association and the Consumer Federation of America to develop a multimedia campaign addressing secondhand smoke. The results of a survey conducted for EPA suggest that in FY 1999 the Agency's education and outreach activities resulted in more than 195,000 children not being exposed to environmental tobacco smoke in their homes. In addition, a total of 2,000 schools adopted "Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools" in FY 1999, resulting in 1,050,000 students and staff learning and working in healthier school environments. The program provides guidance to schools on how to significantly improve their indoor air quality, reduce asthma risk factors, and protect children's health. EPA has not yet reached the goal of 1.5 million students and staff working in healthier environments and is looking at new incentives for schools while continuing to provide information about the benefits of prevention.

EPA also has completed the largest ever environmental study of large commercial office buildings. The Building Assessment Survey and Evaluation collected tens of thousands of environmental measurements and surveyed occupant perceptions of indoor air quality in 100 office buildings nationwide. These data will be used to assess exposure and devise risk reduction strategies for office buildings.

Research Contributions

Research completed in FY 1999 helped identify methods that characterize the impact of indoor air pollution on human health. For example, EPA completed documentation for well-characterized models of asthma in both mice and rats that exhibit many of the hallmarks of human allergic asthma. Such research substantially expands EPA's ability to evaluate the effects of pollutant exposures and their impacts on both normal and sensitive subpopulations.

People Living in Radon-Resistant Homes
(Cumulative Number)



Fostering Pollution Prevention

By 2005, EPA has committed to reduce by 20 percent (from 1992 levels) the quantity of toxic pollutants released, disposed of, treated, or combusted for energy recovery. Half of this reduction will be achieved through pollution prevention practices.

EPA is working to broaden the use of pollution prevention practices through its focus on manufacturing sector wastes (as measured by the Toxics Release Inventory), the Design for the Environment Program, and the Pollution Prevention Framework.

Manufacturing Sector Wastes (TRI)

In FY 1999, EPA worked toward its goal of reducing (by two percent) the quantity of TRI pollutants released, treated, or combusted for energy recovery, but based on the most current data available (1997), recent trends indicate that the Agency will not meet this goal (APG 25).

The FY 1999 annual performance goal is based on changes in non-recycled wastes reported to TRI. Due to time lags associated with reporting and analysis, 1997 data were reported in 1998 and made public in 1999. Data for 1999 will not be available until 2001.

The 1997 data suggest a reversal in what had previously been a multi-year reduction trend. In 1997, TRI chemical non-recycled wastes generated by the manufacturing sector actually increased by 1.1 billion pounds (11.3 percent). A substantial portion of this increase is attributable to large production increases in the manufacturing sector. When the increase in non-recycled wastes is normalized or adjusted to take into account increased production, the increase in non-recycled wastes that is unrelated to growth is shown to equal 518 million pounds (5.3 percent). Further, much of this increase is attributed to a small number of woodtreating facilities.

Additional perspective and understanding can be obtained by considering the P2 waste reduction efforts since 1992, the baseline year for EPA's long-term goal. When changes in waste are normalized for the production increases that occurred between 1992 and 1997, non-recycled wastes unrelated to growth are shown to have declined by 19.5 percent

(2.1 billion pounds). In addition, recycled wastes unrelated to growth are shown to have decreased five percent during the same period.

The sudden increase in chemical non-recycled wastes reported revealed a weakness in the Agency's FY 1999 performance goal. The measure did not take into account fluctuations in industrial production. EPA has adjusted the measure for FY 2001 so it can more accurately reflect the results of the Agency's pollution prevention efforts.

MICHIGAN SOURCE REDUCTION INITIATIVE

The Michigan Source Reduction Initiative (MSRI) was a 30-month partnership of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the Dow Chemical Company, and local environmentalists, with funding and support from EPA. Based on a commitment to cut waste and emissions using pollution prevention techniques, the MSRI identified a number of actions, from simple input and process modifications to more considerable investments, that ultimately reduced emissions by 43 percent (from one million to less than 0.6 million pounds) and wastes by 37 percent (from 17.5 million to 11 million pounds)—saving the company \$5 million a year in the process. The final project report was completed in September 1999. To build on the success of the MSRI, EPA and NRDC have begun to identify and collaborate with other facilities through the Voluntary Initiative for Source Reduction.

