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Voluntary Environmental Programs; Research on the Effectiveness of Voluntary Programs Remains Inconclusive; Previous Evaluations of Performance Track; Performance Track Interviews and Information Collection; Development of the Logic Model and Identification of Core Program Elements; Stakeholder Interviews; Pilot Interviews; Individual Interviews; Focus Groups; Interviewee Confidentiality Characteristics of the Interviewed Population Analysis Framework; Chapter Five - Assessment of Performance Track's Concept and Design Phases; An Expanding Academic Literature Explores Why Firms Join Voluntary Programs and Why They Might Improve the Environment; Private-Sector Participation in Voluntary Programs Depends on the Relative Costs and Benefits of Participation; Voluntary Programs Might Be Able to Improve Environmental Quality; Concept Phase; Recruiting and Screening; Member Benefit Development and Delivery; Facilitation of Environmental Improvement; Findings; Design Phase Recruiting and Screening Member Benefit Development and Delivery; Facilitation of Environmental Improvement; Findings; Chapter Six - Assessment of Performance Track's Implementation Phase; Recruiting and Screening; Performance Track Rejected 16 Percent of Applicants, Removed 10 Percent of Members, and Had 7 Percent of Members Voluntarily Withdraw; Several Stakeholders Believed That Some Members Violated the Compliance Criteria or Were Undeserving of Membership; Some Stakeholders Found Performance Track's Marketing Messages to Be Inconsistent with Its Member Facilities Perceived Inconsistencies Began to Undermine Performance Track and Its Brand

Sommario/riassunto

This report addresses the conceptual basis, design, and implementation of the National Environmental Performance Track program. The voluntary program sought to encourage facilities to improve their environmental performance and provide a more collaborative relationship between facilities and regulators. While the program had mixed success, EPA should continue to seek out new approaches to complement and enhance traditional regulatory approaches.
