

**MEMORANDUM:**

**SUBJECT:** Contaminated Sediments Action Plan

**FROM:** Linda Fisher  
Deputy Administrator

**TO:** Assistant Administrators  
Regional Administrators

Protecting human health and the environment from contaminated sediments continues to present a major cross-media challenge for the Agency. EPA's 1997 *National Sediment Quality Survey* reported over 2,500 state fish consumption advisories in water bodies throughout the U.S. Many of these advisories are caused by contaminants found in sediments. The *National Sediment Quality Survey* identified ninety-six watersheds as "areas of probable concern". Coordinating activities across federal, state, and local programs will be essential in addressing the challenges presented by contaminated sediments.

The attached Contaminated Sediments Action Plan outlines recent accomplishments and future steps for the Agency on management of contaminated sediments. The Action Plan reinforces EPA's commitment to apply sound science and to work across program authorities to achieve overall environmental goals. The Contaminated Sediments Action Plan serves as a tool for senior EPA managers to closely coordinate all our cross-program contaminated sediment activities in the future.

The Contaminated Sediments Action Plan will be updated on an as-needed basis, as new activities are added. If you have any questions regarding activities in the Action Plan, please contact Lee Hofmann in the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response at 202-260-2230.