



Community Involvement Plan for the Pilsen and Little Village Sites Chicago, Illinois

December 2013



(Top) 26th Street mural painted in Little Village, (second row) View of Downtown Chicago from 18th Street Bridge located near Pilsen, (third row) Gateway Arch on 26th Street in Little Village and (bottom) 16th Street mural painted in Pilsen.



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Section 1: Introduction

“The people here want things like green space, skate parks, gardens and to have a real voice.”

*-Parent and Activist,
Little Village*



Photos (top to bottom) Photo of Downtown Chicago from bridge on 18th Street near Pilsen and local stores on 26th Street strip in Little Village.

Section 1: *Introduction*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prepared this community involvement plan (CIP) to meaningfully engage and collaborate with all stakeholders during environmental assessment, enforcement and cleanup activities in the Pilsen and Little Village communities in Chicago, Illinois. This CIP describes current community concerns, questions and information needs as expressed during interviews the EPA conducted from January through May 2013.

This CIP presents a description of the communities followed by information about the areas in Pilsen and Little Village where the EPA is addressing environmental issues. The CIP serves as a guide to address the communities' concerns as expressed during the interviews and to keep residents informed and engaged in decisions about the various EPA projects and future site use. Following is the list of assessment projects, enforcement actions and site cleanups that are discussed in this CIP, organized by neighborhood:

Pilsen Sites, Projects and Enforcement Action

- Loewenthal Metals Corporation (Corp.) (site cleanup)
- Midwest Generation Fisk Station (assessment)
- Peoples Gas 22nd Street Station (site cleanup)
- Pilsen Area Soil Site Assessment (assessment)
- Air Issues in the Pilsen Neighborhood (enforcement action)

Little Village Sites and Projects

- Celotex Superfund Site (site cleanup)
- Midwest Generation Crawford Station (assessment)
- Peoples Gas Crawford Station (site cleanup)

The EPA is coordinating with other federal, state and local agencies as part of its various actions and community involvement activities in the Pilsen and Little Village neighborhoods. These other agencies include the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA), the Illinois Department of Public Health and the City of Chicago Department of Public Health.

1.1 Purpose of this CIP

This CIP is intended to mutually benefit the Pilsen and Little Village communities and the EPA. The EPA will use this CIP to guide its efforts to engage and communicate with residents, organizations and businesses in Pilsen and Little Village throughout the site assessments, enforcement actions and cleanups. The EPA already has CIPs in place for three sites in the communities that were developed prior to this CIP. This CIP complements those already published for the Celotex Superfund Site, the Peoples Gas 22nd Street Station and the Peoples Gas Crawford Station.

As part of the EPA's overall community involvement strategy, the Agency is making this CIP available to the community for review and to provide feedback. **Members of the community who would like to discuss or ask questions**

about the CIP are encouraged to contact Mr. Heriberto León, the EPA Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC), by email at leon.heriberto@epa.gov or by telephone at 312-886-6163 or 800-621-8431, ext. 66163.

Questions about any of the technical information related to environmental assessments, enforcement actions or cleanup efforts discussed in this CIP should be addressed to the EPA Remedial Project Manager (RPM), the On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) or the enforcement office for the specific site or project as listed below in Exhibit 1-1. The EPA's RPMs and OSCs oversee and guide assessment and cleanup efforts, and the Air Division oversees compliance with air laws.

EXHIBIT 1-1: Contact information for EPA technical staff.

EPA Technical Staff for Pilsen Site Assessments, Enforcement Action and Cleanup Efforts

**Loewenthal Metals Corp.
Steven Faryan, EPA OSC**
Email: faryan.steven@epa.gov
312-353-9351 or 800-621-8431, ext. 39351

**Midwest Generation Fisk Station
Paul Ruesch, EPA OSC**
Email: ruesch.paul@epa.gov
312-886-7898 or 800-621-8431, ext. 67898

**Peoples Gas 22nd Street Station
Ross del Rosario, EPA RPM**
Email: delrosario.rosauro@epa.gov
312-886-6195 or 800-621-8431, ext. 66195

**Air Issues in the Pilsen Neighborhood
EPA Region 5 Air and Radiation Division**
Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch
312-353-2088

**Pilsen Area Soil Site Assessment
Ramon Mendoza, EPA OSC**
Email: mendoza.ramon@epa.gov
312-886-4314 or 800-621-8431, ext. 64314

EPA Technical Staff for Little Village Site Assessments and Cleanup Efforts

**Celotex Superfund Site
Nefertiti DiCosmo, EPA RPM**
Email: dicosmo.nefertiti@epa.gov
312-886-6148 or 800-621-8431, ext. 66148

**Midwest Generation Crawford Station
Paul Ruesch, EPA OSC**
Email: ruesch.paul@epa.gov
312-886-7898 or 800-621-8431, ext. 67898

**Peoples Gas Crawford Station
Ross del Rosario, EPA RPM**
Email: delrosario.rosauro@epa.gov
312-886-6195 or 800-621-8431, ext. 66195

1.2 Overview of this CIP

This CIP is organized in sections to allow readers the flexibility to either read the entire document or go directly to the parts of greatest interest. In addition to this Introduction, the CIP contains the following sections:

- **Section 2, *The EPA's Community Involvement Goals*** – highlights the Agency's main goals for engaging and collaborating with community members in Pilsen and Little Village throughout the various stages of the EPA's actions. It also presents specific activities that will be conducted.
- **Section 3, *Community Background*** – presents a demographic profile of the Pilsen and Little Village communities and the history and governance of the neighborhoods.
- **Section 4, *Background on Environmental Issues and Projects*** – describes each of the Pilsen and Little Village projects and actions—including the various stakeholders and oversight agencies involved—and explains how community engagement is integrated into the environmental activities.
- **Section 5, *Summary of Community Interviews*** – summarizes the issues, concerns and questions expressed to the EPA by Pilsen and Little Village area residents.
- **Section 6, *Community Questions and Concerns*** – describes the main questions and concerns raised during the community interviews.
- **Section 7, *EPA and Community Involvement Going Forward*** – affirms the Agency's commitment to continue its ongoing efforts to engage the Pilsen and Little Village communities in decision-making opportunities.

The following appendices are included:

- Appendix A, Community Interview Questions
- Appendix B, Contacts and Interested Groups
- Appendix C, Abbreviations and Acronyms
- Appendix D, Glossary of Terms



PHOTO COURTESY OF PERRO

Section 2: The EPA's Community Involvement Goals

“It has been a unique opportunity to be involved with this process. No local campaigns to shut down plants have moved as quickly across the country. That, combined with Chicago politics, proximity to water [and] closeness of sites to each other—[presents] a complex and real opportunity to envision change in our communities.”

-Community Organizer, Little Village

Photos (left to right) One of the many murals that welcomes you to Pilsen and image of the 2011 8-foot tall photo petition organized by the Chicago Clean Power Coalition to shut down Midwest Generation's Fisk and Crawford coal plants.

To stay informed about the sites, visit:
www.epa.gov/region5/littlevillagepilsen

Section 2: *The EPA's Community Involvement Goals*

The EPA has implemented, or will implement, the following activities to meaningfully and actively engage the community during environmental assessments and cleanup efforts in the Pilsen and Little Village neighborhoods:

- ***Designate an EPA CIC.*** Mr. Heriberto León is the EPA's primary liaison between the Agency and the Pilsen and Little Village communities. Mr. León is available to address general questions about the sites and can be reached by email at leon.heriberto@epa.gov or by telephone at 312-886-6163 or toll free at 800-621-8431, ext. 66163. Mr. León is able to communicate in both English and Spanish.
- ***Establish a toll-free number that residents can call to ask questions and receive information.*** Community members can call 800-621-8431, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to speak with the EPA CIC or any of the technical points of contact (OSCs and RPMs) listed in Section 1, Exhibit 1-1, as questions or concerns arise, rather than wait for a public meeting or to receive written notification. The Agency's goal is to maximize the flow and ease of communication. The EPA publishes this toll-free number periodically in the local newspapers and in all fact sheets. The toll-free number also is available on the EPA website at www.epa.gov/region5/littlevillagepilsen.
- ***Establish a website to provide information.*** The EPA established a website for the Pilsen and Little Village sites and projects at www.epa.gov/region5/littlevillagepilsen. The website contains updated information about the assessments, enforcement, cleanup and community involvement activities in the neighborhoods. The website also serves as a one-stop-shop where Pilsen and Little Village residents can link to information about the various projects. Some content is available in Spanish, but more is planned.
- ***Conduct or participate in public meetings.*** In 2012, the EPA participated in community meetings between the Chicago Park District and Little Village residents about plans to develop the Celotex site into a park. The Agency also participated in a public event to announce the community garden slated for development at 2727 S. Troy Street. In addition to its participation in these activities, the EPA held two events in March 2013: (1) a public meeting and open house on March 19, 2013, at Walsh Elementary School, which focused on environmental issues in the Pilsen neighborhood;

and (2) a presentation and open house in conjunction with a science night on March 21, 2013, at the Social Justice High School, which is part of the Little Village High School. Those events focused on environmental assessment and cleanup efforts in Little Village. The EPA plans to hold additional events as important updates become available or in response to requests by the communities, if feasible. Participating in public meetings provides a forum for the EPA to share information and for community members to ask questions and express their concerns to the EPA and other government agencies involved in the various environmental projects. The EPA has provided Spanish interpreters at public meetings and will continue to do so, where feasible.

- **Meet with community organizations and representatives.** Beginning in September 2012, the EPA has held regular meetings with two local community organizations: the Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Organization (PERRO) and the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO). During these meetings, the EPA provides updates on its activities in the neighborhoods and invites community input on decisions related to the EPA's actions. A number of other local nonprofit organizations also continue to share input and ideas with the EPA, and the Agency continues to engage with the Pilsen and Little Village aldermen.
- **Discuss the formation of a Community Advisory Group (CAG).** A CAG is made up of local residents and provides a formal mechanism for community members to have a voice in decisions. The EPA encourages the formation of CAGs. CAGs are eligible for technical assistance and funding to help residents more fully understand the technical aspects of environmental investigations, sampling data and interpretation of results, and potential health risks. CAGs assist the EPA in making decisions on how to clean up sites. The EPA's ongoing meetings with PERRO and LVEJO could be considered part of this process, or a separate

group of individual residents could form a CAG to provide input to the EPA on site-related activities. For more information on CAGs, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/community/cag.

- **Develop and continue to revise site-specific mailing lists.** The EPA has created a mailing list that includes residential addresses in the Pilsen and Little Village areas and contact information for organizations and other individuals who have shown an interest in being kept informed about site progress. The EPA will use this mailing list to distribute printed information about the sites and projects. To keep it current, the list will be reviewed and revised periodically. Individuals may contact the EPA CIC, Mr. Heriberto León, to be added or removed from the mailing list.
- **Establish and maintain an information repository.** The EPA maintains an information repository at the Rudy Lozano Library located at 1805 S. Loomis Street in Pilsen and plans to establish additional ones in the area. The EPA is required to establish an information repository for any site where Superfund cleanup activities are conducted. Repositories are local reference collections of site information such as fact sheets, technical reports, sampling data, the CIP and other documents, conveniently placed in locations such as libraries so residents can easily access them. The EPA will add new information to the local repositories as it becomes available.
- **Write and distribute news releases and public notices.** The EPA has used local newspapers, such as *Hoy* and *La Raza*, for display advertisements to announce events such as public meetings and will continue to do so for other public involvement opportunities. Also, the Agency may issue news releases to local television and radio stations as appropriate, including those listed in Appendix B. News releases allow the EPA to reach large audiences quickly. They are posted on the EPA's News and Events website at www.epa.gov/region5/newsevents.

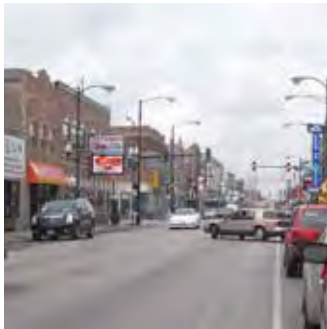
- ***Prepare and distribute fact sheets and site updates.*** The EPA has produced fact sheets and site update reports, written in non-technical English and Spanish, to provide the community with detailed information in a relatively quick, simple and easy-to-understand manner. In addition to being distributed to individuals on the mailing list, fact sheets and updates are placed in the information repositories and posted on the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/region5/littlevillagepilsen. The EPA will continue to produce and distribute fact sheets and updates.
- ***Participate in local events and community group meetings.*** The EPA may offer bilingual speakers to local organizations, business clubs and schools as a means of communicating important information to local residents. The EPA staff may also participate in local fairs and special events to informally discuss the community's questions and concerns. These forums can be an effective, convenient way for the Agency to interact with the community, convey information, and solicit questions and input from targeted groups. For example, the Agency may participate in meetings and provide a presentation on topics of concern to local Parent-Teacher Associations or The Resurrection Project, a community-based organization that focuses on education, community organizing and community development in the Pilsen neighborhood.

The EPA may organize or participate in various community events, including:

- o *Site Tours.* The EPA may organize a "walking tour" to allow community members to visit cleanup areas and

learn more about site activities and reuse plans.

- o *Youth Programs.* The EPA staff are available to present at schools and youth programs. These presentations are typically highly interactive and allow young people to learn about a variety of environmental cleanup-related subjects, including monitoring and screening equipment and personal protective equipment used by first responders. The presentations can be tied to lessons about environmental developments in the community.
- o *Farmers markets and urban gardening activities.* Participants in these community-based events typically are interested in the environment; therefore, these activities offer ideal opportunities for the EPA staff to deliver key information about the local environment and progress made with assessment, enforcement and cleanup work.
- o *Movie night.* To allow community members an opportunity to meet with the EPA personnel in an informal setting and learn about ongoing and planned site activities, a "movie night" could be planned for residents to gather and view an educational film on various aspects of site cleanup or general topics such as hazardous waste prevention.



