

U.S. EPA Office of Research and Development Contacts for ECOS/ERIS Members

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Office of Research and Development (ORD) Immediate Office of the Assistant Administrator

ORD is the scientific research arm of EPA, whose leading-edge research helps provide the solid underpinning of science and technology for the Agency.

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ORD Labs, Centers and Offices

The research is conducted by ORD's three national laboratories and four national centers, located in 13 facilities across the country and in Washington, D.C. The labs and centers develop knowledge, assessments and scientific tools that form the underpinnings of the vast majority of EPA's protective standards and guidance. ORD's Technical Support Centers (TSCs) are specialized resource centers that provide technical expertise to address high-priority hazardous waste issues in EPA's regional offices. TSCs can be accessed through your EPA regional office contacts.

National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL)

NERL develops and applies innovations in environmental exposure science to support EPA's mission. Exposure science sets the context for understanding and solving real-world problems, and is used to help answer fundamental questions about risk, its reduction/mitigation/prevention, and risk reduction evaluation. Research capabilities include analytical/monitoring methods development; indicators/indices of exposure; exposure/dose process characterization; decision support tools (like EnviroAtlas and C-FERST); landscape characterization; predictive modeling; land use risk to humans and ecosystems; and source apportionment/environmental forensics to identify important sources and pathways for exposure.

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National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory (NHEERL)

NHEERL conducts systems-based, effects research needed to improve environmental and public health outcomes. Research focuses on the development of predictive models that link environmental condition to the health and well-being of people and society as well as to advance research and tools for achieving sustainable and resilient watersheds and water resources. In addition, integrated research is conducted to identify and characterize modifiable factors that respond to environmental conditions, and through intervention, improve health and well-being. Research capabilities include epidemiological, clinical, animal and cellular toxicology research to assess the impact of environmental effects on human health, and coastal, estuarine and freshwater systems at four geographically based coastal divisions.

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National Risk Management Research Laboratory (NRMRL)

NRMRL works to provide scientific and engineering solutions that enable EPA, states, communities and other stakeholders to minimize the potential impacts of current and future environmental stressors on human health and the environment. NRMRL focuses on risk management research through environmental problem-solving to support efforts that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, manage chemical risks, clean up hazardous waste sites, and protect America's water. Research capabilities include drinking water and wastewater treatment and management, including stormwater management and green infrastructure, air emissions research, and ground water and ecosystem restoration.

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- Engineering TSC
Provides site-specific assistance on engineering and treatment issues of site cleanup. Helps incorporate technology-based data needs and site-specific remedy options.

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- Ground Water TSC
Provides site-specific assistance on ground water and subsurface contamination problems in site remediation. Publishes issue papers on subsurface remediation and ground water topics.

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National Center for Computational Toxicology (NCCT)

NCCT works to reform current chemical safety evaluation methods and integrate advances in biology, biotechnology, chemistry and computer science to identify biological processes disrupted by chemicals using computational toxicology research. NCCT's research is part of EPA's broader Chemical Safety for Sustainability (CSS) Research Program.

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National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA)

NCEA performs human health and ecological risk assessments, prepares technical reports, and creates products that serve as a scientific basis for EPA's regulations. NCEA researches quantitative risk assessment methods that extrapolate between experimental data and real-world scenarios to improve risk understanding and facilitate careful weighing of evidence, including development of Integrated Risk Information Systems (IRIS) assessments and Integrated Science Assessments (ISA) for the six criteria air pollutants.

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- Ecological Risk Assessment TSC
Provides technical information and addresses scientific questions relevant to ecological risk assessment at hazardous waste sites for EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) and Regional Superfund/Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) staff.

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- Superfund Health Risk TSC
Reviews and develops exposure and toxicity factors that allow more accurate quantitative estimates of risk to be developed. Much of the activity is focused on developing new and updated peer reviewed provisional toxicity values that describe dose-response toxicological relationships. The center also provides user support and onsite expertise reviews.

