



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

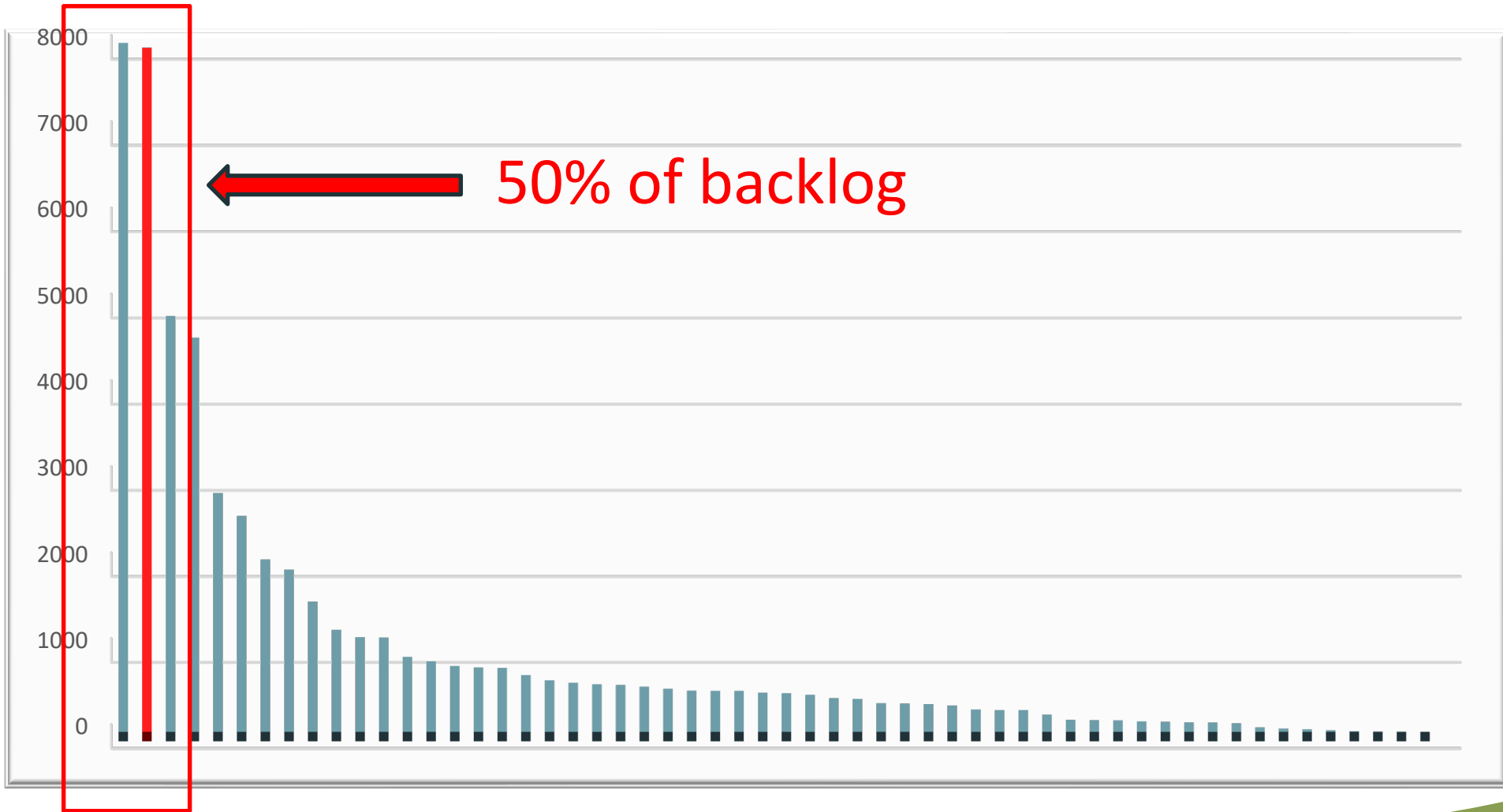
Michigan's backlog story: How we got to 8,000 open releases and how we're getting out

Steve Beukema, Ph.D.