Section 3: Community Background

“This is a very active community in general. Everything people have here they fought for. People move here because of their kids. This is a very family-oriented neighborhood and a lot of the work that is done focuses on health.”

-Community Coordinator, Little Village

Photos (left to right) Shopping on 26th Street in Little Village and Harrison Park in Pilsen.

To stay informed about the sites, visit:
www.epa.gov/region5/littlevillagepilsen

Section 3: Community Background

This section describes the Pilsen and Little Village communities and their histories and identifies previous community involvement efforts.

3.1 Community Demographics

Pilsen and Little Village are located in the Lower West Side and South Lawndale areas in Chicago, Illinois. The locations of the environmental sites and projects in the areas are shown in Exhibit 3-1. These neighborhoods are known for their art, festivals, activism, and as entry points for new arrivals to the United States. Because of the demographics of Pilsen and Little Village, they are regarded as the primary Mexican American neighborhoods in Chicago.

Los Angeles, San Antonio and Houston are the only major U.S. cities with a higher Mexican American population than Chicago.¹

Factors like population size, age distribution, economic composition, and cultural heritage and language are important in the development and implementation of programs that serve the local community. These factors are represented on the next two pages in Exhibits 3-2 and 3-3.

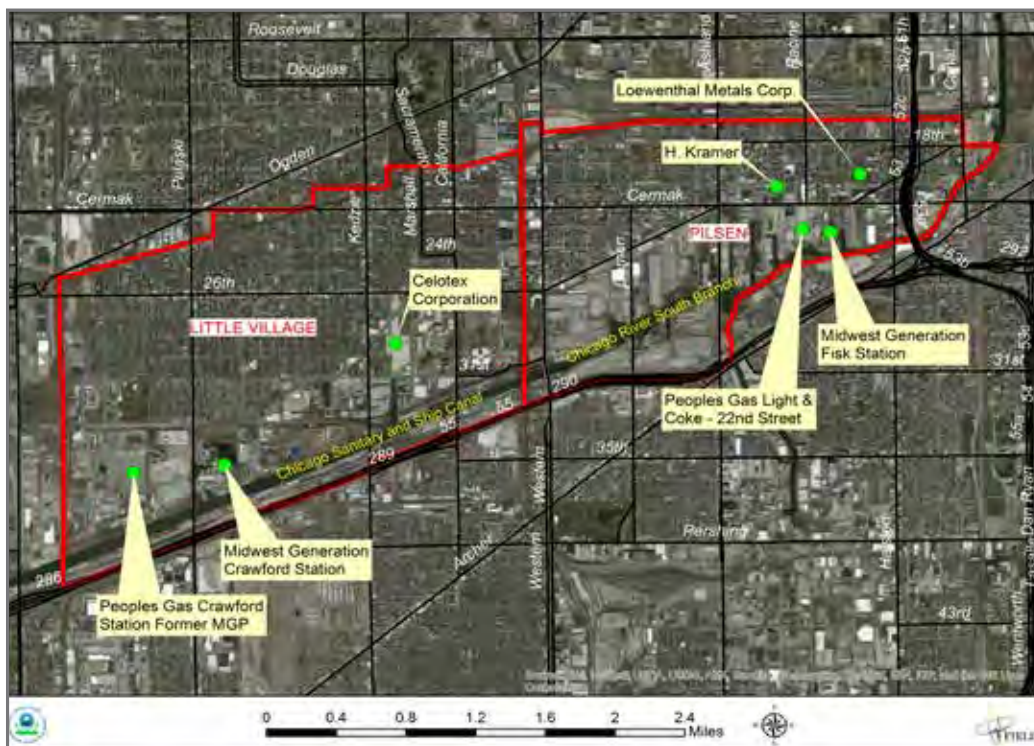
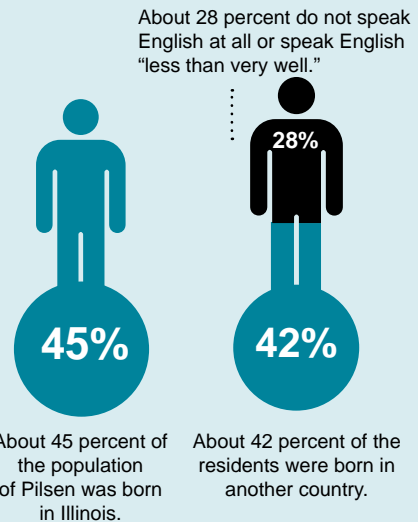
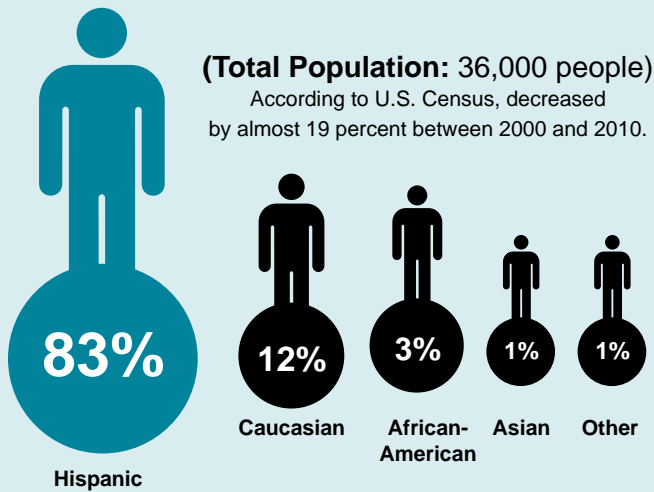


EXHIBIT 3-1: Environmental sites and projects located in Pilsen and Little Village.

1. Various sources (n.d.). Mexican American. Retrieved August 21, 2013, from www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican_American

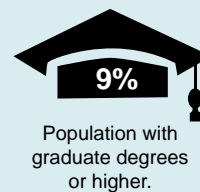
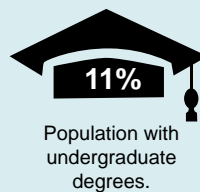
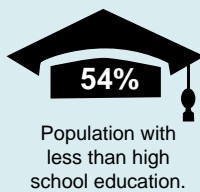
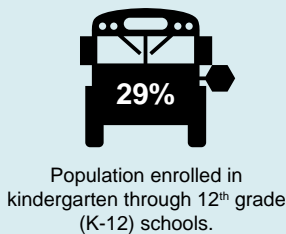
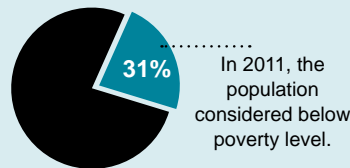
PILSEN COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

The Pilsen neighborhood spans about four square miles and covers two zip codes, 60608 and 60616.



Source of racial and workforce demographic data: the 2010 United States Census.

Source of all additional demographic data: www.city-data.com/neighborhood/Lower-West-Side-Chicago-IL.html.



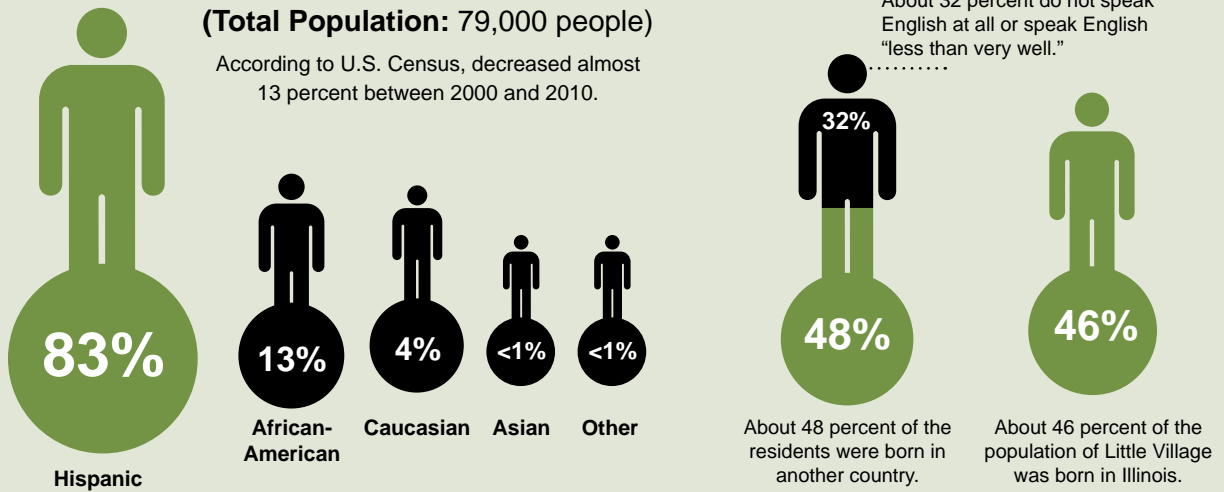
The Workforce



The Census also reports that Pilsen residents are primarily employed in sales and office occupations, construction, extraction, production and transport of materials, and to a smaller degree community and social services; education, training and library services; healthcare and technical occupations; business and financial operations; arts, design, entertainment, sports and media occupations.

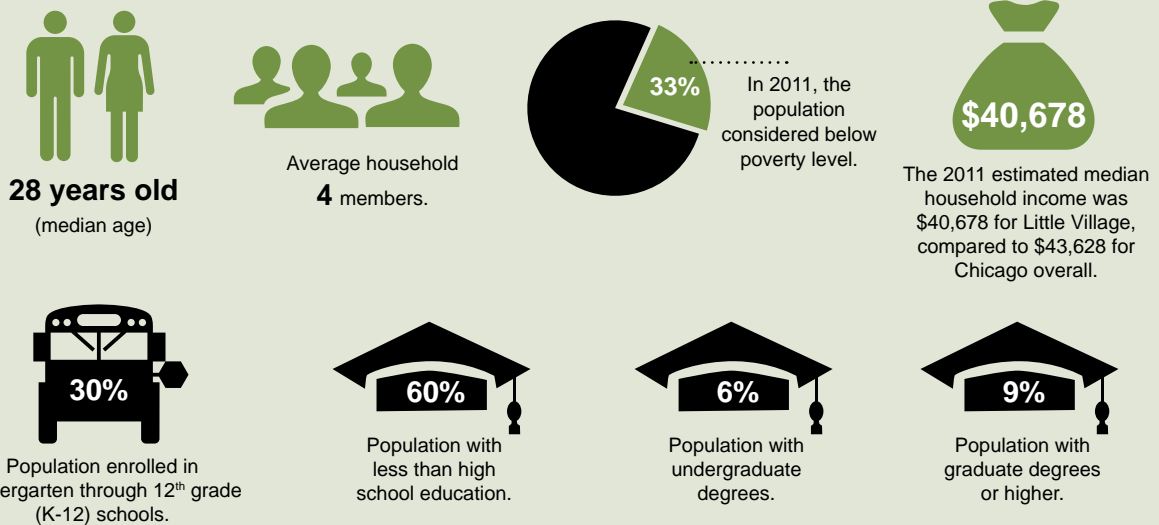
LITTLE VILLAGE COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

Little Village is a predominantly Hispanic neighborhood west of downtown Chicago. The 4.1 square mile area, also known as “La Villita,” covers three zip codes, 60608, 60623 and 60632.



Source of racial and workforce demographic data: the 2010 United States Census.

Source of all additional demographic data: www.city-data.com/neighborhood/South-Lawndale-Chicago-IL.html.



The Workforce

Like their neighbors in Pilsen, residents are primarily employed in sales and office occupations, construction, extraction of resources, production and transport of materials, and to a smaller degree community and social services; education, training and library services; healthcare and technical occupations; business and financial operations; arts, design, entertainment, sports and media occupations.

3.2 Community History and Governance

Pilsen and Little Village are neighborhoods in the City of Chicago. As the legislative body of the city, the Chicago City Council usually meets once every month to exercise general and specific powers delegated by state statute. The City Council votes on all proposed loans, grants, bond issues, land acquisitions and sales, zoning changes, traffic control issues, mayoral appointees and financial appropriations. The City of Chicago is divided into 50 legislative districts or wards. An alderman elected to serve a four-year term represents each district. In addition to representing the interests of their ward residents, together the 50 aldermen

make up the Chicago City Council. The legislative powers of the City Council are granted by the state legislature and provisions within the Illinois constitution. Within specified limits, the City Council has the general authority to exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs including, but not limited to, the power to regulate for the protection of public health, safety, morals and welfare. Exhibit 3-4 below identifies the environmental sites and projects in the Pilsen community. Similar areas in Little Village appear in Exhibit 3-5 in Section 3.2.2.