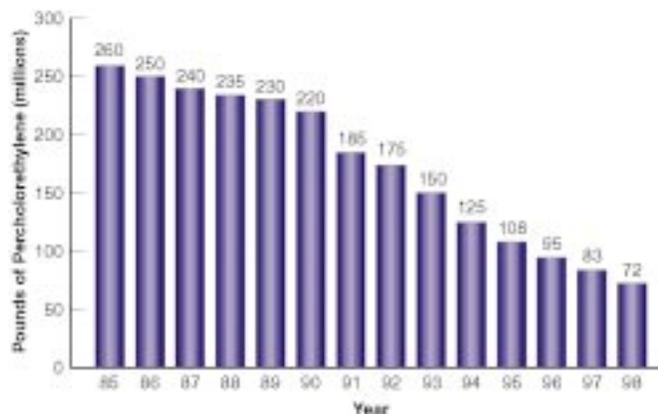
Design for the Environment (DfE)

The DfE program helped nine industries voluntarily implement practices to reduce risk to their workers and the environment through cost-effective strategies. Combined DfE/industry partnerships affected over 140,000 companies and two million workers and resulted in reduced releases of millions of pounds of hazardous chemicals, reduced exposure of workers, increased awareness of safer practices, and increased development of environmentally preferred products.

The DfE program achieved these results with a diverse set of industries, including the fabricare industry, industrial laundry formulators, and litho-

graphers. The fabricare industry is becoming increasingly aware of the health concerns associated with perchloroethylene and is switching to other, cleaner technologies such as liquid carbon dioxide and professional aqueous cleaning techniques. As a result, dry cleaners have been steadily reducing their use of perchloroethylene over time (e.g., an 11 million pound reduction in 1998; see chart on the decrease in perchloroethylene use by the dry cleaning industry). EPA's partnership with six industrial laundry formulators led to the development of 10 new environmentally preferable detergents with a growing customer base. Finally, outreach efforts with 50,000 lithographers have prompted a switch from volatile organic compounds to cleaner washes for presses, especially in Clean Air Act (CAA) non-attainment areas.

Perchloroethylene Use By U.S. Dry Cleaning Industry



Pollution Prevention (P2) Framework

At the early stages of new chemical research and development, companies often have limited chemical information. EPA responded by developing the Pollution Prevention (P2) Framework, a computerized set of methods that predict risk-related properties of chemicals based on chemical structure and enable stakeholders to identify environmentally protective products and processes. EPA conducted two national workshops and ten in-depth case studies in FY 1999, showing how use of the P2 Framework could result in development of safer new chemicals. A widely distributed Environmental Cost Accounting Study documented how use of the EPA P2 Framework brought dramatic savings in research and development and product development costs and has reduced time to market.

Reducing the Quantity and Toxicity of Waste

By 2005, EPA's objective is that the Agency and its partners will increase recycling and decrease the quantity and toxicity of waste generated.

In FY 1999 EPA made progress toward this objective in the areas of municipal solid waste (MSW) and hazardous waste recycling as well as Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics (PBTs). *FY 1999 MSW recycling and generation data are not currently available. Analysis to determine this information no longer occurs annually and the next analysis is anticipated in 2001 (APG 26).* 1997 data indicate that 28 percent (61 million tons) of MSW was diverted from land filling and combustion and that per capita MSW generation was at 4.4 pounds per day. MSW generation increased slightly in response to the robust economy, but continued efforts in MSW reduction are expected to bring per capita generation back down in future years.

The Agency encouraged recycling of hazardous wastes through a rulemaking and established a baseline for future assessment of progress. EPA also proposed a rule for certain hazardous wastes that would encourage recycling of the wastes by allowing for extended storage accumulation time.

