


U.S. EPA ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE UPDATES

KELLIE ORTEGA

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE,
OECA, U.S. EPA

- 
- EPA National Enforcement & Compliance Initiatives
FY 2024-2027
 - Supporting the Inspector Corps
 - Evidence-Based Decision Making

EPA NATIONAL ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE INITIATIVES FY 2024-2027

-
- Developed every four years and span Administrations
 - Name change to National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives (NECIs)

NEW SELECTION CRITERIA

Serious and widespread
environmental violations impacting
human health and the environment

Federal enforcement can make a
difference

Alignment with EPA's Strategic Plan
goals

EPA NATIONAL ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE INITIATIVES

FY 2024-2027

**Mitigating
Climate Change**

**Addressing
Exposure to PFAS**

**Protecting
Communities
from Coal Ash
Contamination**

**Reducing Air
Toxics in
Overburdened
Communities**

**Increasing
Compliance with
Drinking Water
Standards**

**Chemical
Accident Risk
Reduction**

MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE

- Addressing climate change using OECA's enforcement and compliance tools is critical to EPA's mission of protecting human health and the environment, including overburdened communities that will be most vulnerable to climate change.
- The Mitigating Climate Change NECI will use OECA's criminal and civil enforcement authorities to address three separate and significant contributors to climate change:
 - (1) methane emissions from oil and gas facilities;
 - (2) methane emissions from landfills; and
 - (3) the use, importation, and production of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).
- EPA has documented widespread noncompliance in all three sectors.

REDUCING AIR TOXICS IN OVERBURDENED COMMUNITIES

- Modified from prior cycle, original was called, “Creating Cleaner Air for Communities,” begun in 2020
- Recognizing need to address communities that suffer impacts from higher levels or multiple sources of toxic air pollution, FY 2024-2027 focus on overburdened communities selected by each Region because those communities are facing high levels of Hazardous Air Pollutants
- Each Region will make those selections in partnership with states based on tools that allow detection of the worst forms of toxic air pollution

CHEMICAL ACCIDENT RISK REDUCTION

- Continued from prior cycle. Seeks to reduce risks to human health and the environment by decreasing the likelihood of chemical accidents
- Primarily a federally implemented program, with only a few state-delegated enforcement programs
- Many facilities regulated under the risk management program of Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act are neither adequately managing the risks they pose nor ensuring the safety of their facilities to protect surrounding communities or first responders

SUPPORTING THE INSPECTOR CORPS

-
- Inspector Cadre Efforts
 - Smart Tools

INSPECTOR CADRE EFFORTS

- OECA is working to rebuild the inspector cadre
- Efforts to encourage recruitment, advancement, and retention of inspectors include:
 - Training and Networking
 - Outfitting the Inspector
 - Recruitment and Retention
 - Inspector Tools

INSPECTION SOFTWARE – SMART TOOLS

- **Objective:** Develop and disseminate technology to increase the accuracy and speed of field inspection reporting, which in turn, speeds compliance assessments and return of violators to compliance.
- **Hardware:** A full range of hardware will soon be available and compatible with Smart Tools, including iPhones, ipads, Dell 7230 (Ruggedized, Intrinsically Safe Device).
- **Completed:** RCRA hazardous waste, RCRA Underground Storage Tanks, CWA-National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, and EPA's Good Laboratory Practice program.
- **Next steps:** Design and development of CAA 112r Chemical Accident Prevention and TSCA lead-based paint programs. Exploring other CAA sectors.