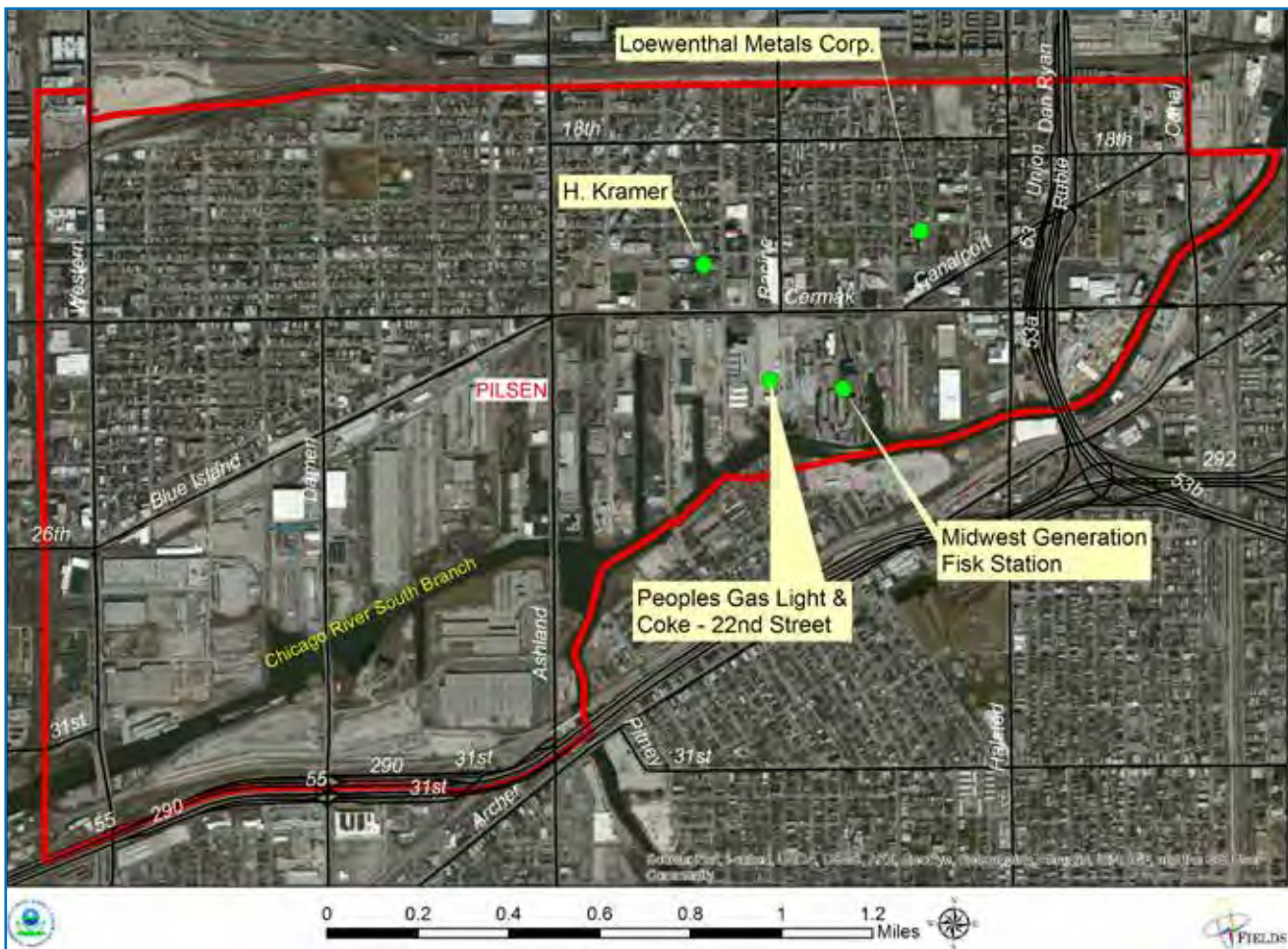


Exhibit 3-4: Environmental sites and projects located in Pilsen.

3.2.1 Pilsen History

Pilsen, nestled in a crook created by the Chicago River and the railroad lines that run along West 16th Street, has historically been a neighborhood for immigrants, first from Bohemia (the western half of the Czech Republic) and later from Mexico. Pilsen's Bohemian immigrants settled there in the late 19th century and created a neighborhood that spoke to their values as a tightly knit community—a value that continued throughout the area's history and is strongly reflected by today's predominantly Mexican community.

According to the San Jose Obrero Mission website, the Czech immigrants who arrived in the area named the district after Plzeň, the fourth largest city in the Czech Republic. “The population also included smaller numbers of other ethnic groups from the Austro-Hungarian Empire including Slovaks, Slovenes, Croats and Austrians, and immigrants of Polish and Lithuanian heritage. Like many early 20th Century American urban neighborhoods, Pilsen was home to a mix of wealthy and working class residents, a neighborhood where doctors lived next door to maids and laborers.”²

In the 1950s and 1960s, the population shifted from predominantly Eastern European residents to Mexican residents. Local organizations, such as PERRO and Mujeres Latinas en Acción, were formed to improve the quality of life for these newer residents. These groups used community organizing tactics to obtain city and industrial improvements, advocate for labor and increase political representation of historically disenfranchised groups in the city.³

The Chicago Housing Authority's Plan for Transformation encompassed the Pilsen neighborhood with near completion of the Chantico Loft development, Union Row Townhomes, and the defunct Centro 18 on

Highlights of Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood:

- During the late 19th Century, home to one of the largest Bohemian/Czech enclaves in the City of Chicago
- Pilsen Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2006
- Recognized, locally and nationally, for its rich collection of Neo-Bohemian Baroque architecture and 18th Street—home of one of Chicago's largest art districts and the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum
- Famous for the neighborhood's murals along 16th Street

18th Street in East Pilsen. As Pilsen becomes one of the next major development areas in the city, some local advocacy groups have formed to urge the neighborhood's alderman to resist attempts to gentrify the area.⁴ Gentrification was a concern that surfaced repeatedly during the EPA's recent interviews with residents.

Due to Pilsen's success in preserving its buildings and cultural traditions, in 2006, the Pilsen Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This registry is the federal government's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects deemed worthy of preservation. As mentioned on the San Jose Obrero Mission website, Pilsen is recognized, locally and nationally, for its rich collection of Neo-Bohemian Baroque architecture, its thriving Mexican bakeries and restaurants, and for 18th Street—home of one

2. San Jose Obrero Mission (n.d). Retrieved May 1, 2013, from www.sjom.org/About-us/PILSEN-HISTORY/

3. Gellman, E. (2005). Pilsen. Retrieved May 15, 2013, from www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/2477.html

4. Gellman, E. (2005). Pilsen. Retrieved May 15, 2013, from www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/2477.html

of Chicago’s largest art districts and the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum. The neighborhood is also famous for its murals, many of which can be seen along 16th Street where cooperative efforts between the Slavs and Mexicans are depicted.⁵

3.2.2 Little Village History

In the late 1800s, Little Village was the largest Bohemian/Czech enclave in the City of Chicago. Now residents refer to Little Village as the “Mexico of the Midwest.”⁶ For the past 35 years, Little

Village, officially a part of the South Lawndale Community, has joined Pilsen as a point of entry for Latino—predominantly Mexican—immigrants to Chicago. Exhibit 3-5 identifies the environmental sites and projects located in the Little Village neighborhood. A gateway on 26th Street proclaims “Bienvenidos a Little Village,” welcoming visitors to the neighborhood. Little Village also hosts the second largest annual Latino parades in Chicago, drawing hundreds of thousands of spectators each September.⁷



Exhibit 3-5: Environmental sites and projects located in Little Village.

5. San Jose Obrero Mission (n.d). Retrieved May 1, 2013, from www.sjom.org/About-us/PILSEN-HISTORY
 6. Being Latino Online Magazine (2011, March 28). Bienvenidos a Little Village. Retrieved April 20, 2013, from www.beinglatino.us/uncategorized/bienvenidos-a-little-village-chicago-ill/
 7. South Lawndale, Chicago (n.d.). Retrieved May 12, 2013, from www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Lawndale

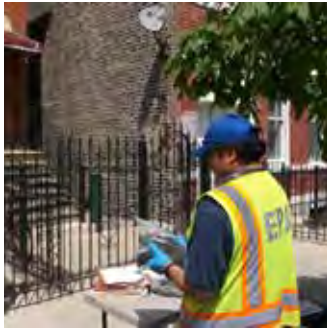
This neighborhood has been known by other names over the past 140 years, but its rich culture and history have never been forgotten. Little Village, like Pilsen, always has been rooted in activism with dozens of local organizations, such as EnLace Chicago, working to support job creation, stop gang violence, clean up littered areas and foster a sense of community. The community's most prominent environmental group, LVEJO, has made major headway. In 2013, Ms. Kim Wasserman, the organization's director, was awarded the world's most prestigious award honoring grassroots environmentalists, the Goldman Environmental Prize, for leading local residents in a successful campaign to close down two of the country's oldest coal plants.

Highlights of Chicago's Little Village neighborhood:

- 26th Street, Chicago's second most profitable retail sales district next to Michigan Avenue
- Home to the largest community of Mexican residents in Illinois
- Hosts the largest annual Latino parade in Chicago, drawing hundreds of thousands of spectators each September



A gateway on 26th Street proclaims "Bienvenidos a Little Village."



Section 4: Background on Environmental Issues and Projects

“The level of contamination at Loewenthal is so high—the site was wide open until recently and people were digging and playing and walking to school through the site. I don’t have kids, but lots of families live here and I was pretty upset.”

-Resident, Pilsen

Photos (left to right) An EPA On-Scene Coordinator examines a soil sample in Pilsen’s neighborhood and raised garden beds are seen in many residential yards in Pilsen.

To stay informed about the sites, visit:
www.epa.gov/region5/littlevillagepilsen

Section 4: *Background on Environmental Issues and Projects*

This section describes the environmental assessment, enforcement action and cleanup efforts in the Pilsen and Little Village neighborhoods. Exhibit 4-1 provides contact information for the EPA technical staff assigned to each area.

EXHIBIT 4-1: Contact information for EPA technical staff.

EPA Technical Staff for Pilsen Site Assessments, Enforcement Action and Cleanup Efforts

***Loewenthal Metals Corp.
Steven Faryan, EPA OSC***
Email: faryan.steven@epa.gov
312-353-9351 or 800-621-8431, ext. 39351

***Midwest Generation Fisk Station
Paul Ruesch, EPA OSC***
Email: ruesch.paul@epa.gov
312-886-7898 or 800-621-8431, ext. 67898

***Peoples Gas 22nd Street Station
Ross del Rosario, EPA RPM***
Email: delrosario.rosauro@epa.gov
312-886-6195 or 800-621-8431, ext. 66195

***Air Issues in the Pilsen Neighborhood
EPA Region 5 Air and Radiation Division***
Air Enforcement and Compliance
Assurance Branch
312-353-2088

***Pilsen Area Soil Site Assessment
Ramon Mendoza, EPA OSC***
Email: mendoza.ramon@epa.gov
312-886-4314 or 800-621-8431, ext. 64314

EPA Technical Staff for Little Village Site Assessments and Cleanup Efforts

***Celotex Superfund Site
Nefertiti DiCosmo, EPA RPM***
Email: dicosmo.nefertiti@epa.gov
312-886-6148 or 800-621-8431, ext. 66148

***Midwest Generation Crawford Station
Paul Ruesch, EPA OSC***
Email: ruesch.paul@epa.gov
312-886-7898 or 800-621-8431, ext. 67898

***Peoples Gas Crawford Station
Ross del Rosario, EPA RPM***
Email: delrosario.rosauro@epa.gov
312-886-6195 or 800-621-8431, ext. 66195

The environmental issues throughout Pilsen and Little Village are being addressed under various laws and cleanup programs. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly called Superfund, is one such law. The U.S. Congress passed CERCLA in 1980, in response to growing concerns over the health and environmental risks posed by hazardous waste sites. CERCLA allows the EPA to assess, investigate, respond to and clean up hazardous substances that may pose a danger to the public's health or the environment. If a site or situation poses an immediate threat to a community's health or the environment, the EPA can step in with an emergency response action. Otherwise, a site may be cleaned up as part of a long-term action, typically referred to as a remedial action; or a short-term action, typically referred to as a removal action. To learn more about getting involved at various stages of site cleanups under the Superfund program, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/community/resources.htm and look for the section on community training to find *Community 101: An Overview of the Superfund Program*.

Exhibit 4-2 summarizes the laws and cleanup programs most relevant to the Pilsen and Little Village sites and projects. Exhibits 4-3 and 4-4 show how the Agency can involve the community depending on whether the site is being addressed under the Superfund removal, emergency response or remedial programs, respectively. Most of the Pilsen and Little Village sites and projects have completed many of the steps involved in the Superfund program, including the community outreach requirements.

This CIP supports efforts to provide consolidated information regarding community involvement opportunities.