PBTs such as mercury, dioxin, and DDT present a continuing health and environmental concern. In November 1998, EPA issued the Draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Waste Minimization PBT Chemical List and a draft Mercury Action Plan. In July 1999, EPA broadened the list into an Agency-wide pollution prevention PBT list. A draft trends analysis based on this list indicates that significant reductions for a number of chemicals already have been achieved.

The Agency-wide PBT list is expected to become final in April 2000. EPA will use this list to focus waste minimization partnership efforts on reducing the generation and toxicity of hazardous PBT waste by 50 percent by 2005. EPA has set up two PBT-related partnerships to begin work toward this goal. In conjunction with the North East Waste Management Officials Association, EPA will target reductions in the generation of hazardous wastes containing mercury and other PBT chemicals. Secondly, the National Pollution Prevention

REDUCING MERCURY USE IN HOSPITALS

On June 24, 1998, EPA and the American Hospital Association signed a voluntary agreement to virtually eliminate mercury from waste generated by U.S. hospitals by the year 2005. The parties, together with 80 non-governmental organizations, also agreed to reduce overall hospital waste volume by 33 percent by 2005 and by 50 percent by 2010 and to jointly identify additional substances to target for pollution prevention and waste reduction opportunities.

Roundtable will sponsor a number of PBT reduction workshops when the final list of PBT chemicals is published in April 2000.

In addition to these waste minimization activities, the PBT Initiative developed a smaller list of chemicals for National Action Plan development. In FY 1999, the Agency completed seven draft National Action Plans, which address 11 priority PBTs (excluding dioxin). The Agency also began developing baseline data on PBTs in humans, other organisms, and the environment at large.

Assessing Environmental Conditions in Indian Country

By 2003, EPA has committed that 60 percent of Indian country will be assessed for its environmental condition, and Tribes and EPA will be implementing plans to address priority issues. In FY 1999, both EPA and Tribes made significant progress in developing the capacity to address the environmental needs on Tribal lands.

EPA is committed to assessing environmental conditions to identify high-priority human health and environmental risks on Tribal lands. A lack of comprehensive environmental data, however, severely impacts the Agency's ability to complete this work. *For FY 1999, EPA established a goal of collecting ten percent of Tribal environmental baseline information and establishing an additional ten Tribal/EPA environmental agreements or environmental priorities; EPA has met and exceeded its goal by collecting ten percent of the baseline information and establishing 46 additional Tribal agreements (APG 27).* Review of these data confirmed numerous gaps in environmental information for Tribal lands.

EPA is working with available boundary information and new data management software to establish a process that will facilitate Tribal-specific data retrievals. Despite the difficulties encountered in developing a baseline assessment, EPA and Tribes have continued to work together to address concerns about the environmental conditions on Tribal lands. EPA encourages Tribes to take responsibility for implementing Agency programs. An additional 24 Tribes received EPA program authorizations/approvals, raising the total number of program approvals for Tribes to 270 in 1999 from 90 in 1995.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

EPA took a number of steps in FY 1999 to assess the effectiveness of its efforts to reduce risk and promote pollution prevention. In FY 1999, two performance evaluations were completed and a third was started. These evaluations will help the Agency assess both program effectiveness and progress toward achieving annual and strategic goals.

The Certification and Training Assessment Group (CTAG) completed an assessment of the pesticide applicator program and in January 1999, released a report entitled "Pesticide Safety for the 21st Century." The analysis provides recommendations for guiding the future strategy and direction of the Certification and Training Program.

The Agency is also conducting a national assessment of the Worker Protection Standards for agricultural pesticides. As with the CTAG, the assessment group includes members from EPA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Labor Department, the Department of Health and Human Services, State regulators, Tribes, farm worker advocacy groups, and others. The results of the evaluation are expected in approximately two years.

In August 1999, the General Accounting Office (GAO) published "Indoor Pollution: Status of Federal Research Activities" (GAO/RCED-99-254). The report reviewed federally funded indoor pollution research across numerous federal agencies. The key finding of the report is that notable progress in indoor pollution research has been made, but many gaps in knowledge and understanding of the problem remain.

