

PARTNERING

An Overview

OBJECTIVES

- ◉ To provide information about the partnering process that the VDEQ Federal Facilities Restoration Program implements
- ◉ To explain the benefits of performing cleanups using the partnering process

VDEQ FEDERAL FACILITIES RESTORATION PROGRAM

- Implement CERCLA cleanups at federal facilities like military installations
- Three primary stakeholders:
 - DoD (usually, but can be other federal agencies like NASA)
 - EPA
 - VDEQ

THE PROBLEM

- ◉ Each agency has its own set of policies, procedures and guidance that they have to follow
- ◉ Before partnering was implemented, the agencies reviewed, commented, and responded to comments from behind a desk with no communication between the stakeholders
- ◉ Little or no progress was made on investigations and cleanups - the cleanups were moving very S...L...O...W...L...Y...

THE SOLUTION

○ PARTNERING

- Beginning in 1992, on a trial basis, partnering was initiated at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown.
- Definition: a process bringing stakeholders together to achieve mutually beneficial goals
 - In our case, the stakeholders/team members are staff from DoD, EPA, and VDEQ
- Partnering is based on trust, dedication to common goals, and understanding
- Our common goal: To protect human health and the environment while reducing cost and time

YES, BUT HOW?

- ◉ Training
 - Personality types of the team members and technical support staff
 - Successful meeting skills
 - Communication, negotiation, facilitation
- ◉ Regular Meetings
 - Rotating location and roles
 - Aggressive agenda building and goal setting
- ◉ Team Evolution
 - Training and initial facilitation leads to a highly functional and efficient self-facilitated team
- ◉ Conflict Resolution
 - A structured path to successfully resolve conflicts

CONFLICT RESOLUTION: A TIERED APPROACH

- ◉ VDEQ Federal Facility staff maintain regular communication with counterparts at DoD and EPA
- ◉ Tiered approach
 - Tier 1 - Project managers representing DoD, EPA, VDEQ, and consultants and technical specialists as necessary - meet regularly, deal with day to day cleanup operations
 - Tier 2 - Program managers of each organization - primary role is to support Tier 1, discuss and provide clarification for new policy and guidance and address technical concerns
 - Tier 3 - Office directors of each organization - responsible for key environmental policy, programming and budgeting, resolving differences in policies and goals

THE RESULT

- ◉ Cost effective and efficient cleanups
- ◉ Returning contaminated land and groundwater back to usable land and groundwater
- ◉ A healthy and vibrant environment for Virginians to enjoy!