

# Region 6 2024 Accomplishments Report

## HIGHLIGHTS:

INNOVATIVE ENGAGEMENT

INVESTING IN AMERICA

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

REALIGNMENT

FUNDING

DEIA



**College Field Day Event at Fifth Ward/Kashmere**

**Gardens Union Pacific Railroad Site** page 4

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(inside cover)



- **Hired 81 new employees**
- **16 summer interns**
- **Filled 4 SES leadership positions**

# INTERNAL ORGANIZATION



**Facilitated two division reorganizations including standing up the new Environmental Justice, Community Engagement and Environmental Review Division.**



# FUNDING





## DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY

### External

- Executed 8 new MOUs with 20 professional organizations and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs); partnered with MSIs and local municipal authorities to host over 40 students and faculty for a day of learning at the Union Pacific site in Houston.

### Internal

- Facilitated 6 DEIA trainings for R6 staff and managers. Promoted equity for advancement under the Leaders and Learner Mentoring Program and Leadership Career Development Program, hosted 3 SES Candidate Development program participants.

## EMPLOYEE MORALE



Bi-monthly All Region 6 meetings to sustain and improve morale of staff and keep staff informed of agency priorities, challenges and successes.

# 2024 TRAILBLAZER AWARDS

## EMBEDDING EJ

**Completed the second round of Trailblazer Awards for employees.**

**Awards given to:**

**Lead-based paint team engagement activities with communities, supplemental environmental projects for RMP cases, and Class VI UIC team implementation of EJ.**

### AWARDS



- **Finalized and implemented the Stronger Engagement for Results and Justice (SERJ) Initiative. Finalized and documented the EJ and climate change training program. Created an interagency agreement requiring Louisiana to take actionable steps to embed EJ into their primacy program.**
- **EPA Region 6 exceeded the agency Justice 40 goal in many of our programs. Approximately 77% of the 1.3 billion dollars we awarded in grants went to Justice 40 communities.**