CHALLENGES AND CONCLUSIONS

The Agency and its partners made important strides toward meeting the goal of preventing pollution and reducing and cost effectively managing the risk posed to human health and the environment from toxic chemicals, chemical wastes, and pesticides. EPA has taken important steps to foster the transition to safer pesticides and reduce the pesticide levels in food, groundwater, and fragile ecosystems. The Agency is nearing completion of a national infrastructure to abate lead and protect our children from lead poisoning. EPA has begun the process of collecting data on the hazards of high production chemicals common in everyday life. The Agency is extremely encouraged by the steps industry has taken voluntarily to take responsibility for preventing and managing industrial pollution. EPA has begun a campaign to improve indoor air quality that particularly affects our children's health. But a number of challenges remain, and the Agency needs to further its efforts in many areas:

- Continue to base its regulatory and program decisions on good data and sound science.
- Help farmers transition to safer pesticides and farm practices while at the same time preventing undue disruption of the agricultural economy and the abundance of food for all Americans.
- Maintain the purity of the nation's limited groundwater supplies from contamination by waste, pesticide, and chemical pollution.
- Protect the nation's workers, particularly farm workers and workers who handle toxic chemicals, from exposure.
- Protect families in their homes and children in schools from exposure to toxic household chemicals and pesticides and prevent the misuse of these products.
- Continue to find new ways to provide positive incentives to industry to voluntarily take responsibility for reducing pollution and establishing an ethic of shared responsibility for a sustainable and healthy environment.
- Continue to educate industry, the public, and particularly our children about chemicals, pesti-

cides, and how to prevent pollution. EPA needs to continue to share its knowledge to empower industry, communities, and families to protect themselves as well as the places they live, work, and enjoy life.

- Focus special attention on the Tribes, children, elderly, poor, and urban inhabitants that are disproportionately affected by pollution.
- Improve the quality and meaningfulness of data by developing better methods to assess and measure the results of our work.

Much remains to be done and new challenges will emerge, but EPA and its partners continue to make steady progress in preventing pollution and reducing the risk from exposure to toxic chemicals and pesticides.

KEY MILESTONES FOR THE FUTURE

EPA will continue to work to prevent and/or reduce pollution and the risk to humans, wildlife, and fragile ecosystems. Over the next couple of years, a number of key milestones will mark progress:

- In FY 2000, four widely used herbicides will be subject to a rule that provides a new approach to protect groundwater from pesticide contamination. The Groundwater Pesticide Management Rule is designed to retain the benefits from the continued use of these pesticides while minimizing the risks to human health and the environment by preventing contamination from reaching critical levels in groundwater.
- EPA is working with stakeholders to design a voluntary program to make toxicity testing data available to the public on the special impacts industrial chemicals may have on children.
- The High Production Volume (HPV) Challenge Program is addressing serious deficiencies in the availability of basic health and environmental hazard data for 2,800 high production volume chemicals. In FY 2000, EPA will complete the review of more than 300 Test Plans submitted by industry and publish the HPV Chemicals Test Rule.

- EPA is developing and validating screening assays for endocrine disruption. The Agency is going to great lengths to ensure that valid test methods are available for use in the screening program. EPA is also coordinating with other Federal agencies to develop a comprehensive government-wide endocrine disruptor research strategy.
- EPA will promulgate four major lead rules. One will set certification and training standards for lead-based paint abatement activities involving the de-leading of bridges and superstructures. Another will set similar standards for building renovation and remodeling. A third rule will establish health-based standards for lead in paint, soil, and dust. A fourth will establish new disposal standards for lead-based paint debris.
- A lack of comprehensive environmental data severely impacts the Agency's ability to properly identify risk to human health and the environment on Tribal lands. Progress toward building Tribal and EPA infrastructure and completing the collection of 20 percent of baseline environmental data for Tribal lands will enable EPA and the Tribes to identify high priority human health and environmental risks.

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