

Community Involvement Plan

November 2019 Update



Photo courtesy of City of Birmingham

35th Avenue Superfund Site

Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

One of the steps required under the **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act***, known as **CERCLA** or **Superfund**, is to prepare a **community involvement plan (CIP)**. In May 2013, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prepared the CIP to inform, engage and support the **Environmental Justice** communities in North Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama. EPA refers to the site as the 35th Avenue Superfund Site (the Site), which includes parts of the Collegeville, Fairmont, and Harriman Park neighborhoods.

The primary objective of EPA's **community outreach** effort is to promote meaningful communication between residents of the **community** and the Agency to achieve meaningful **community involvement**. Proactive community involvement is crucial to the success of any cleanup project. (**items in bold appear in the Glossary, Appendix E*).

Goals of EPA's community involvement efforts:

- Assist the public in understanding the decision-making process during project design and cleanup and the community's role in that process.
- Give the public accessible, accurate, timely and understandable information about the project as it moves forward.
- Ensure adequate time and opportunity for the community to provide informed and meaningful participation and for that input to be considered.
- Reflect community concerns, questions and information needs.
- Respect and fully consider public input throughout the process as the project moves forward.

This CIP was first updated in September 2014 to reflect additional activities and community involvement opportunities since the original publication in May 2013. This update reflects the status of site and community involvement activities to date. EPA used several information sources to develop the original CIP, including community interviews, research; discussions with residents, local community leaders, and local government officials; and information received at neighborhood association meetings and public meetings.

The CIP will continue to be revised as community concern warrants. The revision process could include conducting community conversations, updating mailing lists, auditing the files at the designated information repositories and updating the contacts and resources provided in the appendices of the CIP as necessary. In addition to the introduction, this CIP contains the following sections:

- **Section 2.0: Community Background** – This section provides demographic information for Birmingham, Alabama and more specifically the community supported in the 35th Avenue Site boundary; and describes the history of community involvement in the Site cleanup process.
- **Section 3.0: Community Concerns** – This section summarizes the community's issues and concerns as identified during discussions and meetings with local residents and community and government officials.
- **Section 4.0: Community Involvement Goals and Activities** – This section describes site-specific objectives developed in response to identified community concerns and the activities to be conducted to accomplish these objectives.
- **Section 5.0: Site Description** – This section provides an overview of the Site's history and operations, as well as site investigations and cleanup work conducted to date.

Several appendices outlined below are included with this CIP. These appendices provide additional and background information that are relevant to the Site. Some of the appendices provide a quick reference for Agency and community residents.

- **Appendix A: Contacts** – This appendix provides contact information for Site project personnel, elected officials, community groups and local media.
- **Appendix B: Community Resources** – This appendix lists the locations of the **information repositories, administrative record**, website and possible future meeting locations.
- **Appendix C: Environmental Justice** – This section discusses EPA’s environmental justice commitment.
- **Appendix D: What is Superfund** – This section discusses the Superfund program and how community members can actively participate in the cleanup process.
- **Appendix E: Glossary** – This appendix provides a glossary of terms frequently used. These terms are **bolded** throughout the CIP.

If you are interested in submitting comments or have questions or suggestions concerning the CIP, please contact:

Kyle Bryant

Community Involvement Coordinator

EPA Region 4

404-562-9073 or toll free at
877-718-3752, ext. 29073

EPA Site Trailer

Old Carver High School
3400 33rd Terrace North
Birmingham, AL 35207
205-326-8640

For more information on the 35th Avenue Superfund Site, visit EPA’s website at:
<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/35th-avenue>.

For more information on Superfund sites in Region 4, visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/region4/superfund/>

Community Engagement is Essential to the Success of Superfund Cleanups

Ongoing input and involvement by the community is essential to our efforts to provide effective **community engagement**. We have learned that its decision-making ability is enhanced by actively seeking input and information from the community. Community members need to be involved in all phases of the investigation and cleanup so that the **contamination** is addressed in a way that protects people and the environment – now and in the future.