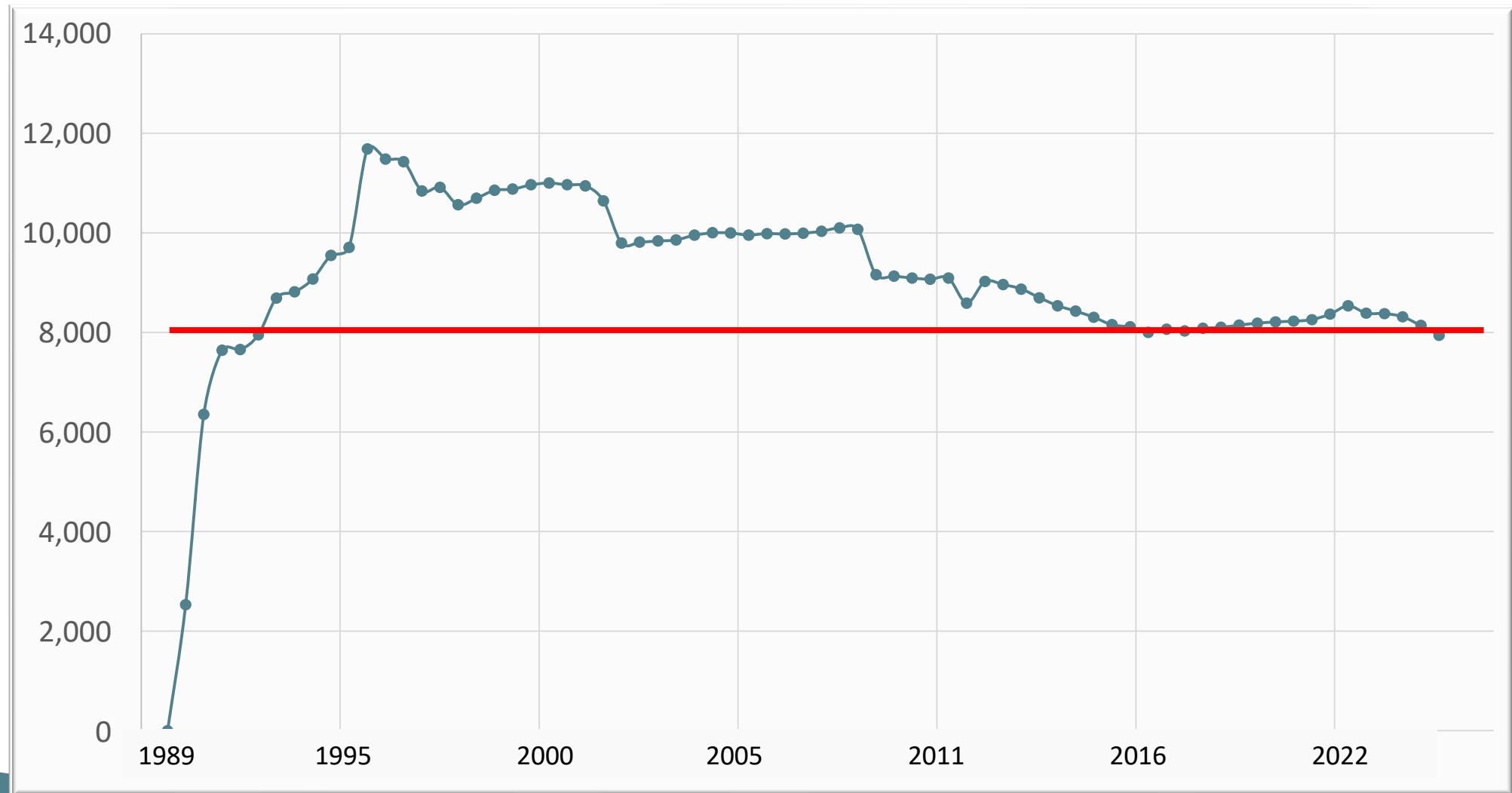
LUST Program Coordinator

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US Backlog – April 2025



Michigan's Backlog



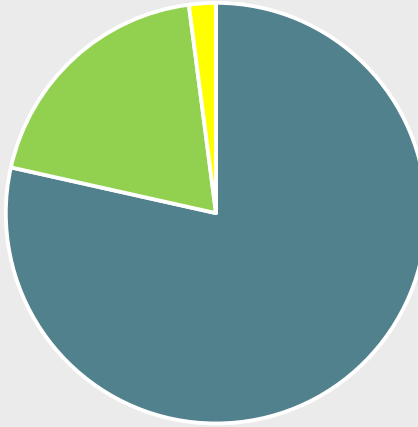
