

Galveston Bay National Estuary Program
Fiscal Year 1990
Workplan
October 1989
GBNEP-2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. Introduction	1
II. Proposed Fiscal Year 1990 Projects	4
Program Inventory	4
Base Programs Action Plan	4
DIMS Feasibility and Implementation	5
Public Participation	5
Program Administration	5
Technical Studies	5
Action Plan Demonstration Project	6
III. Fund Sources	10

LIST OF FIGURES

	<u>Page</u>
Figure 1. GBNEP Timeline	3
Figure 2. Funding Mechanism	12

I. INTRODUCTION

This workplan represents the commitment of the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program to undertake work in fiscal year 1990 (September 1, 1989 - August 31, 1990). The Galveston Bay National Estuary Program (GBNEP) is composed of Galveston Bay Management Conference participants, EPA Region VI program staff, and the State Program Office. The purposes and structure of the GBNEP are fully documented in the Governor's Supplemental Nomination of Galveston Bay as an Estuary of National Significance (May 1988) and in the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program EPA/State Management Conference Agreement (Publication GBNEP-1, September 1989).

The GBNEP has been in a developmental phase, or planning initiative, corresponding to an initial EPA/State cooperative agreement for fiscal year 1989. During this planning initiative, numerous goals have been successfully pursued to establish the program on a solid foundation. These goals have included, to date:

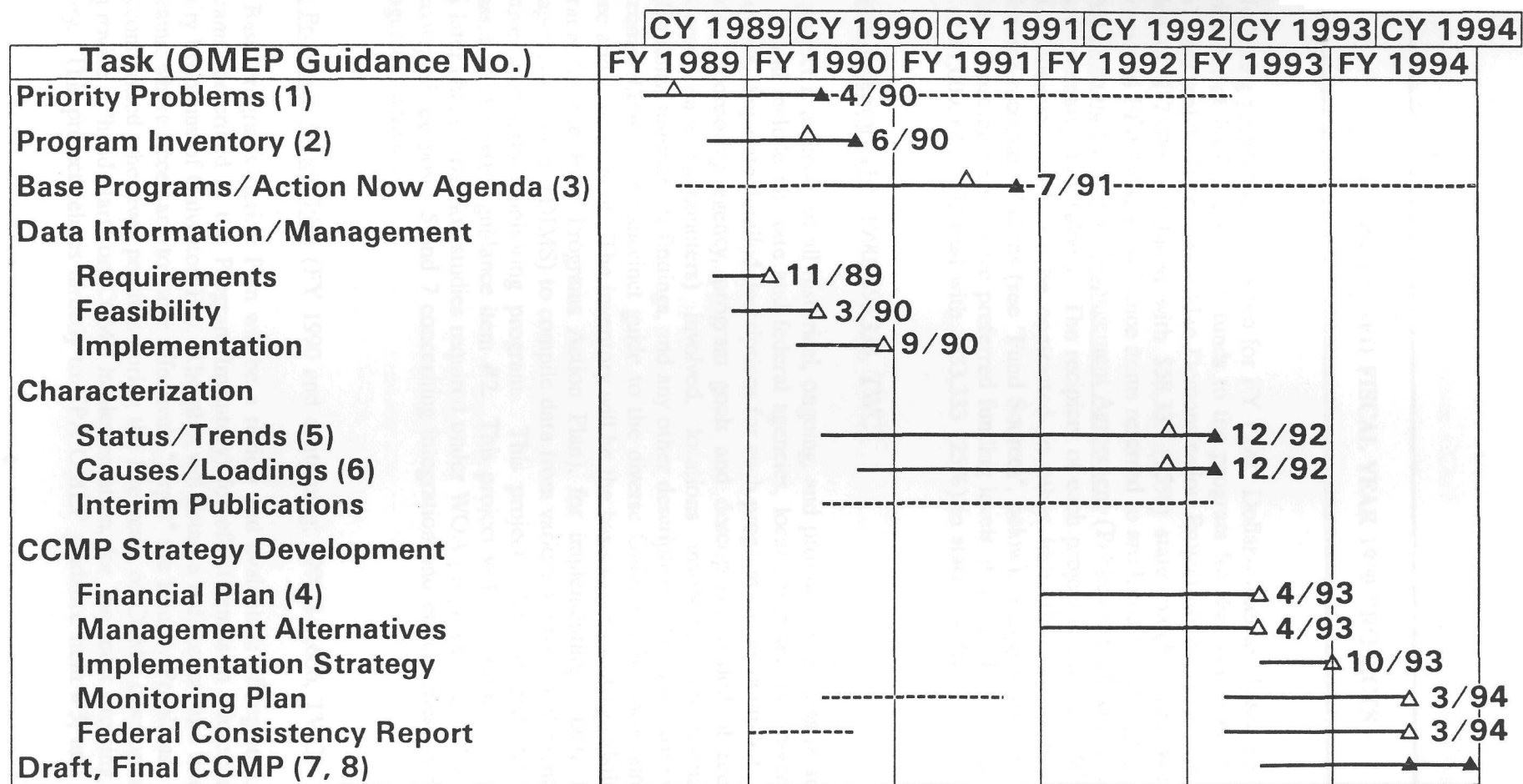
- o Designation of Galveston Bay as an estuary of national significance and convening of the Galveston Bay Management Conference and acceptance of Governor Clements' Governor's Supplemental Nomination of Galveston Bay as an Estuary of National Significance in May 1988. This was greatly helped by congressional support for the program from Texas Legislators and by numerous concerned citizens and groups.
- o Award of a National Estuary Program grant to Texas of \$150,000 (based on state match of an additional \$77,318). The Texas Water Commission was recognized as lead agency in this one-year cooperative agreement of October 5, 1988, which was designed to develop and establish the GBNEP. A signing ceremony for the agreement was held in Galveston Bay aboard the tall ship Elissa on September 12, 1988, with signatories Robert E. Layton, Jr., Regional Administrator for EPA, and Allen Beinke, Executive Director, Texas Water Commission.
- o Appointment and convening of six committees composing the Management Conference, as described in the Governor's Nomination. The members of these committees, and key staff are listed in the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program Directory of Participants (Publication GBNEP-3, September 1989). Meetings of each committee to date have been approximately monthly.
- o Establishing of a State Program Office. A Program Manager was hired February 1989, a Public Participation Director in March 1989, with four more staff positions to be filled by Fall 1989. The office was initially located in Austin, Texas, and is now at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