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National Center for Environmental Research (NCER)

NCER supports extramural funding for research in exposures, effects, risk assessment and risk management by managing funding competitions through EPA's Science to Achieve Results (STAR), People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3), STAR and Greater Research Opportunities (GRO) Fellowships, and Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) programs.

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National Homeland Security Research Center (NHSRC)

NHSRC works to prepare the water sector for threats and decontaminate indoor and outdoor areas after disasters such as terrorist acts that may involve biological, chemical and radiological agents previously not encountered as environmental pollutants. NHSRC provides research to ensure national security with training and technical assistance to community organizations responsible for response and recovery.

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Office of Science Policy (OSP)

In direct support of the National Research Programs, OSP is the lead organization for integrating, coordinating and communicating scientific and technical information and advice across ORD, and between ORD and the agency's programs and regions. Programs and projects managed by OSP include: Board of Scientific Counselors, Regional Science Program, Tribal Science Program, and research supporting environmental justice.

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- Site Characterization and Monitoring TSC
Provides site characterization assistance of hazardous waste sites and associated site contaminants by supporting the use of state-of-the-science methods and technologies for identifying contaminants, determining levels and concentrations, and identifying geographic extent and distribution.

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ORD National Research Programs

ORD supports six national research programs identify the most pressing environmental health research needs with input from EPA offices, partners and stakeholders. Strategic Research Action Plans outline the research underway in the programs.

Air, Climate and Energy

EPA's Air, Climate and Energy (ACE) Research Program examines the interplay between air pollution, climate change and the dynamic energy sector to develop sustainable solutions to improve air quality and take action on climate change.

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Chemical Safety for Sustainability

EPA's Chemical Safety for Sustainability (CSS) Research Program characterizes real-world chemical exposure and early indicators of toxicity for thousands of chemicals. Through focused research and collaborative case studies, this program develops innovative tools supporting risk management decisions on safe production, use and disposal of chemicals. This program includes research in pesticides, computational toxicology, nanotechnology, endocrine disrupting chemicals and human health.

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Human Health Risk Assessment

EPA's Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) Research Program identifies, evaluates, synthesizes and integrates scientific information on individual chemicals and chemical mixtures. These state-of-the-science, independently peer-reviewed human health assessments prepared under the HHRA research program serve as the foundation for EPA's regulations.

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Homeland Security

EPA's Homeland Security Research Program (HSRP) conducts applied research, provides technical support and builds systems-based solutions to plan, implement and deliver useful science and technology products that address "all hazards," including chemical, biological and radiological contamination intentionally released by terrorists or caused by natural disasters or accidents. The HSRP is organized into three research themes that include securing and sustaining water systems, characterizing contamination and determining risk, and remediating indoor and outdoor environments.

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Safe and Sustainable Water

EPA's Safe and Sustainable Water (SSWR) Research Program uses an integrated, systems approach to support innovative scientific and technological solutions that ensure clean, adequate and equitable water supplies to protect human health and to protect and restore watersheds and aquatic ecosystems.

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Sustainable and Healthy Communities

EPA's Sustainable and Healthy Communities (SHC) Research Program conducts research to help communities make better decisions to sustain a healthy society and environment. SHC provides useful science and tools for decision makers at the federal, regional, state and community levels to help communities advance sustainability as well as achieve regulatory compliance.

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ORD Regional Science Liaisons and Superfund and Technology Liaisons

The Regional Science Liaisons (RSLs) are the primary link between ORD research programs and EPA's regional offices. The RSLs are regional scientists supported by ORD, with one RSL located in each of the 10 regional offices. The RSLs facilitate the communication and transfer of ORD products to regional offices, state partners, local agencies and tribal programs through venues such as regional demonstration projects, training courses and seminars. The Superfund and Technology Liaisons (STLs) are ORD senior scientists and engineers located in EPA regional offices supporting the hazardous waste programs. ORD's Technical Support Centers can be accessed directly or by contacting the regional STL.

Regional Science Liaisons (RSLs)

Region 1

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Superfund and Technology Liaisons (STLs)

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