Michigan's backlog

Age of release



■ > 20 years old ■ < 20 years old

Corrective action status



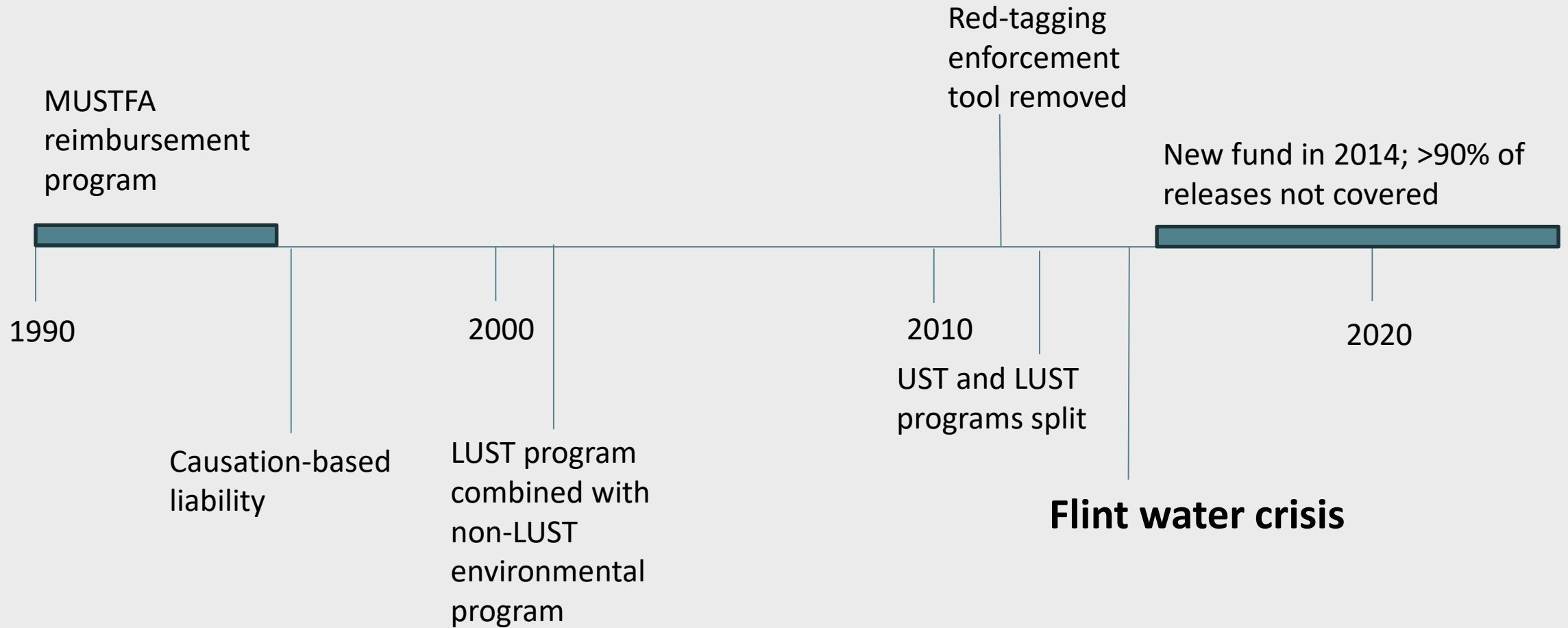
■ inactive ■ active ■ unknown

Open MUSTA claims

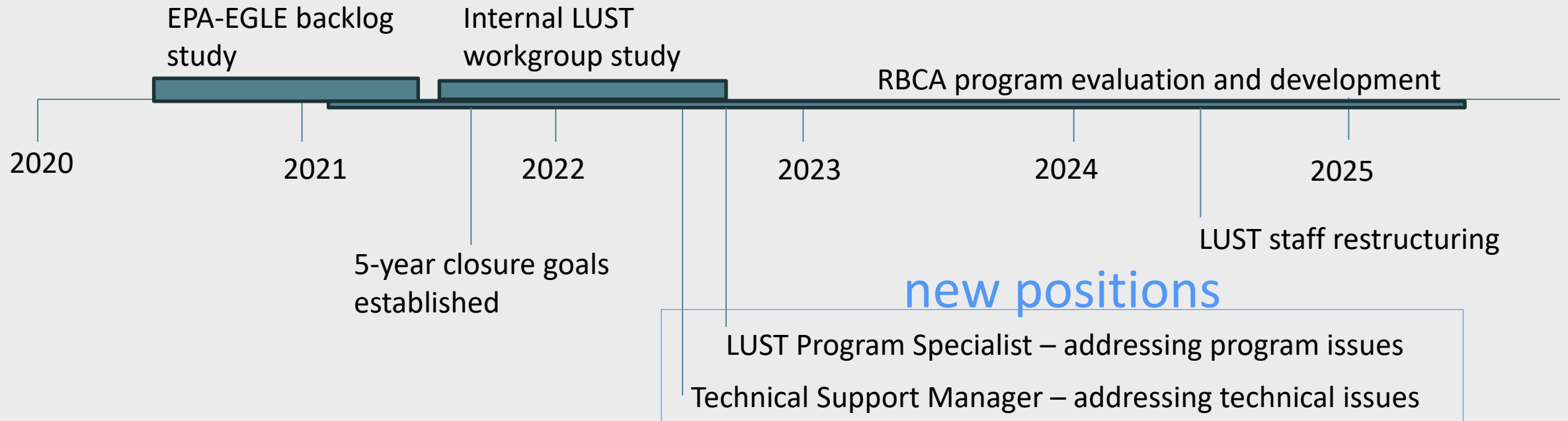