Residents, business owners and local government officials may be able to provide valuable information about a hazardous site that can help us determine the best way to clean it up. Information can help determine the location of contamination, how people may be exposed to the contamination and perhaps sources of the contamination.

Local residents, clergy and city officials educated EPA about their community and told EPA about their concerns, which are explained in the Community Concerns section on Page 17.

The CIP is a working document that will evolve as the investigation and cleanup process continues and input is received from the community. It is intended to be flexible, adaptable and used as a guideline for our communication with the community.

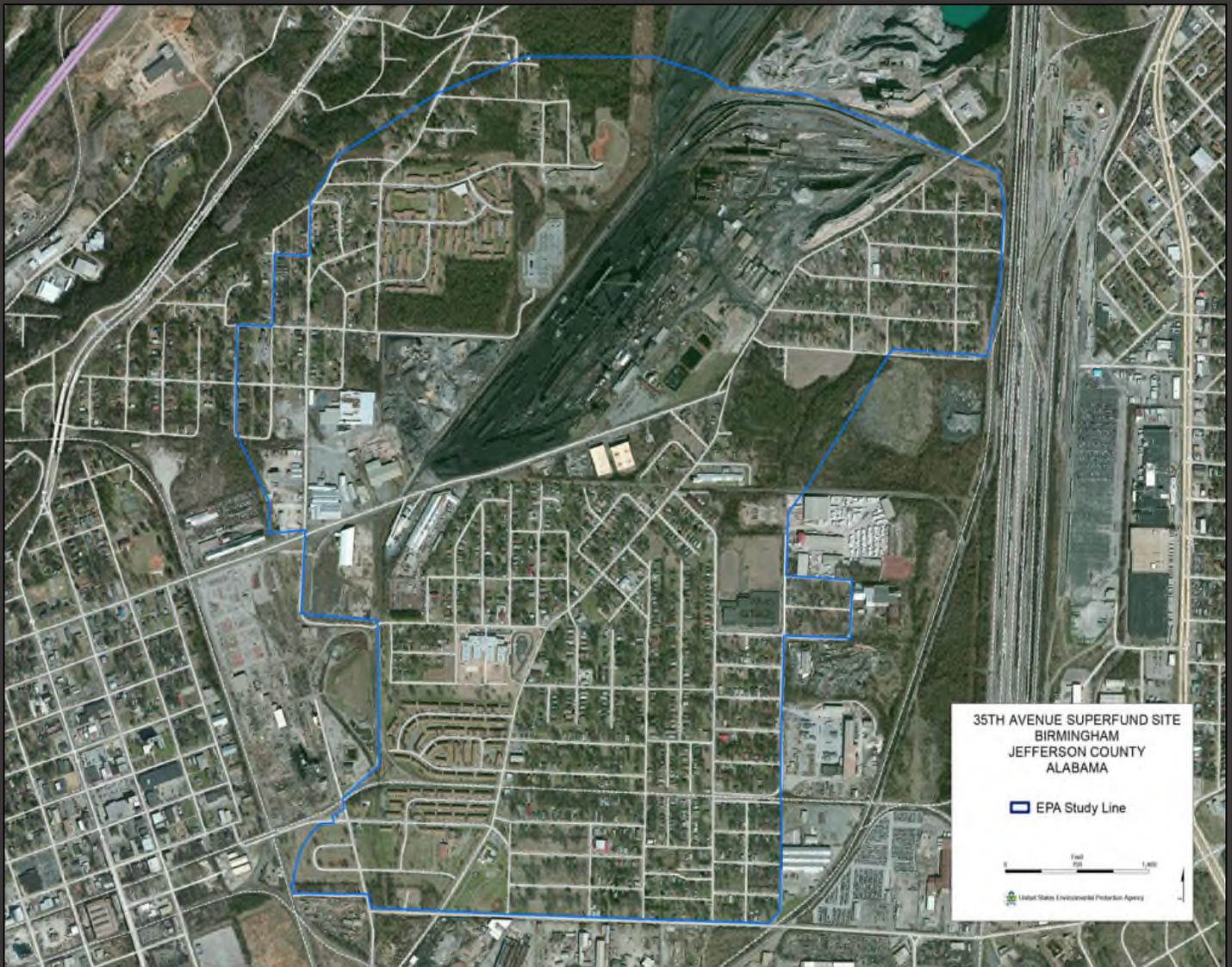


Figure 1 outlines the study area (in blue) for the 35th Avenue Superfund Site.

