



RCRA Corrective Action Program 2020 Goals Closeout

In 2004, EPA's RCRA Corrective Action program, implemented in partnership with authorized states, set ambitious, aspirational goals for 2020 that were designed to provide a vision for the cleanup program by setting its sights on achieving important cleanup milestones. The 2020 Goals propelled progress - - by EPA, states, and regulated facilities - - toward achieving the ultimate goal of completing cleanups that are protective for communities and support economic use and redevelopment.

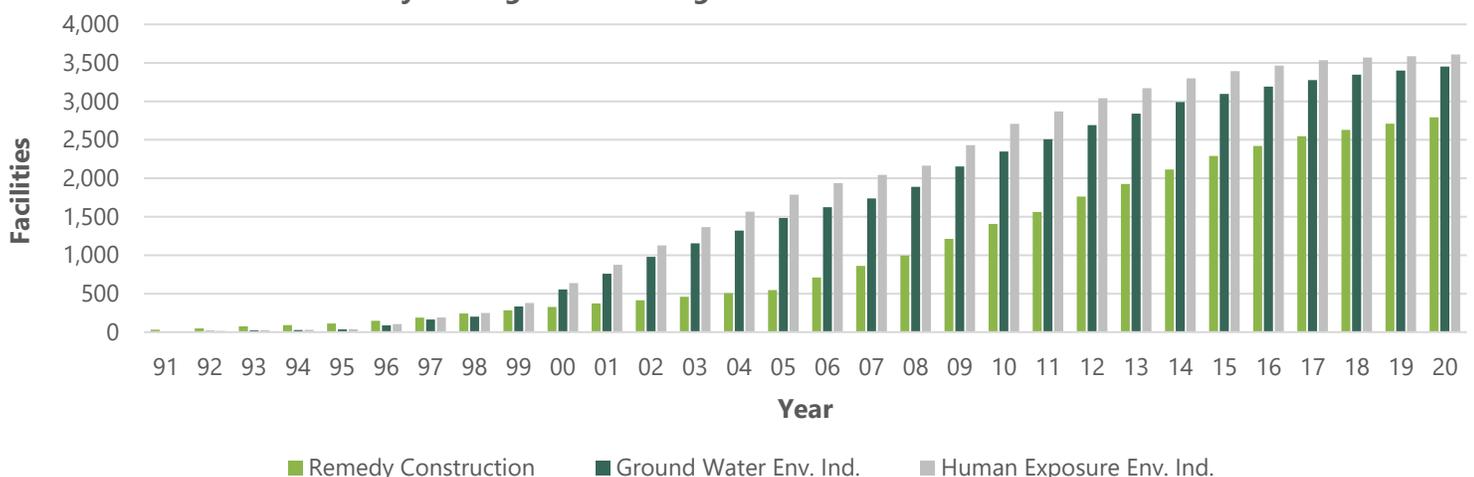
Background

The Corrective Action program worked to meet three important milestones at 95% of 3,779 priority facilities:

- Human Exposures Under Control
- Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control
- Remedy Construction

Progress is measured first and foremost by protecting public health through controlling human exposure to contamination. The next steps, including controlling the migration of contaminated groundwater and having cleanup technologies constructed and operational, are also important to achieve long-term protection.

History of Progress Achieving the Three 2020 Goal Milestones





Before remediation (left) and after (right).

2020 RCRA Corrective Action Goal Results

The RCRA Corrective Action program made significant progress cleaning up contaminated facilities and working toward the 2020 Goals. EPA and states oversaw facilities' investigations and cleanups that resulted in:

- 95 percent of facilities ensured that communities were not exposed to unacceptable levels of contaminants.
- 91 percent of facilities ensured that contaminated groundwater was not spreading and further contaminating groundwater resources.
- 74 percent of facilities completed construction of the final remedy and made sure it was designed to achieve long-term protection of human health and the environment.

These are major achievements and reflect impressive performance in terms of the effectiveness and speed of the Corrective Action cleanup program. However, the work is far from finished. For facilities that have not met these milestones, EPA and the states are actively working to achieve these goals and protect the health of nearby communities and the environment.

The 2020 results demonstrate significant progress toward achieving the ultimate goal of completing

cleanups that are protective for communities and support economic use and redevelopment. Because achieving this goal can take time, considering the complexity and cost of many cleanups, measuring and showing interim progress is important. The results also reflect that reaching the remedy construction milestone, which involves detailed site assessment, technical evaluations, and selection of remedy options, is particularly challenging. The Corrective Action cleanup program still has much work ahead.

A Vision Forward

EPA developed new 2030 Goals for the RCRA Corrective Action program with extensive stakeholder outreach that included representatives from states, tribes, local governments, and communities. The 2030 Goals, along with a vision and mission for the future of the program, were announced in September of 2020. They focus on meeting remaining milestones and completing cleanups across the country. EPA is implementing the new 2030 Corrective Action Vision and Goals to emphasize addressing climate change and the priorities of communities with environmental justice concerns.

To read more about the 2030 Corrective Action Vision and Goals, visit <https://www.epa.gov/hw/rcra-corrective-action-program-vision-mission-goals-2030>