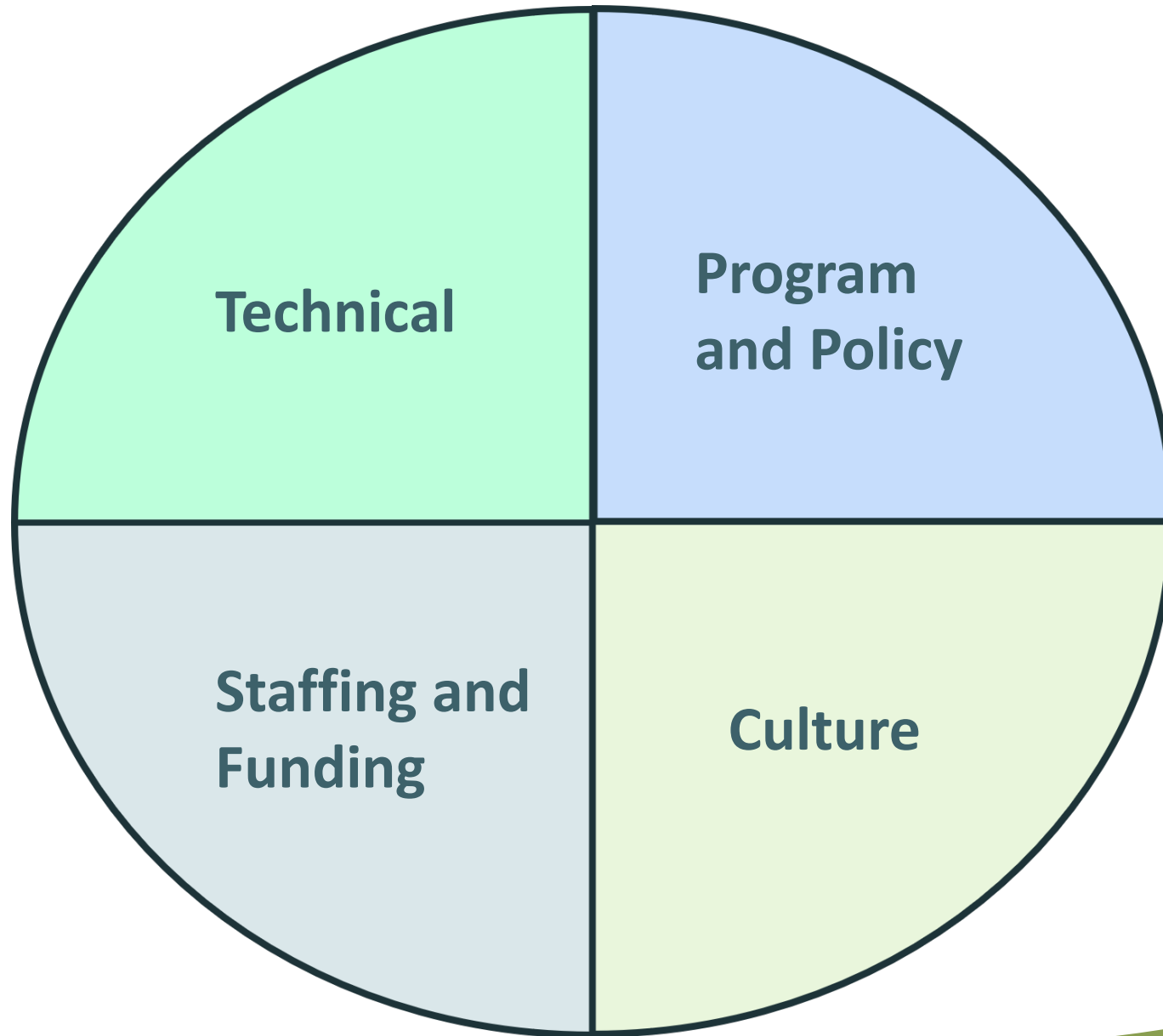
■ not eligible for MUSTA ■ open MUSTA claims

LUST Program History



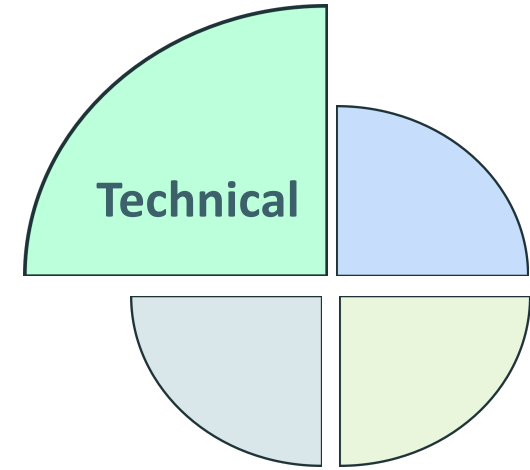
Digging ourselves out





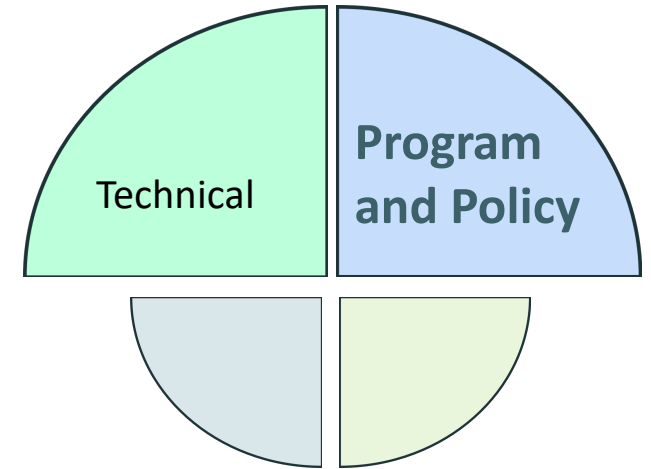
Technical

- Updated Technical Guidance
 - Vapor intrusion
 - Recommended parameters (CoC list)
 - NAPL guidance
 - Groundwater not in an aquifer guidance
- Training on petroleum lifecycle