4.1 Loewenthal Metals Corp.

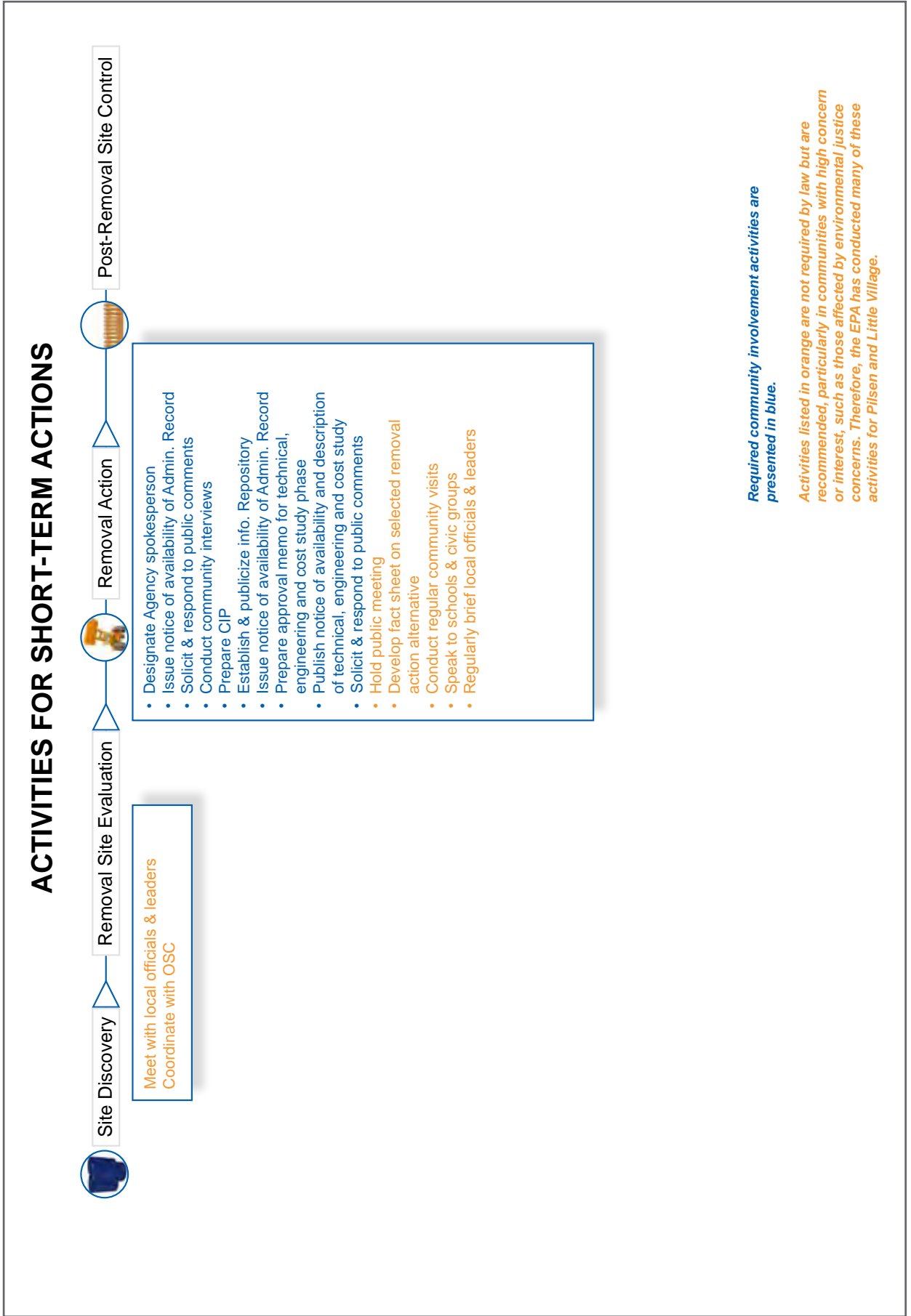
Loewenthal Metals Corp. is being addressed by the Superfund removal program. It is a 0.5-acre former industrial site located in a residential area just west of Interstate 90/94 at 947 W. Cullerton Street in Chicago, Illinois. According to historical records, the facility was used as a lead and zinc smelter and scrap metal dealer in the 1940s. Little information exists about the site's use since that time.

EXHIBIT 4-2: Laws and cleanup programs relevant to Pilsen and Little Village environmental sites and projects.

Laws and Cleanup Programs	Environmental Site or Project	Where to Find More Information
Superfund removal program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loewenthal Metals Corp. 	Exhibit 4-3 and Appendix D
Alternative approach agreement under the Superfund remedial program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peoples Gas Stations (22nd Street and Crawford) Celotex Superfund Site 	Exhibit 4-4 and Appendix D
Superfund site assessment program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midwest Generational Stations (Fisk and Crawford) Pilsen Area Soil Assessment 	Exhibit 4-5 and Appendix D
Clean Air Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air issues associated with H. Kramer smelting facility 	Appendix D

EXHIBIT 4-3: Community involvement activities in the Superfund Removal Process.

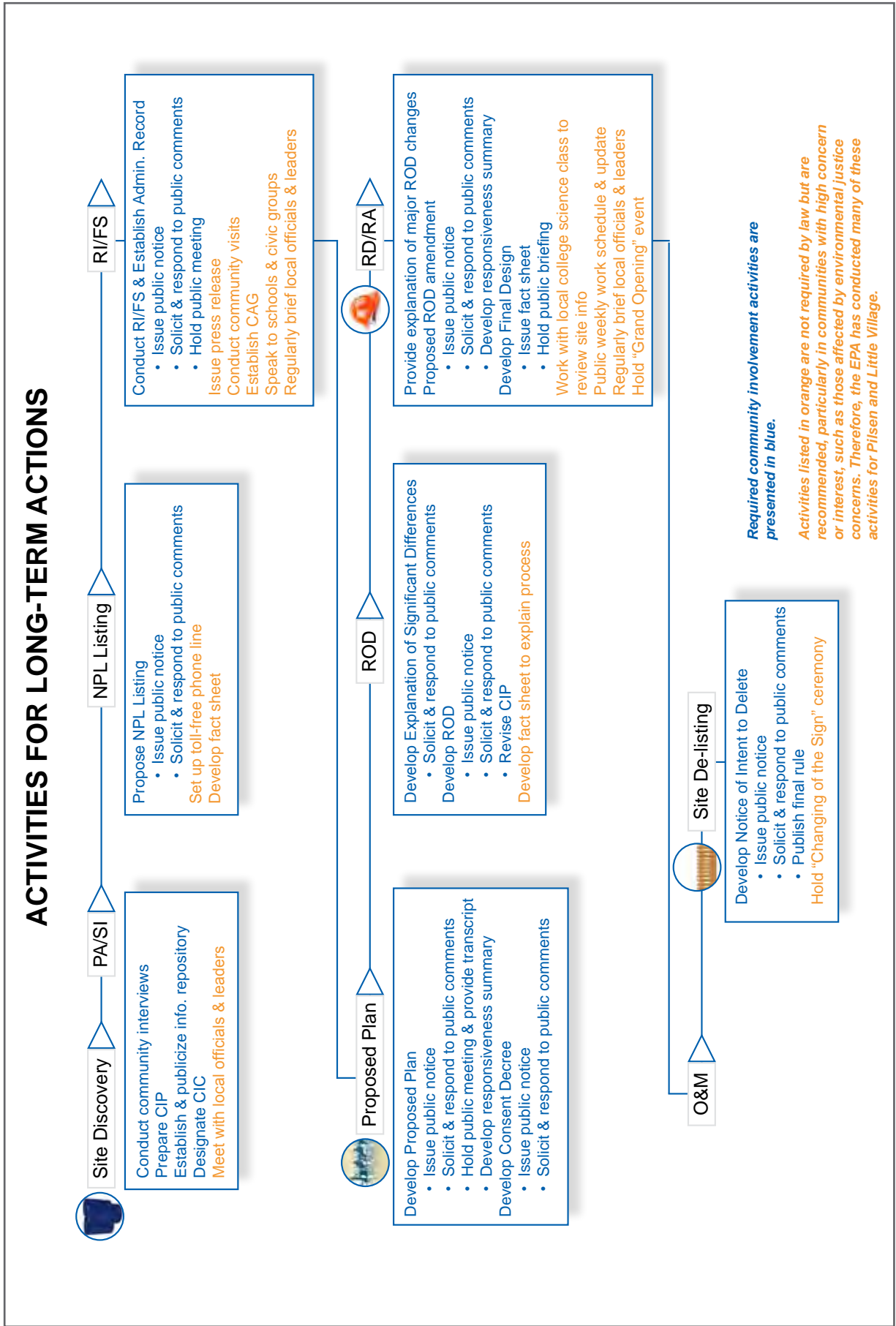
*Note: Some of the Pilsen and Little Village cleanup areas have undergone many of these steps.



Appendix C defines the acronyms and abbreviations, and Appendix D provides a definition of terms used in this exhibit.

EXHIBIT 4-4: Community involvement activities in the Superfund Remedial Process.

*Note: Some of the Pilsen and the Little Village cleanup areas have undergone many of these steps.



Appendix C defines the acronyms and abbreviations, and Appendix D provides a definition of terms used in this exhibit.



Loewenthal Metals Corporation site in Pilsen before a temporary fence was put up to prevent contact with the area.

In December 2011, the Illinois EPA referred the Loewenthal site to the EPA for potential cleanup. The EPA attempted to investigate the site but was unable to gain access to the site from the property owners. As a result, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) obtained a warrant that allowed the EPA to access the property without the owners' consent and test the soil for contamination. In December 2012, the City of Chicago put up a temporary fence around the property to prevent public access.

In 2013, the EPA conducted a time-critical removal action under the Agency's Superfund Removal Program to remove high levels of lead contaminated soil. This action was necessary to reduce possible threats to people and the environment. During a time-critical removal action, the EPA must begin cleanup activities within six months of discovering hazardous substances to protect the community's health and environment. For additional information on time critical removal actions, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/policy/remedy/sfremedy/overview/removal.htm.

The EPA has kept the community informed of plans to investigate and clean up the property since the Agency's initial involvement. For example, the EPA shared information about its plans to remove contaminated soil during a meeting in Pilsen on March 19, 2013, and the presentation materials are available at www.epa.gov/region5/littlevillagepilsen under "Community Meetings and Open Houses."

Additional information and updates on the site cleanup are posted at www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/loewenthal.

4.2 Peoples Gas Stations (22nd Street and Crawford)

22nd Street Station

The Peoples Gas stations are being addressed by the Superfund Remedial Program, under alternative approach agreements. Sites under these agreements require long-term cleanup but are not listed on the National Priorities List (NPL), which is a national roster of the most contaminated sites requiring cleanup. Superfund alternative sites typically follow a similar cleanup process as sites that are on the NPL.

The Peoples Gas 22nd Street Station is a former manufactured gas plant (MGP) located at 2200 South Racine Avenue. Fuel used to power lighting in buildings and along streets was produced in MGPs during the 1800s. The 7.2-acre site is bounded by commercial properties to the west, Cermak Road to the north, an electrical substation to the east, and the South Branch of the Chicago River to the south. It initially was developed by Peoples Gas in 1862 to produce gas from coal. Beginning in 1922, the plant was used to produce gas only as customer demand became high. Peoples Gas began leasing portions of the site to Commonwealth Edison in 1931. The plant was modified to produce carbureted water gas and oil gas in 1934, and some of the manufactured gas facilities on the property were no longer in use by 1938. In 1944, two production units were modified to produce natural gas. The plant stopped operating entirely in 1958, and the last portion of the site was sold in 1959. The remaining facilities of the former MGP were dismantled by 1960. More information on the 22nd Street Station— including a CIP for the site—is available at www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/22nd.

Crawford Station

The Peoples Gas Crawford Station, also a former MGP, is located at 3500 South Pulaski Road. It is bounded by the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to the south, the Chicago and Illinois Western

Railroad to the north, the Chicago and Western Indiana Belt Line Railroad to the west, and Pulaski Road to the east. The site is approximately 260 acres in size. The EPA has conducted investigations at Crawford Station since the 1990s. Soil samples have shown contamination including volatile organic compounds (VOC), polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), metals and cyanide. The EPA currently is removing the contaminated soil and testing the ground water, gas from soil, and soil for additional contamination. The Agency plans to conduct a long-term cleanup action in late 2016 or 2017, after the testing and analysis work is complete. The EPA developed a website and a CIP in 2008, specifically for Crawford Station, which can be found at www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/crawford.

As mentioned earlier, Peoples Gas has Superfund alternative approach agreements with the EPA for both stations. Currently, the potentially responsible party (PRP), Integrys Energy Group, which owns Peoples Gas, is conducting an investigation into the nature and extent of the contamination at the 22nd Street Station site. This investigation is technically called a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). After the RI/FS is completed, the EPA will



The EPA tests soil at a residence in the Pilsen neighborhood.

work with Integrys to develop and implement a cleanup plan. A final cleanup decision will be made after the community has had the opportunity to study cleanup options and give input to the EPA. The final cleanup decision will be announced and explained in a formal document called a Record of Decision (ROD). For more information, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/rod.htm.

The EPA has kept the community informed about its investigation and cleanup plans through public meetings such as ones held on March 19 and 21, 2013, in the Pilsen and Little Village communities, respectively. The presentations from the March 2013 public meetings are available at www.epa.gov/region5/littlevillagepilsen/ under “Community Meetings and Open Houses.”

4.3 Celotex Superfund Site

Similar to the Peoples Gas stations, the Celotex Superfund Site is being addressed by the Superfund Remedial Program, under an alternative approach agreement. The site was used for making, storing and selling asphalt roofing products. In 1989, residents notified the Illinois EPA that coal tar was showing up on their property as a result of activities at Celotex. The state agency confirmed contamination at the site, and in 1993 the EPA tested the site and informed the community of the potential health hazards. By late 1993, Celotex had removed all the buildings and visibly contaminated soil and material. After residences on Troy Street were flooded due to heavy rains in mid-1994, the EPA noticed and documented that top soil had not been placed over the site and plants and trees were not growing to hold a top soil layer in place. Heavy rains in 1995 resulted in the spread of contamination further away from the site. The EPA met with the companies identified as being responsible for the contamination to agree on how to clean up the site to prevent future flooding of nearby residences. The EPA held several public meetings in 1995 and 1996, and in August 1997 the Agency updated residents that the site was level and a new sewage drainage system would be installed to prevent flooding.

In June 1999, AlliedSignal, Inc., one of the companies identified as a PRP, conducted technical, engineering and cost studies to determine the best option for installing the new drainage system and submitted its findings in a report to the EPA. AlliedSignal, Inc., revised the draft report based on comments provided by the EPA. Honeywell International Inc., (Honeywell) owner of AlliedSignal, agreed to perform the cleanup. In 2002, Sacramento Corp. bought the Celotex property and placed at least two feet of gravel on about 22 acres of the main site for company use. The layer of gravel, also referred to as a cap, was used as part of the cleanup to stabilize the soil.

Honeywell has a Superfund alternative approach agreement with the EPA and is paying for the cleanup. Honeywell inspects the site on a quarterly basis to ensure that the cap and property use restrictions remain in place. The City of Chicago owns the property and the Chicago Park District is in the process of converting the site to a park. Quarterly inspections will continue until the EPA determines that less frequent inspections are required.

