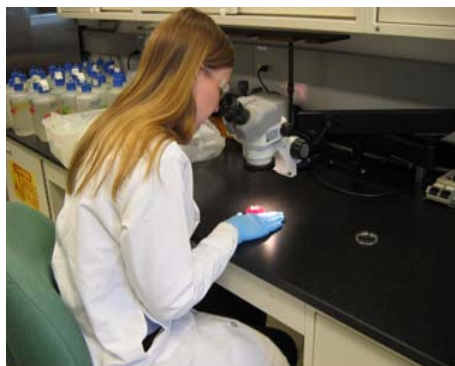




EPA Laboratory Review

***FASTAC Meeting
Dallas, Texas
January 27-28, 2009***



Introduction

- **In 2006, the Administrator initiated a review of EPA laboratory capabilities and operations**
 - Near-term review—identify efficiency & effectiveness opportunities at individual labs
 - Long-term review—assess & evaluate laboratory needs over the next ten years, and determine if the existing network is able to meet those needs
 - EPA laboratories include 39 fixed structural facilities comprised of research, program, and regional labs
- **EPA is releasing to the public a report on the near-term review of its laboratories**

“Commonsense Actions and Best Practices that Improve Laboratory Efficiency and Effectiveness”



Elements of Laboratory Facilities

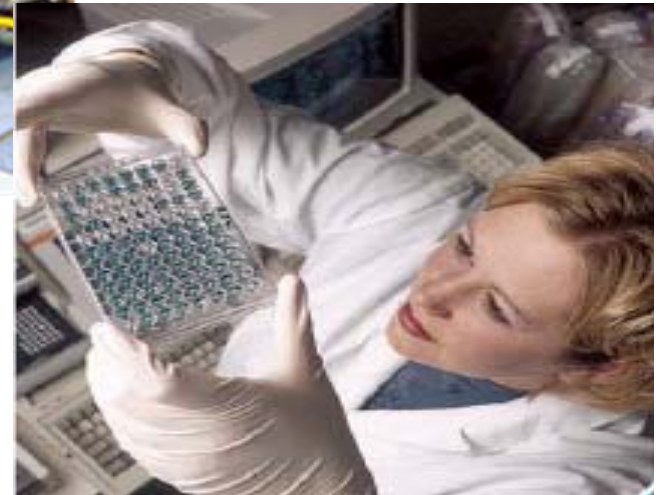
(For additional detail about the elements that comprise laboratory facilities see slide #14)



Buildings & Systems . . .



+ Laboratories & Systems . . .