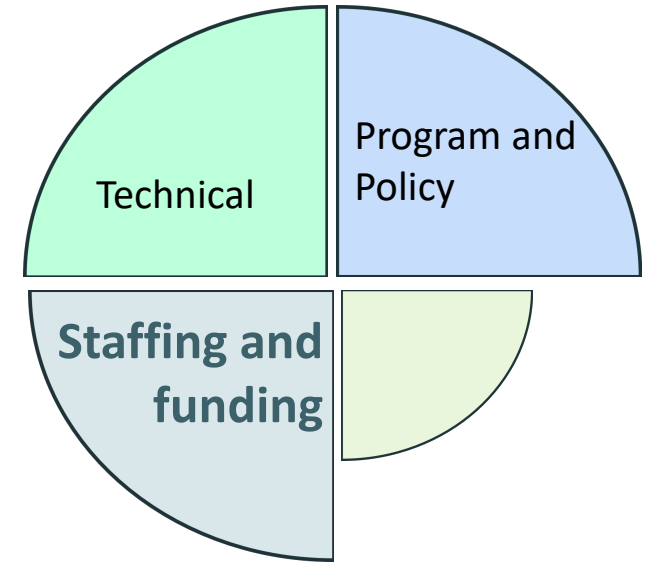
Program and Policy

- Re-engaging legacy O/Os
- Compliance and enforcement tools
- Decision making (peer reviews)
- File review closures for orphan releases
- RBCA guidance and report forms