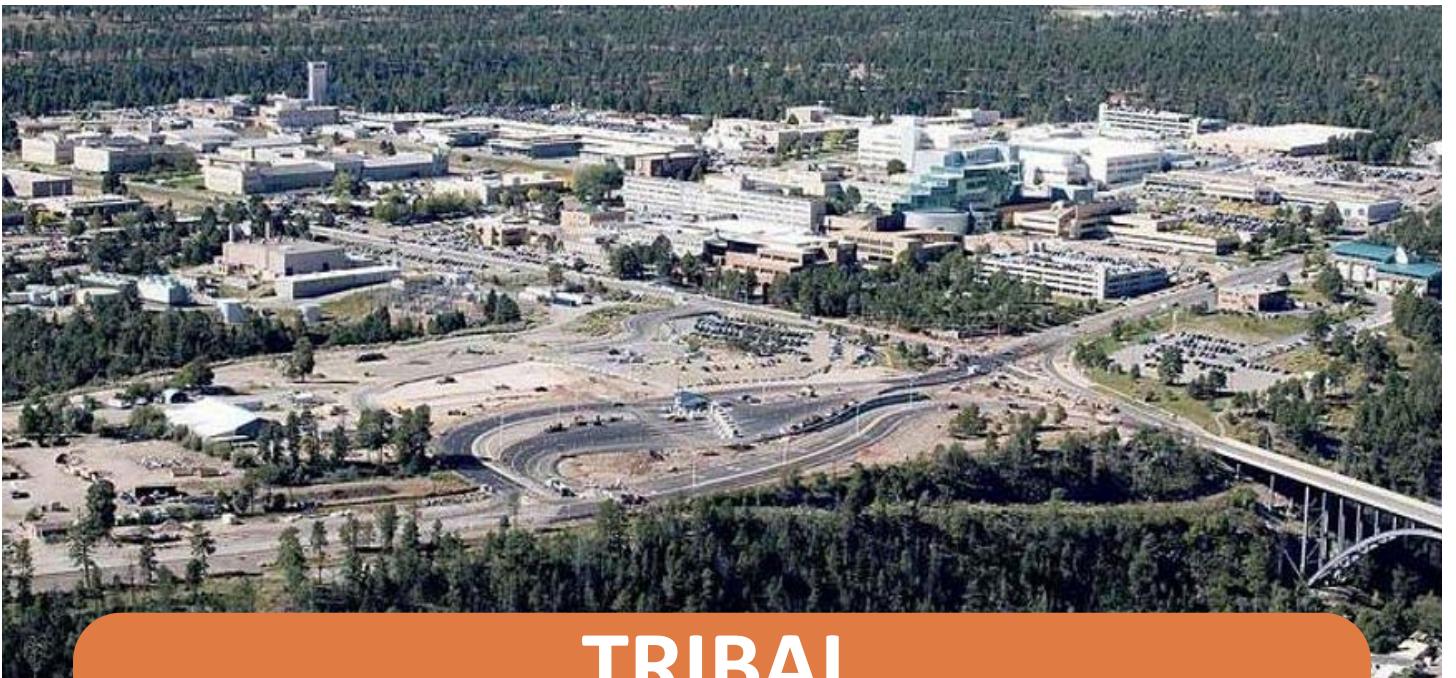




# OUTREACH

- **Conducted 158 outreach meetings with communities, Tribes, and states**
- **503 total from 2021-2024**
- **Enhanced/refined our regional emergency response protocols to provide timely info to communities**





## TRIBAL

- Awarded 14 General Assistance Program (GAP) grants and Performance Partnership Grants to 45 tribal partners and two tribal consortiums totalling \$8.4M.
- Co-chaired three Regional Tribal Operations Committee meetings; gave keynote address and presented 5 recognition awards at the Region 6 Tribal Summit.
- Held in-person meetings with the Quapaw Nation, Tar Creek Trustee Council Indian Tribes (Ottawa, Eastern Shawnee, Miami, Peoria, Seneca-Cayuga and Wyandotte), Osage Nation and Osage Minerals Council and the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes (Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Muscogee) on the reconsideration of EPA's 2020 SAFETEA decision.
- Worked with Dept. of Energy to address community concerns over planned radiation releases at Los Alamos National Lab.
- The EPA met with the Downstream Tribal Nations to discuss the EPA's NEPA role in the Pensacola Project. The EPA awarded funding to the Downstream Tribal Nations to assist in the NEPA process. EPA is a cooperating agency for NEPA review under a signed letter of understanding between FERC and EPA on the project.

**Awarded a Border grant of \$183,000 and co-chaired the Border 2025 National Coordinators Meeting in Tijuana, Mexico.**



## INNOVATIVE ENGAGEMENT



- Initiated Technicalpalooza meetings to work with US Army Corps and directly engage with communities concerned with dredged material dumping and to revise national guidance on dumping dredge material in EJ communities.
- Developed and issued the first online storymap of EPA and community air monitoring in St. James, St. John, and Calcasieu Parishes.
- EPA secured funds to monitor EtO in Laredo and provided technical support for air monitoring to the community.



Created an interagency agreement with the US Maritime Administration to require climate and air pollution controls on all deepwater ports and liquified natural gas facilities in the region.