1.1 Brief Site Background

The Site is comprised of parts of the Collegeville, Fairmont and Harriman Park neighborhoods, Five-Mile Creek and Harriman Park Creek, located in North Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama. EPA developed the study area based on an air modeling study; and based on discussions with the community, the study area was expanded to the boundaries shown in Figure 1 above. Industrial facilities surround the communities that comprise the Site. More detailed information about the site and history of activities can be found in the Site Description section beginning on Page 23.

1.1.1 Contaminants of concern

At the 35th Avenue Site, **lead**, **arsenic**, and **benzo(a) pyrene** (part of the group of chemicals called **polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs**) are the main **contaminants** of concern.

Lead. Lead is a naturally occurring bluish-gray metal found in small amounts in the earth's crust. Lead can be found in all parts of our environment. Much of it comes from human activities including burning fossil fuels, mining, and manufacturing. Lead has many different uses. It is used in the production of batteries, ammunition, metal products (solder and pipes), and devices to shield X-rays. Because of health concerns, lead from paints and ceramic products, caulking, and pipe solder has been dramatically reduced in recent years. Lead-based paint was banned in the United States in 1978 and the use of lead as an additive to gasoline was banned in 1996. Exposure to lead can happen from breathing workplace air or dust, eating contaminated foods, or drinking contaminated water. Children can be exposed from eating lead-based paint chips or playing in contaminated soil. Lead can damage the nervous system, kidneys, and reproductive system. More information can be found on the following website:

www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts13.pdf.

Arsenic. An element of varying appearance that is found naturally in the environment. Arsenic has been used in the production of boric acid, pharmaceutical products and pesticides. It is a byproduct of copper, zinc and lead smelting. Exposures over a long period of time have caused birth defects and genetic damage in test animals. There is evidence that it can cause skin, lung, liver and bladder cancer in humans. More information can be found on the following website:

www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts2.pdf.

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons. PAHs are a group of chemicals that are formed during the incomplete burning of coal, oil, gas, wood, garbage, or other organic substances, such as tobacco and charbroiled meat. There are more than 100 different PAHs. Some PAHs are manufactured. PAHs are found in coal tar, crude oil, creosote, and roofing tar, but a few PAHs are used in medicines and to make dyes, plastics, and pesticides. They can occur in the air, either attached to dust particles or as solids in soil or sediment.

PAHs can be harmful to your health under some circumstances. Several of the PAHs, including benz[a]anthracene, benzo[a]pyrene, benzo[b]fluoranthene, benzo[j]fluoranthene, benzo[k]fluoranthene, chrysene, dibenz[a,h]anthracene, and indeno[1,2,3-c,d]pyrene, have caused tumors in laboratory animals when they breathed these substances in the air, when they ate them, or when they had long periods of skin contact with them. Studies of people show that individuals exposed by breathing or skin contact for long periods to mixtures that contain PAHs and other compounds can also develop cancer. More information can be found on the following website:

www.atsdr.cdc.gov/phs/phs.asp?id=120&tid=25.

Lead - ToxFAQs™

What is lead?

Lead is a naturally occurring metal found in small amounts in the earth's crust. Lead can be found in all parts of our environment, including air, water and soil. Lead can exist in many different chemical forms.



Lead is used in the production of batteries, ammunition, and metal products (solder and pipes). Because of health concerns, use of lead in paints, ceramic products, caulking, and pipe solder has been dramatically reduced. The use of lead as an additive to automobile gasoline was banned in 1996 in the United States.