4.4 Midwest Generation Stations (Fisk and Crawford)

The Midwest Generation Fisk and Crawford stations are being addressed under the Superfund site assessment program. They operated as coal-fired electric power generating stations until they shut down in August 2012. Midwest Generation is a subsidiary of Edison International.

The Fisk Station is located at 1111 West Cermak Road and consists of buildings and power generation infrastructure in a 60-acre area. It is bordered by West Cermak Road to the north, Morgan Street to the east, the Chicago River to the south, and South Throop Street commercial properties to the west.

The Crawford Station is located at 3501 South Pulaski Road and consists of buildings and power generation infrastructure covering a 72-acre area. It is bordered by railroad tracks to the north, South Hamlin Avenue to the east, the Chicago Sanitary

and Ship Canal to the south, and South Pulaski Road to the west.

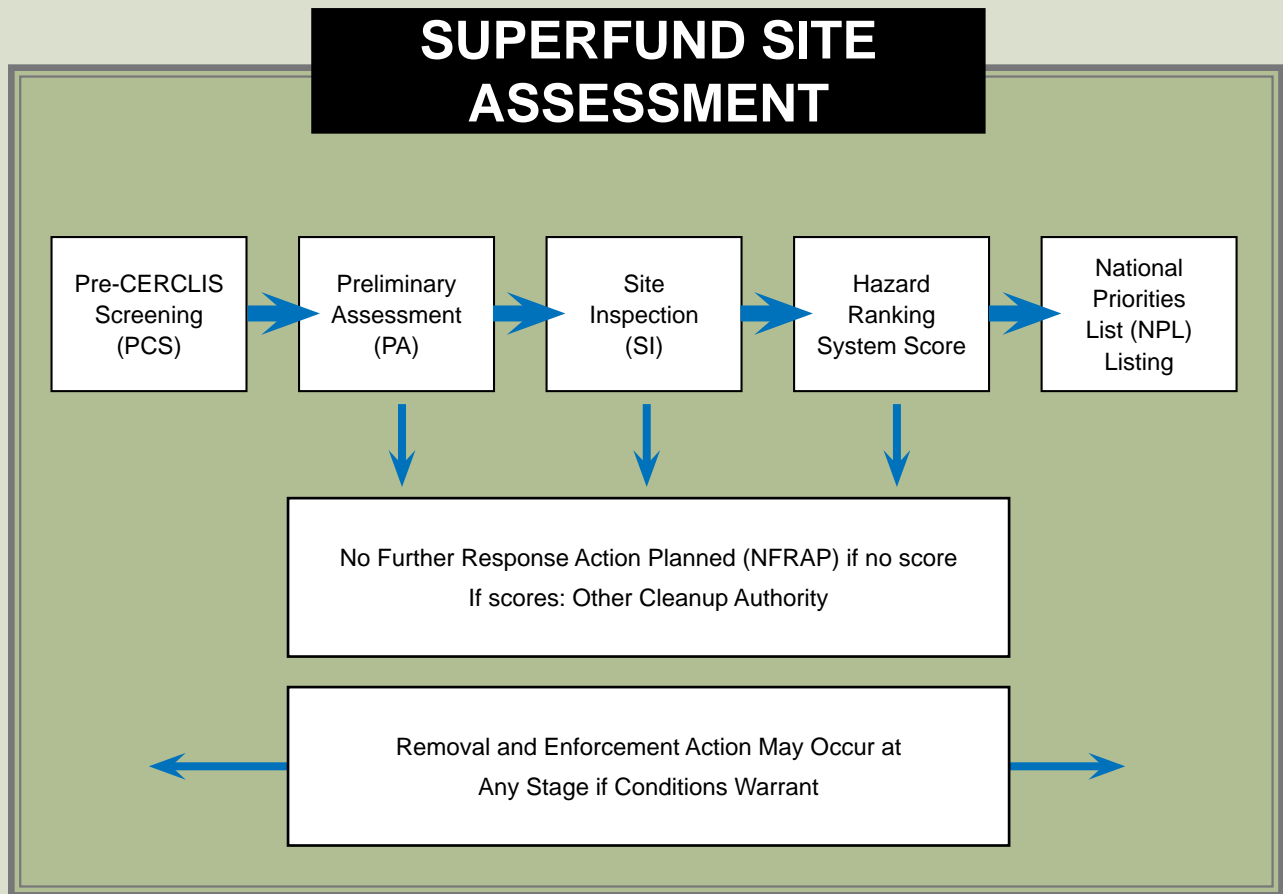
In response to community concern that dust was blowing from the sites, the EPA tested dust levels in the air on windy and non-windy days and found no dust levels in excess of regulatory guidelines. At community meetings held on March 19 and 21, 2013, in Pilsen and Little Village, respectively, the EPA explained that the dust levels were not above average compared to other urban areas. Residents also expressed concern about the possibility of radiation exposure from the sites, particularly for those residents in closer proximity. In response, the EPA conducted radiation monitoring to determine whether levels exceeded conditions considered safe for the nearby residents. The Agency found that radiation levels surrounding the sites were similar to other neighborhoods in urban areas. The presentations from the two public meetings are available at www.epa.gov/region5/littlevillagepilsen under “Community Meetings and Open Houses.” The presentations provide additional information on the results from the dust and radiation tests.

Based on results of its investigation and monitoring efforts at the Midwest Generation Fisk and Crawford stations, the EPA does not plan to conduct cleanup activities at these facilities at this time. For more information on these facilities visit www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/crawfordfisk.

4.5 Pilsen Area Soil Site Assessment

In response to community concerns about potential lead-contaminated soil, the EPA is conducting soil sampling in the Pilsen neighborhood as part of a site assessment. The Agency tested an alley behind the H. Kramer smelting facility in December 2012. The test results showed high levels of lead in the soil. Working with the City of Chicago and local environmental organizations, the EPA is supplying the community with information on taking precautions to limit possible exposure to lead in the soil while the Agency continues its investigation.

The EPA is conducting the Pilsen Area Soil Site Assessment under the Superfund Emergency Response and Removal Program. This preliminary assessment involves gathering information about the



Purpose

The purpose of the Superfund Site Assessment Program is to identify possible candidate sites for proposal to the National Priority List or other cleanup options. Based on the results of initial assessments, sites may be selected for further assessment or referred to the Superfund Remedial or Removal Programs or other federal programs. Some sites are considered ineligible/invalid sites based on results of a preliminary screening. Sites selected for further assessment are assigned identification numbers or tracked further in Superfund’s Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) database. To discover new sites, the EPA’s Superfund site investigation program utilizes information from the states, regulatory history, studies or reports, media inquiries, or resident complaints or petitions. In

Region 5, the EPA will typically initially ask a state to investigate a site or will conduct the work itself through a contractor.

State Involvement

The EPA uses cooperative agreements to transfer funds to a state so that it can perform site assessment work. States use their judgment in executing the work under cooperative agreements. States recommend to the EPA which sites should remain under the Site Assessment Program and which ones should be referred to the Removal Program. A state may also elect to clean up a site under its own authorities.

area's soils to evaluate whether there is a threat to the community's health or the environment, and whether further investigation is needed. Additionally, the EPA seeks permission from residents to access their property and test the soil. For more information about the preliminary assessment process, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/pasi.htm and see Exhibit 4-5 on the next page.

The results of the Pilsen Area Soil Site Assessment will help the EPA to determine what actions may be necessary, if any. More information about this project is available at www.epa.gov/region5/cleanup/pilsenareasoils.

4.6 Air Issues in the Pilsen Neighborhood

The H. Kramer smelting facility has been cited in the past for violating air emissions standards under the Clean Air Act. The EPA is evaluating neighborhood air quality using data collected by an air monitor maintained by the Illinois EPA and the Cook County Department of Environmental Control.

The EPA and the State of Illinois signed a consent decree, or legal settlement, with H. Kramer in 2012 to resolve violations of the federal Clean Air Act and state air pollution regulations at the firm's copper smelting foundry in the Pilsen neighborhood. The settlement resolves the federal government's allegations that H. Kramer failed to maintain and operate furnaces at the foundry in a manner that controls lead emissions. It also resolves allegations that the company violated the Illinois State Implementation Plan by causing or allowing releases of lead into the air, as well as Illinois' claims that H. Kramer's activities at the foundry resulted in lead emissions that caused or contributed to air pollution and created danger to the public and the environment. The consent decree requires H. Kramer to install new filters and other controls on two furnaces to reduce emissions and to continue to limit production of two lead alloys until the new equipment is installed in 2013. More information about the status of the air monitoring, including the data that has been collected, is available online at www.epa.gov/reg5oair/enforce/pilsen.



A backyard on South Troy Street in Little Village before the cleanup.



The same backyard, restored, after the cleanup.

Section 5: Summary of Community Interviews



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PERRO

“People here learn about things through door knocking, through the shop keepers and the restaurants, at the community gardens—word-of-mouth.”

Women and Family Advocate, Pilsen

Photos (top to bottom) The EPA participated in science night at the Little Village High School, March 21, 2013, and held a public meeting/open house at the Walsh Elementary School in Pilsen, March 19, 2013.

To stay informed about the sites, visit:
www.epa.gov/region5/littlevillagepilsen

Section 5: Summary of Community Interviews

To learn about community questions, concerns and information needs related to the Pilsen and Little Village sites, the EPA conducted community interviews with 47 residents, local officials, local community organization members and EPA Region 5 technical staff from January through May 2013.

During the interviews, the EPA asked community members to state their preferred methods of receiving information. This information will help the Agency determine how to best engage and collaborate with various sectors, taking into account the diversity of the population including:

- The variety of age groups
- The length of residency in the area
- The non-English speaking and limited English proficiency people

Because there continues to be a shift in the demographics of the area, the EPA made a point to interview community members spanning a wide variety of backgrounds.

A summary of the responses, organized by themes, is presented below. Specific questions and concerns expressed by those interviewed are presented in Section 6. Appendix A provides the list of questions asked during the interviews.

Note to readers: The summary provided in this CIP is intended to accurately present the issues, concerns and questions expressed to the EPA by those who were interviewed. The summaries reflect the views, thoughts and opinions as expressed by members of the community and, therefore, may or may not be based in fact.

5.1 Knowledge and Opinions about the Sites

The EPA asked interviewees to describe their knowledge (or what they had heard) about the Pilsen or Little Village sites.

General responses from Pilsen residents

Many people focused their responses on the H. Kramer site. Residents mentioned that the Illinois EPA tested the H. Kramer site in the mid-2000s and reported that H. Kramer did not comply with the terms of an enforcement agreement. Interviewees also often said they were aware of the Midwest Generation Fisk site, though there seemed to be confusion as to how the site will be used in the future.

Some explained that Chicago Mayor Rahm Emmanuel had created a Fisk Reuse Task Force made up of local community organizations, Midwest Generation, ComEd, city officials and others to develop a set of guidelines for site reuse.

General comments reflected that community members knew that some type of action was occurring to “fix” the Midwest Generation Fisk site, although they seemed less clear about the actual testing and what the results showed.

Many residents expressed concerns about the Loewenthal site due to its proximity to community gardens and the number of children that play near the site.

General responses from Little Village residents

Little Village residents were most familiar with the Midwest Generation Crawford Station and expressed concerns about the air quality in the area. Many of them were aware that LVEJO provided “Toxic Tours” of the sites in the community and said that the Crawford Station was a major landmark in the area because of the tall smoke stacks. Some also said that they were expecting a decision to be made by end of Summer 2013 regarding specific actions to clean up the Crawford site.

5.2 Concerns about the Sites in Pilsen and Little Village

The EPA asked community members their opinions about the perceived immediate and long-term psychological, social, economic and health risks.

Concerns about the soil

The primary concern expressed was regarding children’s health, especially lead poisoning from contaminated soil near the sites, in backyards, and at schools near the site.

Concerns about the air

Concerns about air contamination were somewhat mixed. Several people said they did not know where all of the dust in the air was coming from and they were not sure whether it was dangerous. Others acknowledged that there were “bad smells” in the area but were not sure whether there was anything harmful in the air.

5.3 Knowledge of Historic Community Actions in Pilsen and Little Village

Community members were asked about the number and type of past community actions regarding the sites and who led the actions.

Many of those interviewed said they had received environmental updates from one or more of the following organizations:

- LVEJO
- PERRO
- Enlace
- Brighton Park Community Council
- Bridgeport Alliance
- People for Community Recovery
- Black in Green
- Chicago Environmental Justice Network

The following specific community actions were noted:

- LVEJO has organized efforts to raise awareness about the Peoples Gas Crawford Station; conducted door-to-door canvassing to educate residents about Celotex; led “Toxic Tours” to educate local residents about sources of pollution, including the Crawford Station coal plant; helped to establish urban farms in the community; and helped spread the word about radiation screening that the EPA recently conducted.
- PERRO has organized efforts to raise awareness of the Fisk and Loewenthal sites, hosted educational family events, held

community rallies and marches, and organized vigils to request that local officials close the power plants.

- Enlace has helped to raise awareness about cleanup of the area in general.
- Pilsen Alliance has pursued an anti-gentrification agenda for many years, but also works with other organizations on environmental issues.
- Local residents have organized small, local actions to warn their neighbors about potential environmental and health risks, and to urge them not to garden.
- The Resurrection Project has spread the word about environmental issues in general.

5.4 Requests for Additional Information

Almost everyone interviewed requested additional information about the extent of contamination and a timeline for testing and cleanup activities.

People asked for more general information about all the potential environmental issues in the area and said that once the community was able to more fully understand where their concerns should be focused, they would be able to voice informed opinions regarding future use or redevelopment of the sites.