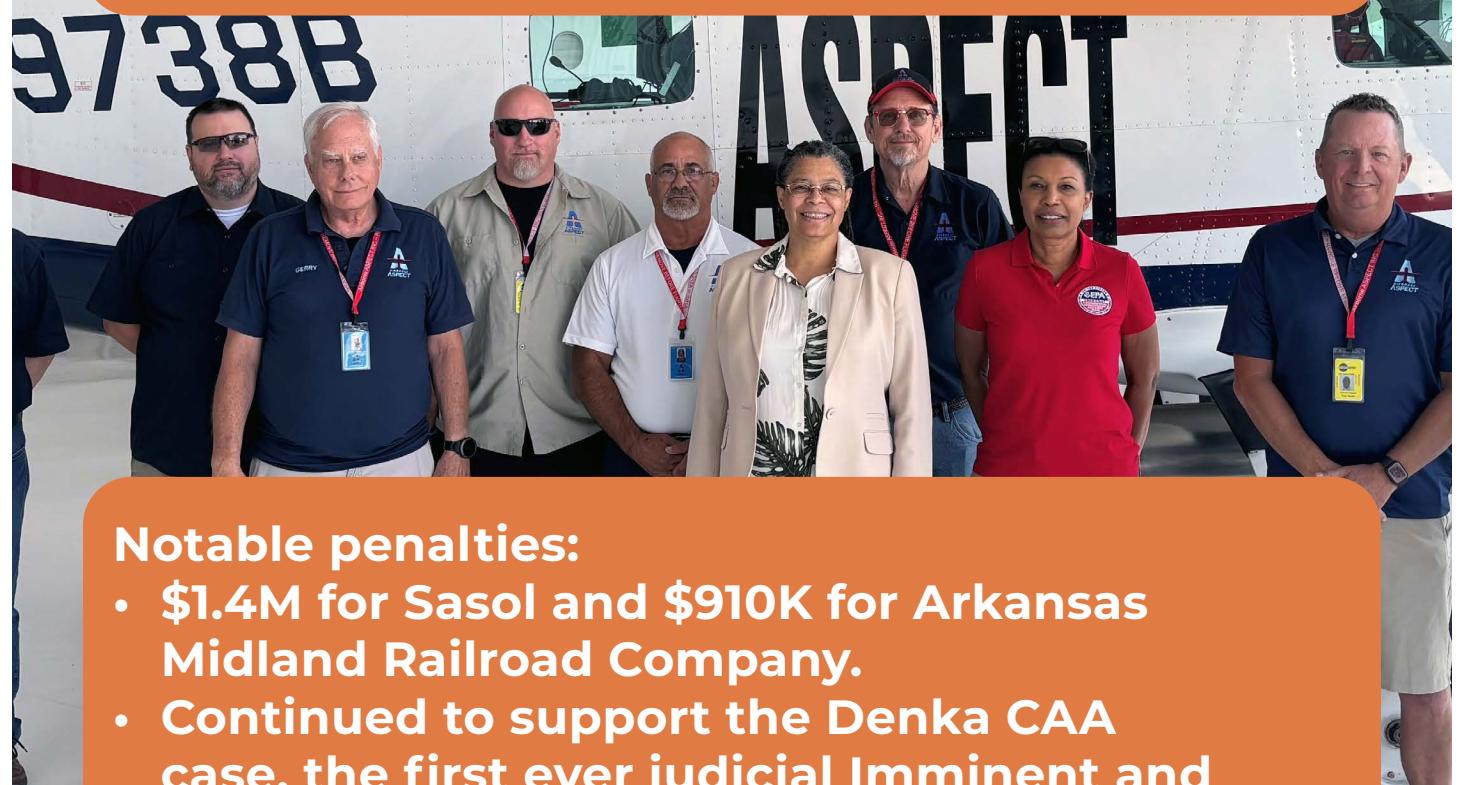
INTERAGENCY REGULATION of PORTS and LNG

## ENFORCEMENT

**Highest percentage of total EPA orders in 5 enforcement categories:**

- RCRA Hazardous waste: 43%,
- CAA chemical accident prevention: 31%
- CWA Oil/hazardous waste: 44%
- CWA NPDES: 24%
- SDWA UIC: 48%

**Led the nation in RCRA Hazardous Waste, CAA 112r, CWA 311, CWA NPDES, and SDWA UIC enforcement.**



**Notable penalties:**

- \$1.4M for Sasol and \$910K for Arkansas Midland Railroad Company.
- Continued to support the Denka CAA case, the first ever judicial Imminent and Substantial Endangerment case to address cancer risk in an EJ community.
- Aerial monitoring of oil & gas operations resulting in \$1.75M in civil penalties and significant CO<sub>2</sub> and VOC reductions.



## INTERAGENCY COLLABORATIONS

**Created a produced-water working group with TCEQ, RRC, NMED, and ORD to plan multi-state actions for research, standards, guidance, discharge, and reuse of produced water.**

# BOOKLET STAFF



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## Thank You

We appreciate your taking time to review the information contained in this booklet. Region 6 is continuing to embed new and innovative ways of increasing protection for overburdened communities.

You are seeing a different EPA now, and we are delivering results to communities by creating new methods, documenting our breakthroughs, and rewarding innovation.



The United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 6



Region 6 serves Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico,  
Oklahoma, Texas and 66 Tribal Nations