What happens to lead in the environment?

- Lead is an element and, therefore, it does not break down.
- When lead is released to the air, it may be transported long distances before it deposits onto the ground.
- Once deposited, lead often adheres to soil particles.
- Lead in soil can be transported into groundwater, but the amount of lead that moves into groundwater will depend on the chemical form of lead and soil type.

How can I be exposed to lead?

- Eating food or drinking water that contains lead. Water pipes in some older homes may contain lead solder which can leach into the water.
- Spending time in areas where lead-based paints have been used and are deteriorating. Deteriorating lead paint can form lead dust which can be ingested.
- Spending time in areas where the soil is contaminated with lead.
- Working in a job where lead is used or participating in certain hobbies in which lead is used, such as making stained glass.
- Using health-care products or folk remedies that contain lead.

Lead can affect almost every organ and system in your body

How can lead affect my health?

The effects of lead are the same whether it enters the body through inhalation or ingestion. Lead can affect almost every organ and system in your body. The nervous system is the main target for lead toxicity in adults and children. Long-term exposure can result in decreased learning, memory, and attention and weakness in fingers, wrists, or ankles. Lead exposure can cause anemia and damage to kidneys. It can also cause increases in blood pressure, particularly in middle-aged and older individuals. Exposure to high lead levels can severely damage the brain and kidneys and can cause death. In pregnant women, exposure to high levels of lead may cause a miscarriage. High-level exposure in men can damage reproductive organs.

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
Division of Toxicology and Human Health Sciences



Lead Toxicology Frequently Asked Questions Profile provided by www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts13.pdf.

2.0 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

This section describes the composition of Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama and demographic information for the Collegeville, Fairmont and Harriman Park communities within the Site boundary. EPA considers this community an Environmental Justice community, which means it is a community that historically is an under-represented minority and low-income area burdened with significant environmental challenges. EPA's commitment to Environmental Justice is discussed in Appendix C of this CIP. The history of EPA's community involvement with the Site is also included in this section.

2.1 Birmingham Community Profile

Birmingham, founded in 1871 after the Civil War, is best known as the birthplace of the civil rights movement. In the 1950s and 1960s, Birmingham was embroiled in civil rights conflicts as it sought to avoid forced integration of public transportation and facilities

In 1815, John Jones and other pioneers established the village of Jonesboro; and in 1819, Jefferson County was formed. Abundant red rock in the area contained high-grade iron ore and by the Civil War two ore-reducing furnaces were operating. These operations were destroyed in 1865 and the development of the valley stopped until 1871 when Elyton Land Company founded and incorporated a city, Birmingham, at the junction of two major

railroads. Elyton Land realized the potential of the abundant iron ore, coal and limestone in the area. Coal and limestone are key ingredients in making steel.

With the railroads expanding, the population of Birmingham grew quickly, from 1,200 in 1871 to 4,000 people in 1873. However, a cholera epidemic and other setbacks in 1875 reduced the population of Birmingham to 1,200 people until 1880 when the Pratt mining operation began making coke. Two coke furnaces began operation in 1880; and by 1885, the population grew to 25,000 people. In 1900, the first commercial shipment of steel was dispatched and mills and other factories began producing finished steel products in Birmingham.

The new model town of Corey, planned by U.S. Steel, was developed and eight suburbs were incorporated into the city. Following World War I, Birmingham grew and new apartment buildings, hotels, homes and businesses were built.

In the 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan, a secrete white supremacist organization, gained considerable influence in the city. Harassment, floggings and violence toward African Americans were unofficially tolerated by local authorities.

When the Great Depression of the 1930s reduced demand for iron and steel products, Birmingham was devastated. President Hoover's administration said that Birmingham was "the hardest hit city in the nation." The federal government supported Birmingham's recovery by investing more than \$350 million in the area to stimulate the economy. The city began to recover, and by World War II, manufacturing plants were busy preparing for the war effort.

