



Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition

Alternative System of Environmental Protection Objectives

Superior performance based alternatives to the existing system that includes flexibility, reduced regulatory burden, and cost effectiveness to achieve cleaner, cheaper, and smarter results. A superior performance based alternative is one that produces environmental and health outcomes that meet or exceed performance required by existing regulatory standards and thresholds. An alternative performance based system encourages creative, innovative, cost-effective, and adaptive solutions that shift resources from permit management and regulatory reporting towards technical, managerial, and consensus process solutions that directly increase environmental protection and reduce human health risks.

An environmental management systems approach that sets performance objectives and targets and stresses continuous improvement. An environmental management systems approach is one in which facilities evaluate the impacts of its activities, processes, and products and establishes clear and measurable objectives and targets to improve environmental, health, and safety performance. Facilities participating in an alternative system approach commit to continuous improvement both in reducing community and worker exposure to harmful chemicals and in improving management systems that gather, assess, and respond to information regarding facility impacts on the environment, workers, and the community.

Integration of environmental, health, and safety (EHS) programs into product design and production processes. An integrated environmental, health, and safety (EHS) program is one that ensures that beneficial changes in one program area (such as environmental) do not cause detrimental changes in another area (such as safety or health). It is a program that stresses communication between those responsible for improving environmental, health, and safety performance and encourages facility personnel to consider EHS issues at all stages in product and process design, procurement, production, use, and disposal on the same level as issues such as cost, quality, and time.

Constructive engagement between industry, workers, communities, and government to achieve alternative system goals and objectives. Constructive engagement means representatives of the facility's management and employees, the relevant Federal, State, and local regulatory agencies, and the community striving to develop and continuously improve a cooperative partnership. Through this partnership, these parties jointly work to assure that each of them has the capacity to participate, and does participate, in establishing facility environmental management system goals and objectives, in monitoring the effectiveness of the system, and in evaluating facility performance. The capacity to