

II. SUGGESTED NEW AREAS

Title	Nature of concern
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)/Underground Storage Tanks (UST).	Reduce the potential hazard from UST's that can leak petroleum or other hazardous substances into the soil and contaminate groundwater, the source of drinking water for nearly half of all Americans.
Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA)/Asbestos in Schools.	Minimize or eliminate exposure to airborne friable asbestos in schools. Asbestos is a known carcinogen, and poses a significant potential health risk if students are in an environment where they inhale asbestos fibers.
Financial Responsibility	Strengthen compliance with financial responsibility requirements found under various environmental laws to ensure that individuals or companies handling hazardous waste, hazardous substances, toxic materials or pollutants have adequate funds to close their facilities, cleanup any releases, and compensate any parties affected by their actions.
Ports of Entry	Reduce illegal handling or disposal of hazardous waste stemming from lack of knowledge of hazardous waste management regulations by managers at port of entry warehousing facilities. A potential Homeland Security issue, it is also a potential Environmental Justice (EJ) focus area because many ports of entry facilities are located in low income or non-English speaking neighborhoods.
Tribal	In Indian country and tribal areas in Alaska, address significant human health and environmental problems associated with drinking water and waste management. Ensure compliance within targeted areas and address adjacent noncomplying facilities impacting Indian country and tribal areas.
Auto Salvaging Sector	A significant environmental problem due to significant potential of pollutants such as waste oils, gas, mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and lead reaching the environment from auto salvaging facilities. This sector includes salvage yards, shredders and their residue and dismantlers. Auto yards are located throughout the United States, and many are small businesses.
RCRA—Mineral Processing	Evidence gathered in recent inspections indicates that mineral processing facilities are failing to obtain the necessary permits and adequately manage their wastes. EPA has found that the mishandling of mineral processing wastes has caused significant environmental damage and resulted in costly cleanups. These highly acidic wastes have caused fish kills and the arsenic and cadmium that these wastes often contain have been found in elevated levels in residential drinking water wells.
Federal Facilities	Improve and better maintain compliance at Federal Facilities through more effective implementation of environmental management systems (EMS). An EMS is an organization's overall plan for handling resources, procedures, processes, and policies to advance environmental protection and performance.
Miscellaneous Plastics	Reduce public exposure to hazardous wastes and pollutants released to the land, air, and water by the miscellaneous plastic products manufacturing sector.
Environmental Justice	Ensure that no racial, ethnic or socioeconomic group bears a disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial activities; or from the execution of federal, state, local and tribal programs and policies. Target one or more areas within each Region for focused attention.
Fuels Management	Potentially large quantities of hazardous pollutants are being emitted to air, surface and ground water, and soil from the storage, distribution and ancillary operations at liquid petroleum and natural gas handling facilities. Ensure compliance across a broad spectrum of environmental statutes to minimize releases.
Significant Noncompliance (SNC) Oversight	Ensure proper management of the enforcement and compliance programs under the CAA, the CWA—National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, and RCRA by ensuring that instances and patterns of significant noncompliance are identified and addressed by EPA and/or States in a timely manner.

At this time OECA is inviting comments on this preliminary list, and any suggestions for other FY 2005–2007 priorities. When submitting responses to this FR Notice, please rank which of the areas listed above should be a top concern for national focus, as well as suggesting others not included on the current list. If additional problem areas are identified, please provide supporting information on the suggestions and be sure to relate them to the selection criteria. Again, suggested priority areas that are not chosen may be candidates for individual regional, state, or tribal attention and/or continued investigation.

B. Projected Time Frame

After receiving stakeholder responses to this FR Notice OECA will complete its analysis of candidate priorities and present a list recommendations for final approval to the Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance in late January, 2004. In February 2004, EPA will issue the draft FY 2005–2007 OECA Work Planning Guidance to Regional Offices, states and tribes for final review. This draft guidance will include the selected EPA enforcement and compliance assurance national priorities.

C. Review Information

Persons interested in obtaining further background information regarding current or proposed FY 2005–2007 national enforcement and compliance assurance priorities may submit a request for hard copy or electronic version of information to: docket.oeca@epa.gov, or contact the docket clerk at (202) 566–1514. Please reference Docket Number OECA–2003–0154 in the request. A reasonable fee may be charged by EPA for copying docket materials.