5.5 Sources of Information

Major sources of information in the community are somewhat dependent on the age group and the primary language used—English or Spanish. Many pointed out that because of the diversity in the area, a multi-pronged approach is critical for effective community outreach and engagement. Interviewees also suggested that grant funding from the EPA or other agencies could be used to help local organizations distribute information to the community.

Non-local sources of information identified during community interviews included the EPA website, the Huffington Post, Wikipedia, the City of Chicago Department of Health and the Sierra Club.

Generally, the younger population—those in high school through graduate school—said they rely most on the following information sources:

- Online resources:
 - o www.pilsenportal.org which is run by a nonprofit group in the area
 - o Various local Facebook pages, for example, those belonging to aldermen and local organizations
 - o www.dnainfo.com/chicago/ which provides daily coverage of Pilsen and Little Village
 - o www.Ward25.com which posts local events
- Email
- Text messages
- Church announcements
- Twitter feeds, for example, from the alderman's office
- School announcements

Generally, older adults said they rely most on the following information sources:

- Flyers in English and Spanish posted at grocery stores, libraries, community gardens and apartment buildings
- Handouts received at church services
- Block clubs
- Calling trees
- Door-to-door canvassing
- Word-of-mouth from popular businesses that receive local foot traffic

- Local coffee shops and other places where people gather
- Community meetings
- Church announcements
- Events at Casa Maravilla

The following local information sources were among the more commonly mentioned overall:

- The Resurrection Project
- Community gardens
- Pilsen Alliance
- PERRO
- LVEJO
- Enlace
- Brighton Park Neighborhood Council
- Mujeres Latinas en Acción, which empowers Latinas by providing services that reflect their values and culture
- Shop owners, for example, in a large shopping area on 26th Street where people congregate
- Alivio, a prominent health care center in the neighborhood
- Gads Hill, a community-based family resource center serving the low-income population of the city's Lower West Side
- El Valor, an organization focused on early childhood and youth enrichment, developing Hispanic leadership, and inclusion of people with disabilities

People recommended the following means for distributing information:

- Churches, including St. Pius, St. Agnes and St. Procopius
- Schools, including the Lawndale High School science department and Little Village Social Justice High School

- Cafes for students and younger residents, such as Jumping Bean, Efebina's and La Catrina
- The Resurrection Project
- Park District locations
- San Jose Obrero Mission, 1856 S. Loomis Street
- Brighton Park Neighborhood Council public meetings
- Cinco de Mayo events
- Various health-focused events
- LVEJO's calendar of community-focused events
- Mexican Independence Day at Kostner and 26th Streets
- Little Village Art Festival
- Pilsen Community Market at 18th and Halsted at the Chicago Community Bank
- Pilsen Alliance events
- Local Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) beat meetings
- Family Task Force meetings
- Block club meetings or parties
- St. Agnes church events
- Pietrowski Park senior group meetings
- "Clean and Green" event in Pilsen
- Day of the Child parade along 18th Street in April
- Fiesta del Sol
- Festival de Mujeres on 21st Street in early August
- Play Streets beginning late May

The following media outlets were noted as the most widely relied upon sources:

- Newspapers: The top two local newspapers in the area are *Hoy*, a daily paper, and *La Raza*, a weekly paper. For a full list of newspapers identified during the interviews, see Appendix B.
- TV Stations: The two primary Spanish-language stations are Univision (Channel 66) and Telemundo (Channel 44). See Appendix B for a list of additional stations.
- Radio Stations: A number of stations were identified and preferences varied by age group. See Appendix B for a detailed list of radio stations serving Pilsen and Little Village residents.

5.6 Ways to Educate Children about Environmental Issues in the Neighborhood

When residents were asked about the best ways to educate children about environmental issues in the neighborhood, the most common suggestion was to reach out to local schools. Some individuals pointed out that teachers often send kids home with information to distribute to their families, and they suggested that the EPA provide updates of site activities to schools via community organizations.

Many of those interviewed gave specific suggestions of the type of information that should be provided to children, as well as the best mechanisms for providing information to children and their families, as follows:

- Focus on lead-based paint awareness
- Educate parents on simple things they can teach their kids to prepare for hot summer months when pollution is worse
- Coordinate with the following schools to get information to kids:
 - o Immaculate Conception (Brighton Park)
 - o Our Lady of Fatima (Brighton Park)
 - o Kanoon Elementary Magnet School

- o Orozco Community Academy
 - o Cooper Elementary Dual Language Academy
 - o Gary Elementary School, where Lawndale has a community garden
 - o St. Agnes School, which sends kids home with “take home” folders of information that contain flyers
 - o Josefa Ortiz de Dominguez Elementary School
 - o Farragut High School (Lawndale)
 - o Saucedo Scholastic, which also has a large auditorium that could be used for meetings
 - o Little Village Social Justice High School, which already teaches about environmental justice and health concerns related to the environment, race and class
 - o Cristo Rey High School, where several students have been involved with PERRO
 - o Lozano Leadership Academy
 - o Walsh School
 - o Illinois Institute of Technology, which asked that the EPA speak at the school and also offered to provide students to lead workshops to teach younger kids about environmental issues
- Collaborate with organizations that have existing educational programming for kids, such as:
 - o The Resurrection Project’s after-school program
 - o Mujeres Latinas En Acción’s Proyecto Juventud summer program with After School Matters, which focuses on environmental issues and art
 - o Pilsen Educational Task Force
 - o Pilsen Family Task Force
 - o Beyond the Ball, which organizes neighborhood sports activities for at-risk youth

- B-Ball on the Block basketball league meets every Friday night in the summer
- Once the street is closed off for these activities, both parents and kids come out
- o Skate park in Pietrowski Park, where groups of skaters often talk with local officials and spread the word about activities
- o Casa Juan Diego Youth Center

5.7 Local Interest in Community Involvement

When the EPA asked interviewees about their interest in being more involved in the decision-making process regarding the ongoing site investigations and cleanup efforts, responses were somewhat mixed. While local residents and organizations clearly have a history of active involvement and activism, many people noted various factors that may hinder people’s ability to be involved, such as:

- Challenges due to many people working long hours and wanting to spend more time with their families
- Other pressing concerns about poverty, crime, unemployment and citizenship that may compete for people’s time and attention
- Technology challenges; some residents have limited access to technology, although younger people indicated that they use it to get information to become active.

Many of those interviewed said that more people would likely be involved if they had a better understanding of the health risks to themselves and their families.

They also advised the EPA to ensure that people are “real stakeholders” and to “let them shape decisions because they know best what their neighborhood needs.” Some people suggested that people are more likely to look to local, established organizations such as PERRO and LVEJO for opportunities to get involved rather than looking to the EPA because people in those organizations “speak their language and live in the community.”

Everyone interviewed said they wanted more, not less information regarding the Agency’s efforts to clean and test the area. A few residents also said that people wanted to be involved “in a very local way,” that is, in matters specifically related to efforts occurring within a few blocks of where they live.

Residents expressed a great deal of interest in helping to educate others in their neighborhood about the sites. Some specific suggestions included the following:

- Residents could organize community cleanups and use such events as an opportunity to educate others about the sites.
- Residents in apartment buildings could share information with others in their apartment complexes by posting notices and talking to neighbors in common areas.
- Residents could post information about meetings and site cleanup updates on fences that surround the sites.
- Residents could write to local officials about local environmental concerns and report any issues by calling 311 to request assistance from city services.

5.8 Perceptions of the EPA

Perceptions about the EPA were mixed. Some people expressed positive views, others said they knew little to nothing about the Agency and others expressed skepticism toward the Agency.

Most people interviewed said they had not heard anything negative about the EPA. They were pleased that the Agency was helping to regulate many

companies in the area. Many also mentioned that they viewed the EPA as a trustworthy source of information. There was a lot of positive feedback about recent meetings in the area and the fact that these meetings were conducted in both English and Spanish. More meetings like those held in March 2013 were suggested by almost all who were interviewed. They noted that presenting in Spanish was a positive step, but that the Agency was still not speaking the language of the community. They stressed that the EPA needed to attend more community events.

Several people interviewed said they were not aware of the EPA or what the Agency does. They mentioned that many others in the community also were not aware of the EPA. Others said they knew that the EPA “deals with car emissions testing.” One resident suggested that the EPA work to gain more visibility in the community. Another resident noted that there is not an agency equivalent to the EPA in the countries where many local immigrants come from and, consequently, the EPA should educate local residents on the Agency’s mission to gain their trust.

Many asked why the site cleanups were taking so long and said they were upset because they believed the EPA may have known about the sites years ago but only recently started taking actions. One resident expressed concern that the EPA would “start the testing and cleanup process and then leave the community when so much more needs to be done,” and added that “staying around and seeing projects through would go a long way” toward establishing community trust.

5.9 Perceptions of Local Officials

Although residents’ views of local officials varied, the majority of them indicated that the relationship between local officials and community members is important and should be strengthened.

Some residents said they had good relationships with local officials and their alderman and had accessed the officials through local community organizations.

Some interviewees, mostly younger residents or those who said they had not lived in the area long, said they did not have an opinion of local officials nor did they know how local officials were viewed by others.

Some residents said that local officials could do more in terms of addressing the community’s environmental concerns. Many said that they would go to local community groups, schools, priests and pastors for information before they would go to local officials for help. One interviewee specifically said that some would like to see the designated state and federal officials more involved in the community.

Some interviewees suggested that local officials attend more small community events to establish greater trust and “face time” with the community. Others commented that aldermen should arrange transportation to allow seniors to attend community events.

5.10 Perceptions of Site Owners

Perceptions about the site owners were mainly neutral to slightly negative. A majority of those interviewed said they did not trust local companies because they have polluted the neighborhood and do not hire locally. People also expressed frustration that, in some cases, no company was being held accountable for the pollution and health problems.

Most people specifically mentioned the coal plants, which are highly visible landmarks in the neighborhoods. All wanted to see the sites cleaned and have assurance that no other polluting plants would replace them.

Several people said they were not sure who the site owners were and did not have a strong opinion about them. One resident commented that the coal plants are very separate from the rest of the community, and because they are surrounded by barbed wire fences and have high levels of security, they are not accessible by the community. This person felt that this was the reason why many residents do not know what is happening or how to get information.

One person mentioned that Midwest Generation has helped many organizations in the area either financially or by donating the use of their space.

5.11 Opinions about Site Reuse

When asked how members of the community would like to see the sites reused, the most common answer was a desire for more green space in the community. Specifically, people said they would like to see the following:

- Parks
- Community gardens
- Walkways leading to the river
- A large public market building
- Green industry that will create local jobs, such as solar panel manufacturing plants
- Bike paths at the coal plant site in Little Village and along the decommissioned railroad tracks

Additionally, some concerns were expressed regarding the future use for the sites, including the following:

- Safety for children after the sites are covered with uncontaminated soil

- Whether development would encourage gentrification and jeopardize the “character and affordability” of the neighborhood
- The potential effects of added density to an already densely populated area
- Preservation of historic features at the Fisk site

5.12 Referrals

Those interviewed were asked to recommend additional people and organizations for the EPA to interview. Most suggested that the EPA speak with the directors of local nonprofit organizations, and others suggested that the EPA speak to children. Twenty-five names and organizations were recommended and nine additional interviews resulted from these suggestions. Thanks to the recommendations from those interviewed, the EPA was able to speak with teachers, activists, gardeners, long-time residents, residents who only speak English, residents who only speak Spanish and bilingual residents. Directors of local nonprofits and youth also were included among those interviewed.

Community Interview Numbers

- 47 total people were interviewed
 - 7 youth, 18 years and younger
 - 40 adults
- 9 community organizations were represented
- 5 were Spanish-speaking only
- 3 were local elected officials
- More than half were bilingual



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PERRO



“People get nervous when they hear ‘contamination’ and see fences go up across from their homes—this is where their children played and walked. We want to know what that means and what we should be doing to protect our families.”

-Program Coordinator, Pilsen

Section 6: Community Questions and Concerns

Photos (left to right) Local community participates in a rally in Little Village. The neighborhood youth demonstrate their support for the environment.

Section 6: *Community Questions and Concerns*

This section summarizes key concerns and presents questions raised during the community interviews.

6.1 *Key Questions Asked During Community Interviews*

Most interviewees asked questions related to the history and current status of the sites and testing areas, including when and how the pollution started; whether the water, soil and air are polluted; what chemicals are involved; what dangers to health are posed by the sites; and what cleanup actions have been conducted or will take place in the future. The primary questions asked during the interviews are organized by prevalent themes and presented below.

Source and nature of pollution

- Are there sources of contamination other than the sites identified, and is the EPA addressing those sources?
- What makes a site a Superfund site and what does that mean?
- What exactly is polluted on and around these sites, such as the water and soil?
- How does the EPA know where the pollution *really* comes from?
- What will cleanup entail?
- When will these sites be cleaned or will they be cleaned up at all?
- Why has it taken so long for these sites to be tested and cleaned up?

- If residents' health has been affected by these sites, can they seek compensation from the corporations who ran these plants?
- Which companies are violating and which ones are complying with the EPA's regulations?

Health effects

- Are children in the area going to have health problems because they play in yards and parks in the neighborhood?
- Is radiation still a concern?
- Where is all of the dust in the air coming from, and is it dangerous?
- Will cleaning up the sites create more dust and create a bigger problem?
- What are the overall effects of site contamination on people's health in the community?
- What steps should residents take to protect or test themselves and their families for negative health effects? For example, should parents test kids for lead poisoning and what symptoms should they watch for?

- What legal remedies are available to sick residents whose illnesses were directly caused by the contamination?
- How far does the contamination spread around these sites?
- Can the site contamination contribute to miscarriages?
- Are these sites responsible for high asthma and bronchitis rates in the community?