EVIDENCE- BASED DECISION MAKING

-
- Drinking Water Learning Agenda
 - Compliance Learning Agenda
 - National Enforcement Training Institute
 - National Targeting Center

NATIONAL TARGETING CENTER

Obtain Feedback through Targeting Needs Assessments and a Regional Targeting Tool Usage and Effectiveness Study

Evidence on Effectiveness of Targeting Methods & Tools

Collaboration through Communities of Practice

Establish networks of Communities of Practice across EPA Regions and States to share best practices and effective tools for targeting

Development of Best Practices based on Evidence

Guidance through Governance Boards for each media & Communities of Practice, likely focusing on National Compliance Initiatives

In collaboration with Communities of Practice for each media, deliver engaging trainings and National Targeting Conferences

Training & Outreach

National Targeting Center

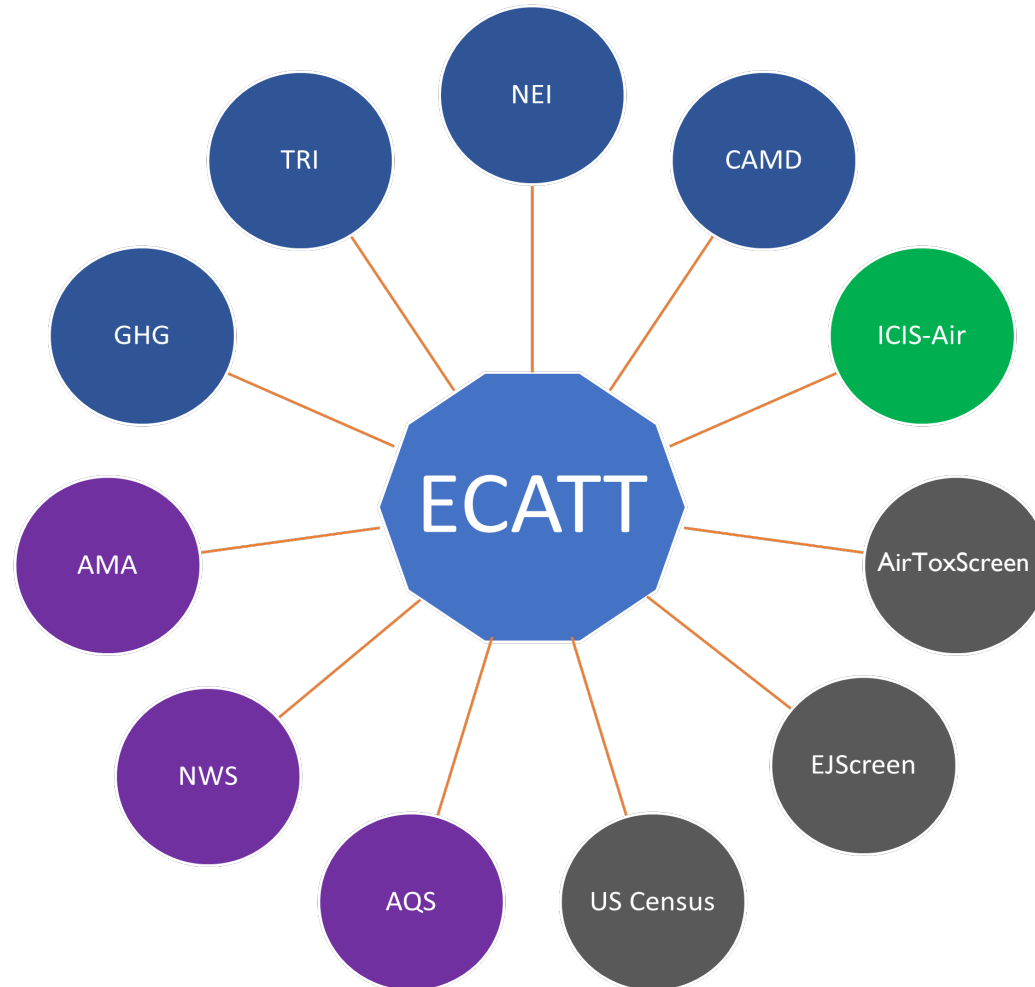
Virtual Targeting Center

Identify recommendations for Targeting Tools that can be developed or modified through requests on the Virtual Targeting Center

Innovative Targeting Tools & Data Visualizations

Develop Customer-Focused Targeting Tools across regulatory programs using modern technology and in collaboration with Regional Targeting Tools

ECHO CLEAN AIR TRACKING TOOL (ECATT)





Questions?