- o Approval by the Management Conference on February 3, 1989 of a draft Priority Problems List for critical estuary concerns. The List was acknowledged as a starting point and guide for both public involvement and scientific and technical investigations, and is expected to further evolve as the program develops.
- o Organization of public involvement beginning with public meetings held in April 1989 and publication of the number 1 issue of Bayline, a quarterly newsletter. Activities already approved by the Citizen's Advisory Steering Committee include slide presentations, compilation of an extensive mailing list, additional regular public meetings, a "kick-off" ceremony, establishment of strong media relations, a speakers bureau, a brochure, educational video productions and a portable educational display explaining the GBNEP.
- o Drafting of a five-year EPA/State Management Conference Agreement (Publication GBNEP-1) reflecting public involvement and committee review. The agreement lays out the broad goals to be pursued throughout the Program, and was approved by the Policy Committee on April 28, 1989.

The achievement of these planning initiative goals, due to the hard work of numerous individuals, has now brought the program to the end of its developmental phase and the beginning of substantive work to solve the problems recognized for Galveston Bay. With the signing of a new cooperative agreement and award of FY 1990 monies, the Management Conference has, on September 1, 1989, begun a five-year process of both short-range management actions and long-range planning activities. These activities represent the best hope for Galveston Bay; the hope for a consensus of opinion that will integrate conservation and uses of the Bay in keeping with its significance as a national resource.