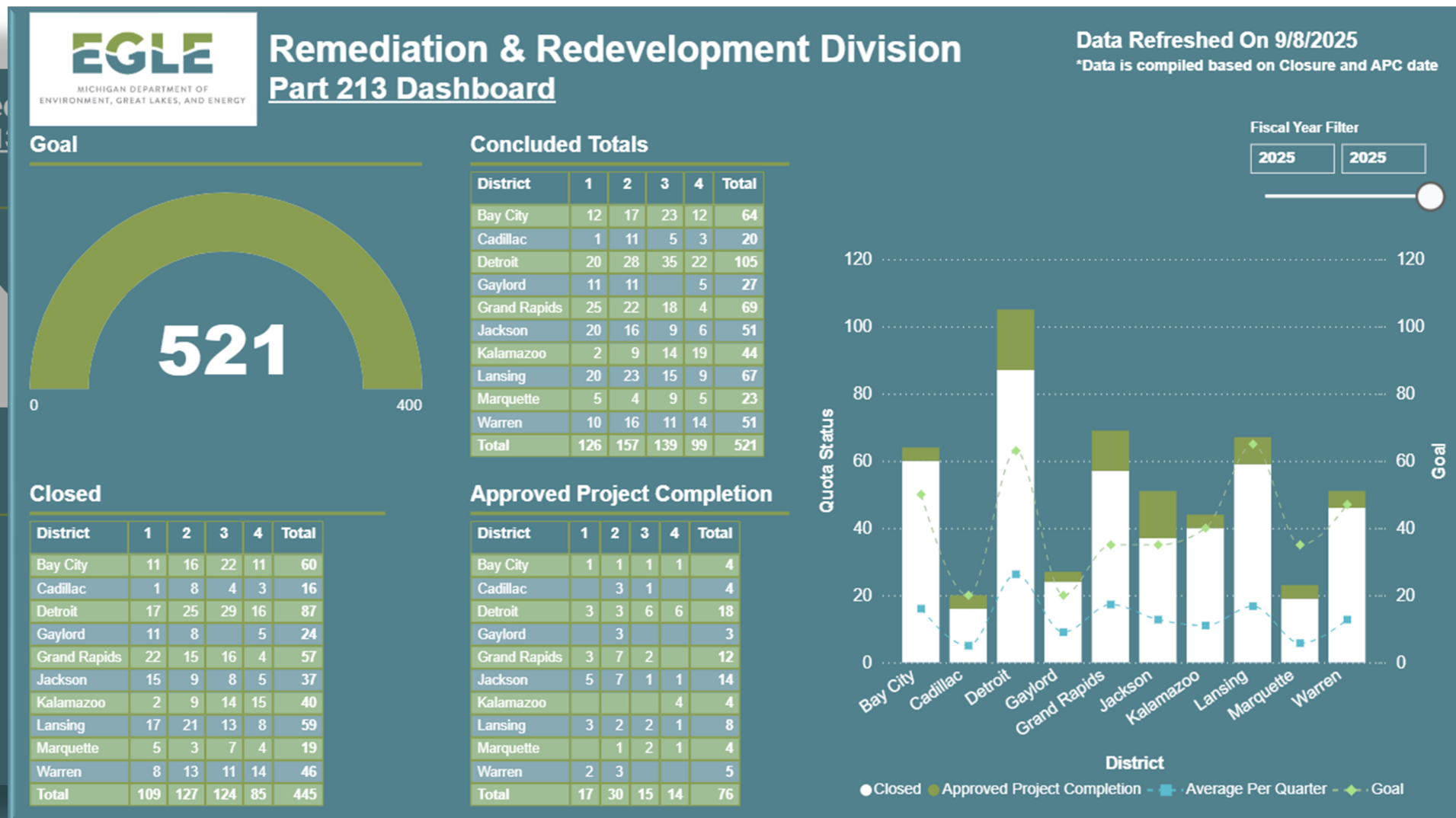
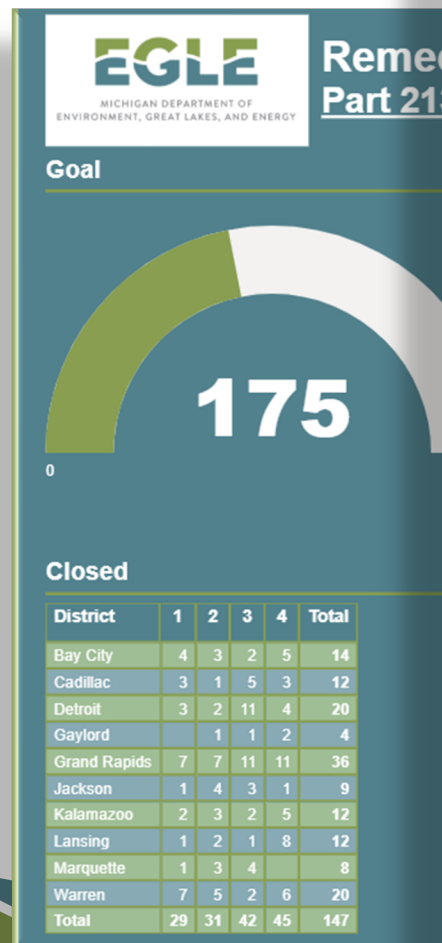


Staffing and Funding

- Increased staffing
 - Increased funding for triage program
 - Hired consultants as PMs for state-funded work
- Staff assigned by program – Tank Teams
 - Metrics, goals, and District accountability