Through the end of the 1960s, Birmingham was a primary industrial center in the South, with iron and steel production as major industries. Rails and railroad cars were also manufactured in Birmingham. During the latter half of the twentieth century, Birmingham's economy diversified.

Manufacturing maintains a strong presence; however, banking, telecommunications, transportation, electrical power transmission, medical care, college education and insurance industries have become more prominent. Also, coal mining still ranks as a major industry in the area.



Photograph by Tim Carr, December 21, 2009.

Birmingham, especially the areas around the Collegeville, Fairmont and Harriman Park neighborhoods, is surrounded by industry. The ERP Coke facility (formerly Walter Coke), the largest in the area, is located at 3500 35th Avenue in North Birmingham and has been operating for about 90 years. ERP Coke manufactures foundry and furnace coke, as well as coke by-products using 122 coke ovens. A coke plant has been operating on the 400-acre property since 1919. Throughout Walter Coke's history, operations have included a chemical sulfonation plant from 1948 until its demolition in 2002, a blast furnace from 1958 to 1980 and a mineral wool plant from 1949 to 2010. Today, ERP Coke operates a biological treatment facility that began operations in 1973.



Industrial site photograph taken by unknown source.

Birmingham Government

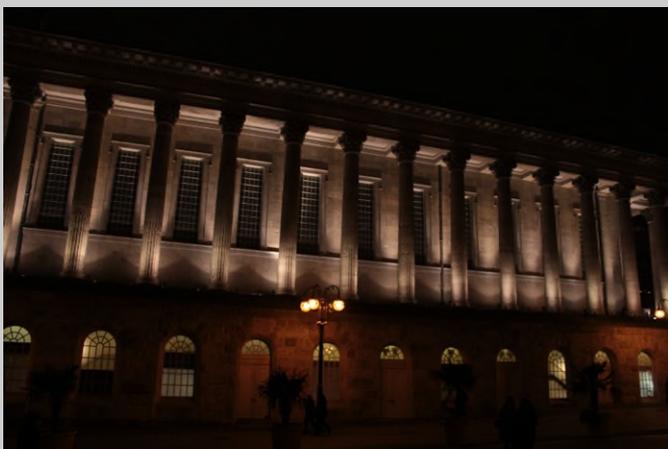
In 1974, a structured network of neighborhood associations and community advisory committees were established to ensure public participation in governmental issues affecting the neighborhoods. The 35th Avenue Superfund Site is located in North Birmingham, which includes parts of the Collegeville, Fairmont and Harriman Park neighborhoods.

In 1979, Richard Arrington, Jr., was the first African American elected as mayor of the city of Birmingham. He served until 1999.

Today, Birmingham is governed by a mayor-council form of government; there are nine elected district representatives (see Appendix A). The current mayor is Randall Woodfin who was sworn in as the 30th mayor of Birmingham on November 28, 2017.

By Alabama law, an issue before the city council must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote. The council has weekly meetings on Tuesdays. For more information on the Birmingham city council, visit its website at: <http://www.birminghamal.gov/citycouncil/>.