With the GBNEP now firmly established, its goals for FY 1990 correspond to the overall direction of the program as laid out in the Management Conference Agreement (Figure 1). These goals include ongoing formulation of the Priority Problems List, conducting and publishing a Program Inventory and Base Programs Action Plan, planning and implementing a Data Information and Management System, and initiating scientific and technical bay characterization studies. Accordingly, the projects proposed here for FY 1990 funding contribute directly to accomplishment of these goals which are described in detail in the Management Conference Agreement. The key activities undertaken to accomplish these goals are included in discussion of the projects themselves.

Time Line for Completion of Galveston Bay National Estuary Program Tasks



▲ negotiated commitment and date
 △ probable related activity and date
 ----- ongoing activity with no firm dates

3/94 9/94

II. PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 1990 PROJECTS

The following projects are proposed for FY 1990. Dollar-values are based on \$700,000 federal contribution of NEP Section 320 funds to the program for the year, combined with \$233,333 (25%) state match. The Action Plan Demonstration Project listed is based on separate federal funding of \$175,000 combined with \$58,333 (25%) state match. The Water Quality Act Purposes and EPA OMEP Guidance items referred to are listed in the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program EPA/State Management Agreement (Publication GBNEP-1, September 1989) and are summarized in Table 1. The recipient of each project is the Texas Water Commission (TWC); however, work will be contracted to other institutions according to Management Conference recommendations (see "Fund Sources", below). Projects are summarized in Table 2. Table 3 presents alternative preferred funding levels at a total federal Section 320 funding level of \$1,000,000, combined with \$333,333 (25%) in state match.

Program Inventory (FY 1990, \$93,333, TWC)

This project is a survey of all historical, ongoing, and proposed programs related to Galveston Bay. It will include all state and federal agencies, local governments, universities, and other institutions. Separate detailed descriptions for each program will be compiled. Information will include: sponsoring agency, program goals and description, period of record, publication references, data (parameters) involved, locations involved, data format and storage specifications, summary of findings, and any other descriptives. The inventory will be published as a comprehensive and succinct guide to the diverse Galveston Bay programs involving both science and management. The inventory will be the basis for integrating existing governmental programs (in the Base Programs Action Plan), for implementing a Data Information and Management Systems (DIMS) to compile data from various sources, and eventually, to plan an effective long term monitoring program. This project relates directly to and significantly surpasses EPA OMEP guidance item #2. This project will be a necessary step to effectively focus later characterization studies required under WQA purposes 1, 2, and 3, and is necessary to accomplish purposes 5 and 7 concerning integration and effectiveness of federal and state management activities.

Base Programs Action Plan (FY 1990 and continuing; 1990 \$46,666, TWC)

The Base Programs Action Plan will be a review and evaluation of regional, state, and local programs (described in the Program Inventory) for effectiveness in addressing the identified Priority Problems of Galveston Bay. The plan will detail a redirection and integration of these programs, where necessary, to more effectively "target" the Priority Problems. This process will be accomplished whenever possible during the five years of CCMP development, and as such will provide a "head start" on CCMP implementation, for the most pressing problems in the estuary. This project relates directly to EPA OMEP guidance item #3, and establishes short

term actions that will complement long term CCMP actions under WQA Purpose 4. The project will also help determine an effective long term monitoring strategy under WQA purpose #6.

DIMS Feasibility and Implementation (FY 1990, \$233,333, TWC)

The Data Information and Management System (DIMS) will be the basis for work conducted during the characterization phase of the GBNEP. Because of the diverse nature of existing bay information, the DIMS may involve more than just one approach to bringing the information together. It could include a central dedicated repository for critical historical data and for technical data yet to be collected, as well as one or more computer data storage, retrieval, and analysis systems. It will make available to program participants and the public the numerous publications and data sets now scattered in various institutions. This project is a necessary step for WQA purposes 1, 2, and 3 to be effectively addressed, since existing data on Galveston Bay have historically been underutilized, scattered and difficult to obtain.