Lead and soil

- Is the soil safe? Can we plant community gardens and in our yards? Are raised bed gardens safe?
- Is the drinking water supply contaminated?
- Are our yards safe for our children?
- If parks are developed on the existing sites, will the sites be cleaned first? How do we know the parks will be safe for kids?
- If a yard is tested and found to have high lead levels, what will homeowners have to do? Will their lives be disrupted in some way?

Monitoring, cleanup and funding

- How will the cleanup and monitoring of the sites be paid for?
- What is the long-term plan for testing and monitoring these sites?
- How “clean” is “cleaned up?”
- Are the sites that are now shut down now completely secure?
- Who is responsible for the contamination caused by the sites?
- Will residents be warned when cleanups are happening and told if they have to prepare by closing windows and staying indoors?
- How will decisions be made regarding the redevelopment of the sites and who will make those decisions?

6.2 Key Concerns Expressed During Community Interviews

Most residents said they were concerned about lead contamination levels in the soil. Many also said that the community is very hard working and people are more concerned about employment, crime and gangs, family time, citizenship status and “putting food on the table” than they are about environmental issues in general. Many community members said they look to local organizations to be the primary voice when it comes to environmental concerns. Many also said that if more residents truly understood the health risks, and if these issues were explained in a social justice context, more people in the area would become involved and interested in ensuring that the sites are cleaned or covered with a protective layer. The primary concerns expressed during the interviews are organized by prevalent themes and presented below.

Health effects

Asthma, blood lead levels, cancer and miscarriages were mentioned as primary health concerns. Many of those interviewed asked for more information on testing that had been done at or near each of the sites and expressed concern about whether the drinking water supply was affected. One resident mentioned hearing that air emissions from the coal plants were harmful for up to a three-mile radius and wanted to know if this was true. Other people were concerned about gardening and eating vegetables grown in their community and residential gardens that contain high levels of lead.

Residents mentioned a need for more information about the following:

- The health effects of pollution from other sites in the area that the EPA may not be currently testing
- The railroad tracks near the Loewenthal sites and whether there are high levels of lead and tar under the soil
- The “strange smells” that are being emitted in the Little Village area and whether they are harmful

- The “metallic-tasting” air near the H. Kramer site
- The general health concerns related to the H. Kramer site
- The thick, sticky dust that used to be emitted from the coal plants and associated health effects
- The inability to breathe easily when doing sports outside
- The effects of the xylene from a local paint manufacturing plant and whether that plant would be closed down

Economic concerns

Interviewees from both the Pilsen and Little Village neighborhoods spoke about the high stress levels of most adults in the area due to the long number of hours most of them work or a lack of job opportunities. Because of economic concerns and the need to protect families from crime in the area, several interviewees noted that there is often not much time to be directly involved with the EPA and environmental issues in general. Many of those interviewed expressed the view that increased education about the health risks of the sites might prompt residents to become more involved with environmental issues.

Specifically, the following economic concerns were mentioned:

- Whether residents would be forced to temporarily relocate during soil removal activities
- Whether residents would be responsible for any portion of the site cleanup costs
- Decline of property values or increase in real estate vacancies if soil testing shows high levels of lead
- Whether rents would increase once the sites are cleaned up

Other concerns

Several residents expressed concern that racial prejudice against the large minority population in the neighborhood was slowing down the cleanup of the sites. One person mentioned that the creation of parks at the former plant location could become “another place for gangs to congregate,” and another said that some residents worry that soil contamination might be holding up projects like sidewalk repair because workers don’t want to be exposed to health risks. Many also mentioned a lack of recycling facilities, excessive litter on the streets, and lack of public transportation that contributes to street congestion and pollution.

6.3 Other Suggestions Provided During the Interviews

Residents mentioned several ways the EPA could be helpful in addition to the Agency’s current actions. Suggested activities for the EPA to consider or continue include the following:

- Provide more regular updates to the community on the environmental issues or potential health risks associated with the sites and testing areas, for example, on a quarterly or monthly basis.
- Expedite cleanups once it is known that a site is contaminated to minimize children’s exposure to health risks.
- Continue to keep pressure on the PRPs to pay for and expedite the cleanups.
- Continue to hold community meetings in both English and Spanish.
- Provide a clear “before and after” explanation for each site in terms of the causes of contamination and how they have been addressed so far.
- Give a clear explanation and future vision of the sites in terms of what the contamination and health risks would be in 15 to 20 years after cleanup occurs.

Key Community Concerns

- Cause of contamination
- Health effects on children and adults
- Children and family safety
- Timeline for the cleanup and how it will be done
- Who is responsible
- Future site use
- Strange smells and potential air pollution
- Effect on property values



Section 7: The EPA and Community Involvement Going Forward

“Community really welcomes the opportunity to be involved. Often when a park might come up, they have an attitude of ‘for what? It’s just for gang bangers.’ But if you give them opportunity to be involved and have a real say, they are much more interested and will be more involved.”

-Community Organizer, Little Village

Photos (left to right) Fruit stand on 26th Street in Little Village offers fresh food to residents and community gardens near Loewenthal site provide a venue for the community to produce their own fresh food.

To stay informed about the sites, visit:
www.epa.gov/region5/littlevillagepilsen

Section 7: *The EPA and Community Involvement* *Going Forward*

Administrator Gina McCarthy reaffirmed the EPA’s long-term commitment to addressing environmental issues in Pilsen and Little Village during her visit to the neighborhoods in Fall 2013. Administrator McCarthy noted, “Cleaning up dangerous levels of lead in Pilsen is just one example of how EPA is making a real difference for families and communities across the country—especially those most vulnerable to environmental hazards.”

The EPA will continue its involvement with the Pilsen and Little Village communities by providing supplements to this CIP in hard copy and online; presenting updates about the site activities at public meetings, in fact sheets and via public notices; and through ongoing meetings and frequent communication with aldermen and community organizations such as PERRO and LVEJO. These collaborative efforts will help the community remain informed about the sites through a variety of sources and methods and will ensure that people are informed of ways that they can participate in local environmental education activities and engage in decision-making opportunities.

APPENDIX A

Community Interview Questions

(January – May 2013)

1. Generally, what do you know about the Pilsen / Little Village sites? How did you get your information about them?
2. What do you think about the sites?
3. What concerns do people in the community have related to these sites? (Risk, immediate and long term, psychological, such as outrage or fear, social, economic, legal, etc.)
4. Is there any particular community action going on related to the sites now? (Activism, protests, etc.) If so, what groups / organizations are involved? What credibility do they have, especially as compared to the EPA?
5. Do you and/or the community want more information about the sites and what the EPA is doing? If so, what do you want or need to know?
6. How would you want to receive information about the site?
7. How do you/the community typically get your information about important issues?
8. What are the most popular newspapers, TV stations and radio stations in the area?
9. Are there local radio or TV talk shows or programs that the EPA could use?
10. Are there local civic/service clubs, community events/activities that could be useful to disseminate information or to do in-person presentations?
11. Are there appropriate opportunities to reach children through schools or youth groups?
12. Do you want to be involved with the process in any way beyond passively receiving information?
13. Do you think the community in general would like some involvement? What kind of interaction would the community welcome with the EPA?
14. Is the EPA viewed as a credible, trustworthy source of information?
15. How are local officials perceived within the community?
16. How are the owners or corporations that own these sites perceived within the community?
17. How would you/the community like to see these sites developed?
18. Who else in the community should we be talking with?

APPENDIX B

Contacts and Interested Groups

Federal Elected Officials

U.S. Senator Richard Durbin

230 S. Dearborn Street, Suite 3892
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: 312-353-4952
www.durbin.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact

U.S. Senator Mark Kirk

230 S. Dearborn Street, Suite 3900
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: 312-886-3506
www.kirk.senate.gov/?p=contact

U.S. Representative Luis Gutierrez, 4th Congressional District

3210 W. North Avenue
Chicago, IL 60647
Phone: 773-342-0774
www.luisgutierrez.house.gov

State Elected Officials

Governor Patrick Quinn

207 State Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706
Phone: 217-782-0244

Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon

217 State Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706
Phone: 217-558-3085

State Senator Martin Sandoval

4348 W. Cermak Road
Chicago, IL 60623
Phone: 708-656-2002

State Representative Edward Acevedo

1836 W. 35th Street
Chicago, IL 60609
Phone: 773-843-1500

County Elected Official

Cook County Commissioner Jesus Garcia, District 7

4249 S. Archer Avenue
Chicago, IL 60632
Phone: 773-376-2700
www.jesuschuygarcia.com/about/7th-district-2

Local Elected Officials

25th Ward Office of Alderman Danny Solis

2439 S. Oakley Avenue
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 773-523-4100

22nd Ward Office of Alderman Ricardo Munoz

2500 S. St. Louis Avenue
Chicago, IL 60623
Phone: 773-762-1771

12th Ward Office of Alderman George Cardenas

3476 S. Archer Avenue
Chicago, IL 60632
Phone: 773-523-8250

2nd Ward Office of Alderman James Balcer

3659 S. Halsted Street
Chicago, IL 60609
Phone: 773-254-6677

14th Ward Office of Alderman Edward M. Burke

2650 W. 51st Street
Chicago, IL 60632
Phone: 773-471-1414

EPA Contacts for Pilsen Site Assessments, Enforcement and Cleanup Efforts

Loewenthal Metals Corp.

Steven Faryan, OSC
Email: faryan.steven@epa.gov
Phone: 312-353-9351 or 800-621-8431, ext. 39351

Midwest Generation Fisk Station

Paul Ruesch, OSC
Email: ruesch.paul@epa.gov
Phone: 312-886-7898 or 800-621-8431, ext. 67898

Peoples Gas 22nd Street Station

Ross del Rosario, RPM
Email: delrosario.rosauro@epa.gov
Phone: 312-886-6195 or 800-621-8431, ext. 66195

Air Issues in the Pilsen Neighborhood

EPA Region 5 Air and Radiation Division
Air Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Branch
Phone: 312-353-2088

Pilsen Area Soil Site Assessment

Ramon Mendoza, OSC
Email: mendoza.ramon@epa.gov
Phone: 312-886-4314 or 800-621-8431, ext. 64314

EPA Contacts for Little Village Site Assessments and Cleanup Efforts

Celotex Superfund Site

Nefertiti DiCosmo, RPM
Email: dicosmo.nefertiti@epa.gov
Phone: 312-886-6148 or 800-621-8431, ext. 66148

Midwest Generation Crawford Station

Paul Ruesch, OSC
Email: ruesch.paul@epa.gov
Phone: 312-886-7898 or 800-621-8431, ext. 67898

Peoples Gas Crawford Station

Ross del Rosario, RPM
Email: delrosario.rosauro@epa.gov
Phone: 312-886-6195 or 800-621-8431, ext. 66195

Other Federal, State and Local Agencies

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Region 5

77 W. Jackson Boulevard
Room 433, M/S 4J
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: 312-886-0840
www.atsdr.cdc.gov/dro/r5.html

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

1021 N. Grand East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794
Phone: 217-782-3397
www.epa.state.il.us

Illinois Department of Public Health

535 West Jefferson Street
Springfield, IL 62761
Phone: 217-782-4977
www.idph.state.il.us

City of Chicago Department of Public Health City Hall

121 N. LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 311 (within Chicago), 312-744-5000
www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph.html

Local Organizations in Pilsen

Alivio Medical Center

2355 S. Western Avenue
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 773-254-1400

12th District CAPS Office

100 S. Racine Avenue
Chicago, IL 60607
Phone: 312-746-8396

Casa Juan Diego

2020 Blue Island Avenue
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312-421-7647

Casa Michoacan: Abriendo Fronteras, Uniendo Comunidades

1638 S. Blue Island Avenue
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312-491-9317

Circus Cipher: Free Summer Program

1119 W. Cullerton Street, 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312-226-7767

Contratiempo

1702 S. Halsted Street
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312-666-7466

Eighteenth Street Development Corporation

1843 S. Carpenter Street
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312-733-2287

El Hogar del Niño

1710-18 S. Loomis Street
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312-563-0644

El Valor

1850 W. 21st Street
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312-666-4511

Gads Hill Center

1919 W. Cullerton Street
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312-226-0963

Greater Pilsen Economic Development Association

1800 W. 18th Street
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312-698-8898

Instituto del Progreso Latino

2570 S. Blue Island Avenue
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 773-890-0055

Local Organizations in Pilsen (continued)

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

Chicago's New Communities Program

135 S. LaSalle Street, #2230
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312-422-9550

Mujeres Latinas En Acción

2124 W. 21st Place
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 773-890-7676

Pilsen Alliance

1831 S. Racine, 3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312-243-5440

Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Organization (PERRO)

P.O. Box 891140
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312-854-9247

Pilsen Neighbors Community Council

2026 S. Blue Island Avenue
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312-666-2663

Poder Learning Center

1637 S. Allport Street
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312-226-2002

Spanish Coalition for Housing

1915 S. Blue Island Avenue
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312-850-2660

St. Pius

1909 S. Ashland Avenue
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312-226-0074

St. Procopius

1641 S. Allport Street
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312-226-7887

The Resurrection Project

1818 S. Paulina Avenue
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312-666-1323

The University of Illinois at Chicago Office of Community Engagement and Neighborhood Health Partnerships

1747 W. Roosevelt Road, 5th Floor
Chicago, IL 60608
<http://www.uicni.org/page.php?section=neighborhoods&subsection=home>

YMCA Street Intervention Program

1608 W. 21st Place
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312-447-3096

YOUmedia: Youth-Powered 21st Century Learning

1805 S. Loomis Street
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312-746-4329

Local Organizations in Little Village

Central States SER

3948 W. 26th Street, Suite 233
Chicago, IL 60623
Phone: 773-542-9030

Chicago Clean Power

2856 S. Millard Avenue
Chicago, IL 60623
Email: info@chicagocleanpower.org

Enlace Chicago Main Office

2756 S. Harding Avenue
Chicago, IL 60623
Phone: 773-542-9233

Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO)