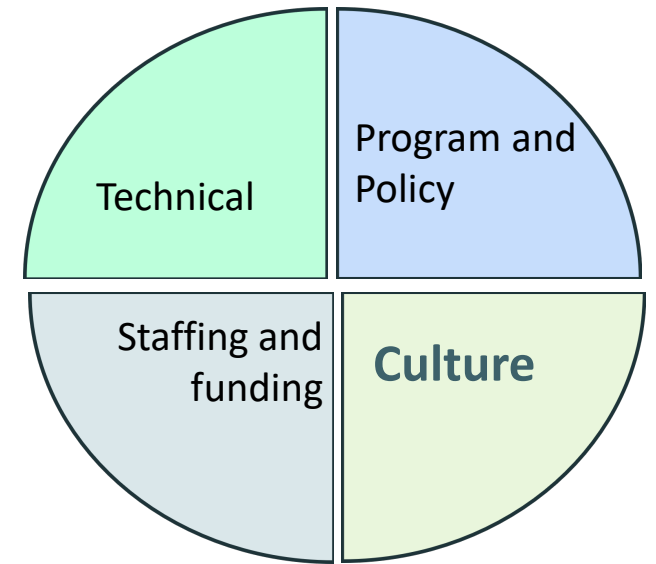


Metrics

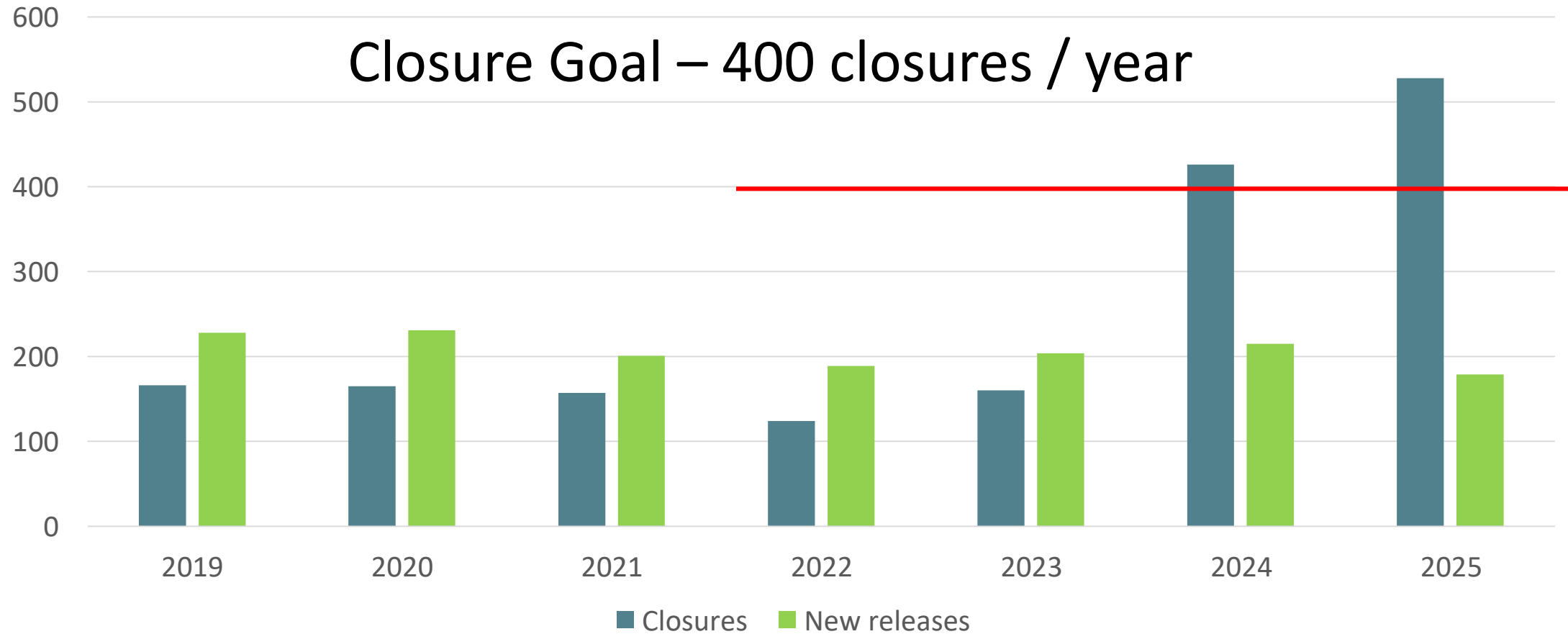


Culture Change

- Closure goals
- Presentations from outside “experts”
- Focus on risk
- Efficient decision making
- Encourage professional judgment



Closure Goals



Michigan Department of
Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

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