Public Participation (FY 1990 and continuing; FY 1990 \$233,333, TWC)

Public involvement in the GBNEP will be a high priority throughout the program. It is a key element in consensus-building that will be necessary for any effective CCMP actions to be implemented. Involvement will include participation in formulating the Priority Problems List and in designating specific projects. Proposed components of this effort include: publication of a quarterly newsletter, publication of occasional "issue papers" dedicated to critical bay issues, public meetings, development of slide and video presentations, and sponsoring of special events. These activities will be facilitated by a full-time Public Participation Director from the Program Office working in cooperation with the Citizen's Advisory Steering Committee and Citizen's Advisory Committee. This project is required under EPA OMEP guidance item #1 and is necessary for success of WQA purpose 4, the CCMP.

Program Administration (FY 1990 and continuing; 1990 \$139,999, TWC)

A State Program Office will be critical to successful coordination of the GBNEP. A full time Program Manager with administrative support will work to facilitate meetings of conference committees, to ensure effective communication among participants, and to ensure the program meets administrative requirements to annually receive funding. This project reflects support of all EPA OMEP guidance items and WQA purposes.

Technical Studies (FY 1990 and continuing; 1990 \$186,666, TWC)

Scientific and technical studies will be required to effectively address priority problems in the estuary. These studies will be greatly expanded in several subsequent years to culminate in a Characterization Report required to formulate management actions for the CCMP. Technical studies in FY 1990 will have two components. First, some studies will involve historical data analyses based on will be initiated to fill critical gaps in knowledge. These field studies will

concern four critical aspects of Galveston Bay recognized by the Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee:

1. Contamination of Seafoods
2. Reduction/Alteration of Living Resources
3. Shoreline Erosion
4. Restriction of Contact Recreation

The nature of these specific studies will be recommended by the Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee based on the Priority Problems List and committee deliberations now being planned. This project directly addresses EPA OMEP guidance items 5 and 6 and WQA purposes 1, 2, and 3.

Action Plan Demonstration Project (FY 1990 and continuing; \$233,333, TWC)

Action Plan Demonstration Projects are designed to demonstrate positive early program actions related to the protection and enhancement of estuaries. The GBNEP will focus on two unique and important natural areas in Galveston Bay, Christmas Bay and Armand Bayou. A coordinated effort involving the Texas General Land Office, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Water Commission, and EPA Region VI will be made to designate these two significant areas as Coastal Preserves. The coordination will involve technical and regulatory studies of water quality (point and nonpoint sources), habitat quantity and quality, and primary and secondary production affecting the entire bay. Geographical studies and photographic documentation will also be key elements of the work. The Project will strongly support the larger goals of the National Estuary Program, and will represent a much-needed immediate, visible, and effective action by the GBNEP to improve the estuary.

TABLE 1

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WATER QUALITY ACT PURPOSES,
EPA GUIDANCE PROVIDED, AND NEGOTIATED GBNEP PRODUCTS

WQA of 1987 Purpose	EPA/OMEP Guidance Item	GBNEP Product	Date
	1. Priority Problems List	Priority Problems List	April 1990
	2. Federal Program Inventory	Program Inventory	June 1990
	3. Base Programs Analysis/ "Action Now Agenda"	Base Programs Action Plan	July 1991
1. Trend Study	5. Status/Trends Study	Final Characterization Report	Jan. 1993
2. Cause/Effect Study	6. Cause-Effects/Loading Study	Final Characterization Report	Jan. 1993
3. Loading Study		Final Characterization Report	Jan. 1993
4. CCMP	7,8. Management Implementation	Draft, Final CCMP	March, Sept. 1994
5. Federal/State Coordination		Draft, Final CCMP	March, Sept. 1994
	4,7,8. Financial Strategy	Draft, Final CCMP	March, Sept. 1994
6. Monitoring	7,8. Monitoring	Draft, Final CCMP	March, Sept. 1994
7. Federal Consistency	7,8. Federal Consistency	Draft, Final CCMP	March, Sept. 1994