2856 S. Millard Avenue
Chicago, IL 60623
Phone: 773-762-6991

Little Village Land Organization

2856 S. Millard Avenue
Chicago, IL 60623
Phone: 773-762-6991

St. Agnes

2651 S. Central Park Avenue
Chicago, IL 60623
Phone: 773-522-0142

Violence Prevention Office

2300 S. Millard Avenue
Chicago, IL 60623
Phone: 773-823-1062

Other Nearby Neighborhood Organizations

Brighton Park Neighborhood Council

4477 S. Archer Avenue
Chicago, IL 60632
Phone: 773-523-7110

The Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council

1751 W. 47th Street
Chicago, IL 60609
Phone: 773-523-4416
www.bync.org/contact/

Local Media – Television

ABC News (Channel 7)

190 N. State Street
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312-750-7777
www.abcnews.go.com

CBS News (Channel 2)

22 W. Washington Street
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 312-899-2222
www.cbschicago.com

Chicago Access Network Television (CAN-TV, Channels 19, 21, 27, 36, 42)

322 S. Green Street
Chicago, IL 60607
Phone: 312-738-1400
www.cantv.org

Fox News

55 W. Upper Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312-494-0428
www.myfoxchicago.com

NBC News (Channel 5)

454 N. Columbus Drive
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: 312-836-5555
www.nbcchicago.com

Telemundo Chicago (Channel 44)

454 N. Columbus Drive, #1
Chicago, IL 60611
www.telemundochicago.com

Univision (Channel 66)

541 N. Fairbanks Court
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: 312-670-1000
www.univisionchicago.com

WGN-TV (Channel 9)

2501 W. Bradley Place
Chicago, IL 60618
Phone: 773-528-2311
www.wgntv.com

WLS-TV (ABC News, Channel 7)

190 N. State Street
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312-750-7777
www.abc7chicago.com

Local Media – Radio

WGN Radio

www.wgnradio.com

101.9 FM, Univision LA, Piolin por la Mañana

la1019.univision.com

103.5 FM, KISS FM Chicago

www.1035kissfm.com

105.1 FM, La Que Buena (Mexican, traditional)

www.quebuenachicago.com

106.7 FM, Univision, La Kalle

pasionchicago.univision.com

WRTE 90.5 FM, Radio Arte

www.wrte.org

107.9 FM, La Ley (Mexican, traditional)

www.laley1079.com

Local Media – Newspapers

Bridgeport News

3506 S. Halsted Street
Chicago, IL 60609
Phone: 773-927-0025
www.bridgeportnews.net

Brighton Park Life

2949 W. Pope John Paul II Drive
Chicago, IL 60632-2554
Phone: 773-523-2663
www.brightonparklife.com

Chicago Sun Times

350 N. Orleans Street #10
Chicago, IL 60654
Phone: 312-321-3000
<http://www.suntimes.com>

Local Media – Newspapers (continued)

Chicago Tribune

435 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: 312-222-3232
www.chicagotribune.com

City News

4018 N. Cicero Avenue
Chicago, IL 60641
Phone: 773-545-7377
Email: webmaster@citynewsstand.com

Contratiempo

1702 S. Halsted Street
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312-666-7466
Email: cartas@revistacontratiempo.com

DNAinfo.com Chicago

233 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1830
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312-508-4686
Email: chicago-newsroom@dnainfo.com

Extra Newspaper

3906 W. North Avenue
Chicago, IL 60647
Phone: 773-252-3534
Email: editor@extranews.net
www.extranews.net/

The Gate Newspaper

1751 W. 47th Street, 2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60609
Phone: 773-523-4416, ext. 111
Email: editor@thegatenewspaper.com

Gazette

1335 W. Harrison Street
Chicago, IL 60607-3318
Phone: 312-243-4288
www.gazettechicago.com/index/about/contact-us/

Hoy Newspaper

435 N. Michigan Avenue, #22
Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: 312-527-8400
www.vivelohoy.com

La Opinion

700 S. Flower Street
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Phone: 213-896-2300
www.laopinion.com

La Raza

6001 N. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60660
Phone: 773-273-2900
www.laraza.com

Lawndale News

5533 W. 25th Street
Cicero, IL 60804
Phone: 708-656-6400
www.lawndalenews.com

**Pilsen Porter (Managed by
The Resurrection Project)**

1801 S. Ashland Avenue
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312-666-1323

**Ill Entertainer Magazine
(serving Printer's Row, South Loop)**

124 W. Polk Street, Apt. 103
Chicago, IL 60605
Phone: 312-922-9333

Recycling Today

4020 Kinross Lakes Parkway, Suite 201
Richfield, OH 44286
Phone: 330-523-5400
www.recyclingtoday.com/Contact.aspx

The Red Eye

435 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
Email: ariel@tribune.com
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APPENDIX C

Abbreviations and Acronyms

CAG	Community Advisory Group
CAPS	Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy
Celotex	Celotex Superfund Site
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERCLIS	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System
CIC	Community Involvement Coordinator
CIP	Community Involvement Plan
Corp.	Corporation
DOJ	U.S. Department of Justice
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FDA	U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Illinois EPA	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
LISC	Local Initiatives Support Corporation
LVEJO	Little Village Environmental Justice Organization
MGP	Manufactured Gas Plant
NFRAP	No further remedial action planned
NPL	National Priorities List
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
PA/SI	Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection
PAH	Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons
PERRO	Pilsen Environmental Rights and Reform Organization
PRP	Potentially Responsible Party
RD/RA	Remedial Design/Remedial Action
RI/FS	Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
ROD	Record of Decision
RPM	Remedial Project Manager
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds

APPENDIX D

Glossary of Terms

Air Emissions: The release or discharge of a pollutant into the air.

Cap: A cover that is placed over contaminated materials. Caps do not clean up the contamination, but they do keep the materials from coming into contact with people and the environment. Caps can be comprised of various materials, such as sand, rocks or gravel.

Clean Air Act: The law that defines the EPA's responsibilities for protecting and improving the nation's air quality and the ozone layer 10 to 30 miles above the ground. The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 were the last major change in the law. For more information on the Clean Air Act, visit www.epa.gov/air/caa/index.html.

Community Advisory Group (CAG): A committee, task force or board made up of community members affected by a hazardous waste site. CAGs provide a public forum for community members to get involved in making decisions about testing, cleanup and reuse of the sites. CAGs are potentially eligible for federal funding through a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) that provides funds for activities that help communities engage more meaningfully in the decision-making process at eligible superfund sites. Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) grants may also be available and provide training and technical assistance to communities affected by Superfund hazardous waste sites. For more information on these grants, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tag/ or www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tasc/.

Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC): The lead EPA staff member responsible for site-specific community involvement and outreach. The CIC works with the on-scene coordinator or remedial project manager to inform the public about testing and cleanup activities and answer questions from local residents.

Community Involvement Plan (CIP): One of many tools the EPA uses to meaningfully engage and collaborate with all stakeholders during assessments, investigations, cleanup and reuse activities. CIPs provide information about the EPA's

past, ongoing, and planned site activities. They also serve as a guide to address community concerns and to keep residents informed and engaged in site-related decisions.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA): The law authorized the EPA to identify parties responsible for contamination and compel those parties to clean up the sites. CERCLA also granted authority for a federal fund to be created (called "Superfund") to pay for investigating and cleaning up the nation's most serious uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. Also see "Superfund" below.

Consent Decree: (CD): A document that is ordered by a judge to legally formalize an agreement between the EPA and a PRP. The document describes how the cleanup will be conducted and paid for. A consent decree also can be issued to stop or correct actions or processes that are contributing to the contamination of the environment. Before a judge approves the final document, a public comment period is held. Once approved, the document is legally enforceable.

Contamination: Microorganisms, chemicals, toxic substances or wastes that are introduced into air, water or soil in a concentration that is harmful to humans or the environment.

Cyanide: A colorless gas that sometimes is described as having a "bitter almond" smell. In manufacturing, cyanide is used to make paper, textiles and plastics. It also is commonly found in the chemicals used to develop photographs.

Emergency Response: If a site poses an immediate threat to the community's health or the environment, the EPA under the authority of CERCLA will step in to stop the threat. Emergency responses can sometimes be expanded to eliminate the need for later long-term action.

Environmental Justice: The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Feasibility Study (FS): An analysis to determine how practical or cost effective a cleanup option or technology is. For more information on the FS phase of the cleanup process, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/rifs.htm.

Information Repository: Reference collections of site information available to the public for review. Information repositories typically contain technical information such as site assessment or investigation reports, and sampling and analytical data, as well as site updates and fact sheets. Repositories are located in convenient locations, such as local libraries, that residents can easily access.

Manufactured Gas Plant (MGP): A facility where fuel was produced to power lighting in buildings and along streets during the 1800s. To manufacture the fuel, coal and other ingredients were heated in large brick ovens, producing a gas, and that gas was filtered from the ovens and stored in tanks. Natural gas has replaced MGPs.

National Priorities List (NPL): A list of the nation's most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites. NPL sites are eligible for possible long-term investigation and cleanup using federal funds. The EPA is required to update the NPL once a year.

On-Scene Coordinator (OSC): The EPA staff responsible for directing or overseeing responses to oil spills and hazardous substance releases reported to the federal government. OSCs coordinate all federal efforts with, and provide support and information to, state, regional and local agencies.

Operation and Maintenance (O&M): O&M involves continued monitoring of site cleanup activities to ensure that the cleanup remains protective over time, and conducting any necessary maintenance or repairs as needed. For more information about O&M, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/post.htm.

Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH): A group of cancer-causing chemicals in petroleum that may have short- and long-term adverse health effects.

Potentially Responsible Party (PRP): An individual, company or other entity that may be potentially responsible for contributing to contamination at a site. When possible, the EPA through administrative or legal action requires PRPs to clean up the site directly or reimburse the Agency for cleanup costs it incurs.

Preliminary Assessment (PA): The process of gathering information about site conditions to evaluate whether the site poses a threat to a community's health or the environment, and whether further investigation is needed. During the PA for Pilsen and Little Village, the EPA had ongoing community involvement activities, such as engaging the affected community through listening sessions or one-on-one discussions with local leaders and officials, developed a CIP, set up information repositories where people could view site-related information, assigned an EPA CIC to serve as an Agency point of contact for the community and established site-specific websites. For more information about preliminary assessments, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/pasi.htm.

Preliminary Assessment and Site Inspection (PA/SI): See "Preliminary Assessment" and "Site Inspection." For more information on the PA/SI phases of the cleanup process, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/pasi.htm.

Remedial Action (RA): The long-term Superfund site cleanup construction and activities that are implemented after engineers have designed the remedies and technologies that the EPA has selected based on its investigations, feasibility studies and comments from the public. For more information about the RA phase, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/rdra.htm.

Remedial Design (RD): The step prior to a site cleanup when the EPA develops or oversees the engineering design and specifications of the cleanup. For more information about the RD phase of the cleanup, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/rdra.htm.

Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RD/RA): See “Remedial Design” and “Remedial Action.”

For more information on the RD/RA phase of the cleanup process, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/rdra.htm.

Record of Decision (ROD): A publicly available document that describes the site cleanup options and explains the EPA’s rationale for making the final cleanup decision. The ROD also contains the Agency’s responses to public comments or questions that were considered before the final decision. For more information about RODs, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/rod.htm.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS): See “Remedial Investigation” and “Feasibility Study.” For more information on the RI/FS phase of the cleanup process, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/rifs.htm.

Remedial Investigation (RI): A study designed to gather data needed to determine the nature and extent of site contamination. For more information on the RI/FS phase of the cleanup process, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/rifs.htm.

Remedial Project Manager (RPM): The EPA or state person responsible for overseeing on-site cleanups. In some cases involving multiple sites in an area, RPMs and OSCs may coordinate together in overseeing or directing the cleanups.

Removal Response Action: A type of cleanup response that is done under the authority of the CERCLA that involves either a short-term or long-term action to remove contamination (or the threat posed by the contamination). Examples of a removal response action include digging up and removing soil contaminated with high levels of lead, containing the contamination through means such as covering contaminated soil to prevent it from continuing to pose a risk, or treating the waste on site.

Site Inspection (SI): Typically following a preliminary assessment, air, water and soil at the site are tested to determine what hazardous substances are present, whether they are being released into the environment and whether they pose a threat to human health or the environment. These activities are collectively referred to as a “site inspection.” For more information on the SI phase, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/pasi.htm.

Smelter/Smelting facility: A factory that uses heating and melting to extract metal from its ore.

Superfund: A trust fund that was established under CERCLA to pay for investigation and cleanup of the nation’s worst hazardous waste sites when the responsible parties are not available or capable of performing the cleanup. Also see “Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act” above.

Superfund Alternative Approach Agreement: An agreement between the EPA and responsible parties whereby a site is investigated and cleaned up using the same standards as those used for sites listed on the NPL, but Superfund alternative sites are not listed on the NPL. These agreements can potentially save the time and resources associated with listing a site on the NPL, without sacrificing cleanup standards.

Time Critical Removal Action: A kind of cleanup that is done under CERCLA when there is a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance into the environment or a release or threatened risk of a pollutant or contaminant that may present an imminent and substantial danger to humans or the environment. Time critical removal actions are those removal actions where on-site activities must be initiated within six months of the determination.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC): A group of gassy chemicals in petroleum and solvents that may have short- and long-term adverse health effects.

Xylene: A component of petroleum products. People who breathe high levels may experience dizziness, confusion or a change in their sense of balance.