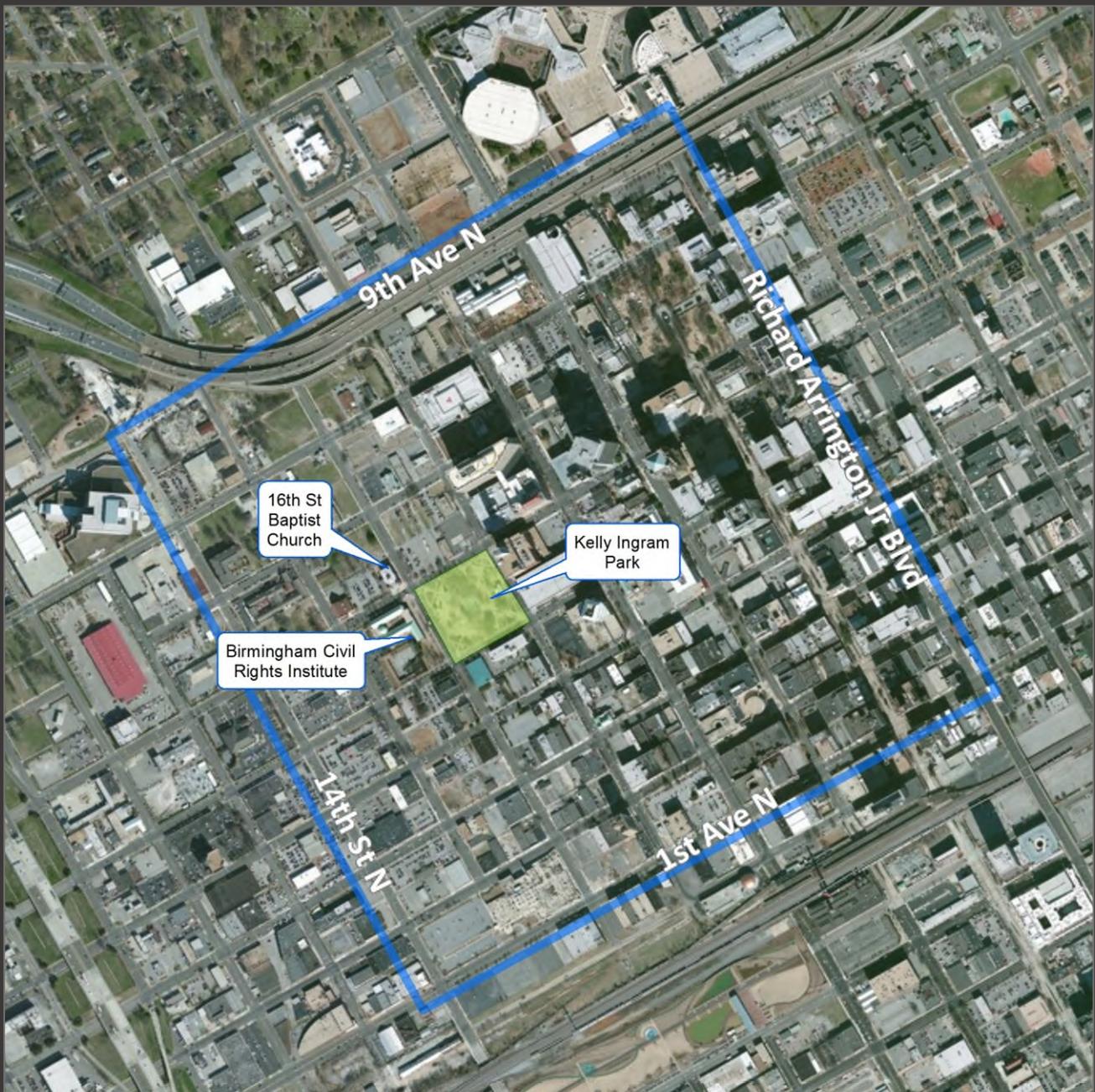
The current system replaced the previous city commission government in 1962. This change was made primarily as a way to remove Commissioner of Public Safety Eugene "Bull" Connor from power.



