



### **SURF Environmental Justice Technical Initiative**



### **Update: SURF Environmental Justice Technical Workgroup**

SURFers participating in the Environmental Justice (EJ) Technical Workgroup began work at the end of last year to develop an EJ resource for remediation professionals. Draft deliverables are under development by the four sub-workgroups (State and Federal Regulations, Remediation Considerations, Tools and Grants, and Community Engagement Best Practices) and will be reviewed by workgroup members. The next EJ Technical Workgroup meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2023.

The Community Engagement Best Practices sub-workgroup is also looking for SURFers to help identify ways to make their deliverable user friendly. If you are interested in becoming actively engaged with this initiative, contact [Nicole Tucker](#). (Note: Participation in SURF technical initiatives is limited to SURF members only.) To become a SURF member, click [here](#).

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## **Dive In! New GAO Report Summarizes Past Recommendations and Progress to Date on Persistent Chemicals**

As highlighted in previous issues of SURF Break, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has made recommendations to the U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Food and Drug Administration to help address the challenges associated with persistent chemicals. Last month, the GAO issued *Persistent Chemicals: Detecting, Limiting Exposure To, and Treating PFAS Contamination*. The report provides an overview of GAO work to date and agencies' responses to and progress on recommendations. Click [here](#) to access.

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## **Administrative Guidance for Green, Sustainable, and Resilient Remediation**

### **Contaminated Site Remediation & Redevelopment**

**New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**



## **Did You Know? NJDEP Issues Green, Sustainable, and Resilient Remediation Guidance**

“GSR [green and sustainable remediation] has emerged as a beneficial approach that optimizes all phases of site remediation” according to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection’s Administrative Guidance for Green, Sustainable, and Resilient Remediation. Although not mandatory, the guidance issued last month “formally encourages” using GSR practices when cleaning up contaminated sites “to address threats posed by climate change, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to minimize impacts to environmental justice and overburdened communities, and to move through the cleanup process more swiftly and efficiently without weakening current or future remedial plans.” Click [here](#) to read the four-page guidance.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Webinars**

#### ***Conducting Climate Vulnerability Assessments at Superfund Sites: Lessons Learned***

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. EST

Click [here](#) for more information or to register.