TABLE 2
GALVESTON BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM
FY 1990 PROJECT SUMMARY

Based on \$700,000 in Federal Section 320 Funding

Project Name	WQA Purpose	Products Delivered/ Projected	Date of Delivery		Cost	Source of Funds	Responsible Organization*
			Actual	Projected			
Program Inventory	5, 7	Program Inventory		6/1990	93,333	EPA, Texas State Funds	TWC
Base Programs Action Plan	5, 6	Base Programs Action Plan		7/1991	46,666	EPA, Texas State Funds	TWC
DIMS Feasibility and Implementation	1, 2, 3	DIMS Feasibility Report		3/1990	233,333	EPA, Texas State Funds	TWC
Public Participation	4				233,333	EPA, Texas State Funds	TWC
Program Administration	1-7				139,999	EPA, Texas State Funds	TWC
Technical Studies	1, 2, 3	Characterization Report		12/1992	186,666	EPA, Texas State Funds	TWC
Action Plan Demonstra-	3	Coastal Preserve Study			233,333	EPA, Texas State Funds	TWC

* Texas Water Commission will award some funds to other institutions based on Management Conference decisions throughout the program.

TABLE 3

GALVESTON BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM
FY 1990 PROJECT SUMMARY

Based on \$1,000,000 in Federal Section 320 Funding

Project Name	WQA Purpose	Products Delivered/ Projected	Date of Delivery		Cost	Source of Funds	Responsible Organization*
			Actual	Projected			
Program Inventory	5, 7	Program Inventory		6/1990	133,000	EPA, Texas State Funds	TWC
Base Programs Action Plan	5, 6	Base Programs Action Plan		7/1991	67,000	EPA, Texas State Funds	TWC
DIMS Feasibility and Implementation	1, 2, 3	DIMS Feasibility Report		3/1990	333,000	EPA, Texas State Funds	TWC
Public Participation	4				333,000	EPA, Texas State Funds	TWC
Program Administration	1-7				200,000	EPA, Texas State Funds	TWC
Technical Studies	1, 2, 3	Characterization Report		12/1992	267,000	EPA, Texas State Funds	TWC
Action Plan Demonstra-	3	Coastal Preserve Study			233,333	EPA, Texas State Funds	TWC

* Texas Water Commission will award some funds to other institutions based on Management Conference decisions throughout the program.

III. FUND SOURCES

Project funding for FY 1990 is based on \$875,000 in EPA federal money (\$700,000 in Section 320 funds, and \$175,000 for the Action Plan Demonstration Project). Matching state monies consist of \$291,666 (\$233,333 for 25% match for Action Plan Demonstration Funds). These funding sources are summarized in Table 4. Table 5 presents alternative preferred funding levels at a total Section 320 federal funding level of \$1,000,000.

The federal money will be awarded to the TWC. A new cooperative agreement will be drafted following approval of this workplan and approval of the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program EPA/State Management Conference Agreement. A grant application will be submitted to Region VI by the TWC. Subsequently, the TWC will administer funding to final recipients, determined by the Management Conference on a project-by-project basis. This mechanism is summarized in Figure 2.