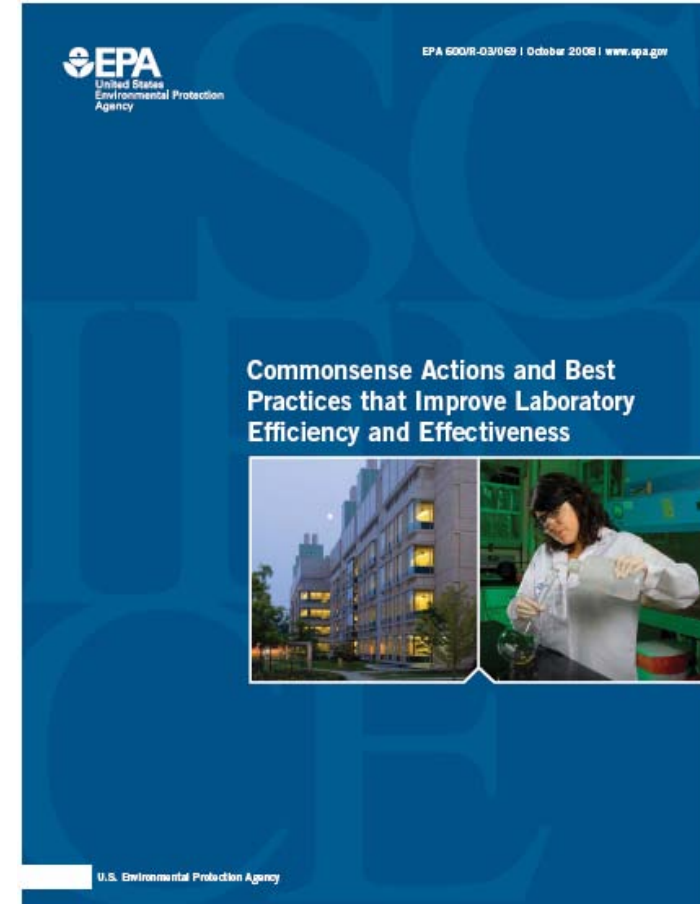


+ Science Teams & their Contributions

Near-Term Laboratory Review

2006 - 2008

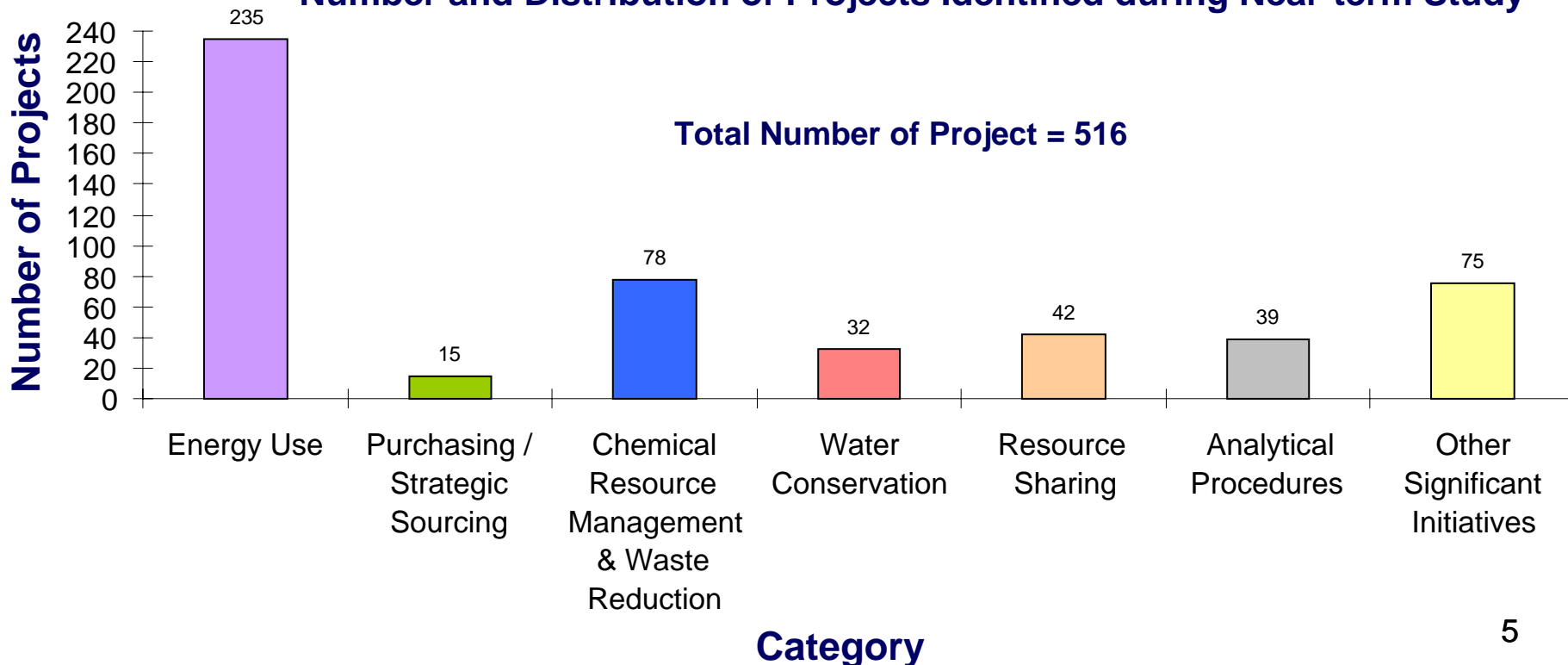
- **Release of final report**
 - Mass mailer to EPA employees
 - Stakeholder communication 1-2 days later
- **Purpose was to identify actions & best practices that improve efficiency and effectiveness at individual EPA laboratories**
 - Actions accomplished (2004 – 2007)
 - Potential actions planned (2008 – 2011)
- **About 500 actions & best practices were identified by EPA scientists and facility managers**
- **Benefits demonstrate EPA leadership to**
 - Conserve resources
 - Reduce energy consumption
 - Recycle chemicals
 - Manage government resources effectively and efficiently



Purpose of Near-term Review Accomplished

- **EPA laboratory employees identified 516 opportunities that improve laboratory efficiency and effectiveness**
 - More than half of these opportunities represent tangible results—actions implemented from 2004 through 2007
 - Many other opportunities represent potential actions planned for 2008-2011

Number and Distribution of Projects Identified during Near-term Study



Long-term Laboratory Review

- EPA is beginning to prepare for a long-term review of its laboratories
- Decisions about the timing and objectives for the long-term review will be made by the new administration
- Proposed objectives for the long-term review
 - Assess and evaluate laboratory network needs to help agency make decisions to protect human health and environment
 - Determine whether the existing laboratory network is able to meet the agency's needs
 - Strengthen EPA's laboratory capabilities to meet emerging needs during the next ten years
- Approach for the long-term review
 - A congressionally-chartered independent expert panel will conduct the review
 - An EPA work group will prepare technical specifications and a draft charge question for the review
 - Draft charge question will drive a decision about selection of appropriate organization(s) to support the independent expert panel (e.g., National Academy of Sciences)
 - Open and transparent opportunities for stakeholder and client input during review
 - Use of independent expert panel is recognized as best evaluation practice by Congress and by the Executive Office of the President

Proposed Next Steps & Timeline

December 2008 - August 2009

	Actions, <u>Feedback</u> , and <u>Formal Decision-making</u>	Timeline
1	Engage union representatives on workgroup	Dec 08
2	Public release of report on near-term laboratory review & communication with stakeholders	Dec 08
3	Workgroup completes outline for draft charge question, approach, government cost estimate, and statement of work	Jan 09
4	<u>Workgroup briefs laboratory coordination committee and steering committee</u>	Jan 09
5	Work group prepares outline for EPA background information. Workgroup communicates with labs and programs about preparing background information.	Feb 09
6	<u>Workgroup meets with OCFO and OMB to review statement of work, government cost estimate, and multi-year funding request</u>	Feb 09
7	Academy is asked to prepare work plan for long-term review that responds to statement of work	Feb 09
8	<u>Academy submits work plan to EPA that responds to statement of work</u>	April 09
9	<u>Work group recommendation to laboratory coordination committee & steering committee about formal EPA decision to approve work plan & costs and to begin long-term review</u>	April 09
10	Communication across EPA, with stakeholders, and with the public	May 09
11	EPA background information for face-to-face laboratory visits is complete, and EPA contractor organizes all information for face-to-face meetings.	Aug 09
12	Independent panel begins meetings in Washington DC	Aug 09