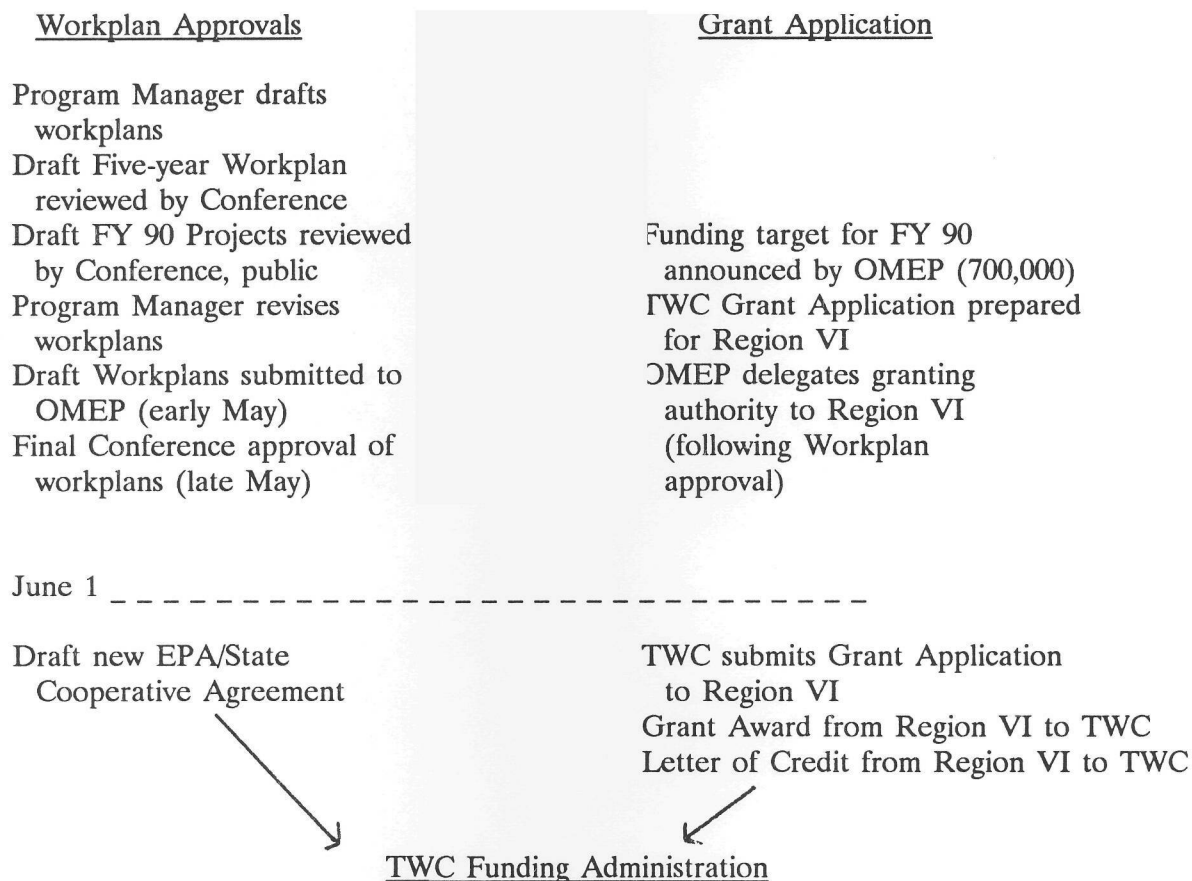
TABLE 4
GALVESTON BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM
FUNDING TABLE, FY 1990

Based on \$700,000 in Federal Section 320 Funding

Source of Funds	Amount	Type of Award
EPA	\$ 700,000	WQA Sect. 320
EPA	\$ 175,000	Action Plan Demonstration Project
State Matching Funds	\$ 233,333	Texas State Funds (25% match for Section 320)
State Matching Funds	\$ 58,333	Texas State Funds (25% match for Action Plan Demonstration Project)
Total Funding	\$1,166,666	
EPA Share = \$875,000 = 75%		
Rec. Share = \$291,666 = 25%		

FIGURE 2

GALVESTON BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM
FUNDING MECHANISM SUMMARY



Based on Management Conference recommendations:

1. TWC hires new employees for TWC Workplan elements.
2. TWC contracts other Workplan components outside agency.

Relatively Quick:

- MOUs with other agencies
- Cooperative agreements with non-profit organizations
- Cooperative agreements or interagency contracts with universities
- Work assigned to existing EPA consultants

Relatively Slow:

- RFPs