Birmingham – The Birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement

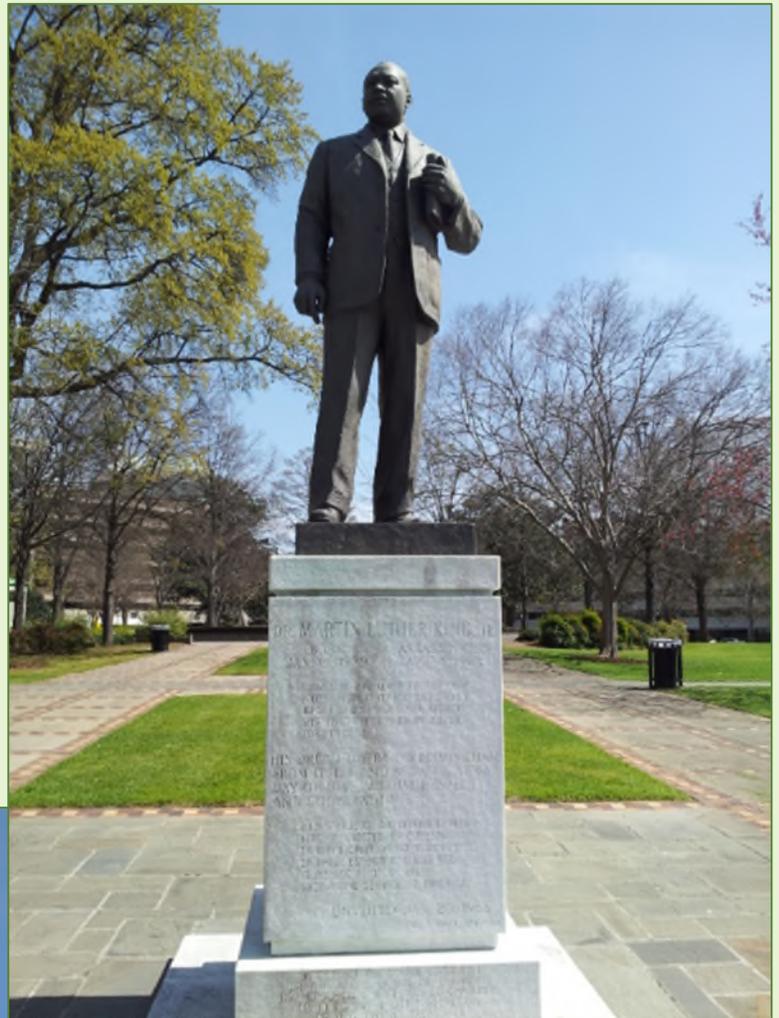
The Civil Rights District, created by the city's leadership in 1992, is an area in downtown Birmingham where several significant events in the American Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s took place. The district covers a six-block area, which is roughly bounded by 9th Avenue North, Richard Arrington Jr.

Bldv, 1st Avenue North and 14th Street North. Landmarks in the district include the 16th Street Baptist Church, Kelly Ingram Park, The Fourth Avenue Business District, Carver Theater, and the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.



This statue of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is located in Kelly Ingram Park. In 1963, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. began leading peaceful demonstrations in the city. African Americans who joined the demonstrations were arrested by the thousands. Also in 1963, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote "Letter From a Birmingham Jail." This letter was Rev. King's call to nonviolent activism that inspired people worldwide.

One of Birmingham's darkest chapters came to a close in 2002 when jurors delivered a guilty verdict in the case of the 1963 16th Street Baptist Church bombing that killed four African American girls and wounded more than 20 other Sunday church worshippers. On May 24, 2013, President Obama signed a bill that awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley, to commemorate the lives they lost in the bombing.



The four girls killed in the bombing (Clockwise from top left, Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson and Denise McNair).

Photo of girls from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/16th_Street_Baptist_Church_bombing



The Civil Rights Institute is a museum and research center that depicts the struggles of the American Civil Rights Movement. The Institute was created in 1992 and is devoted to civil rights activism on local, national and international levels. Visitors to the Civil Rights Institute can journey through the "living institution" which displays events of the past.

This plaque is at the entrance to Kelly Ingram Park, the site of many protests in the 1950s and 1960s. Many of these protests resulted in recrimination by Birmingham police, including famous 1963 scenes of policemen turning back young protestors with fire hoses and police dogs. News coverage of the riots and protests in this park brought awareness of the dark times to people outside of Birmingham.



This statue in Kelly Ingram Park depicts then police chief Eugene "Bull" Connor using attack dogs to disperse young protestors.



The Bethel Baptist Church in Collegeville played a key role in the civil rights movement. The Church was added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage on November 13, 1966. It is included in the National Register of Historic Places and was declared a National Historic Landmark on April 5, 2005.



On December 25, 1956, dynamite destroyed the church parsonage and nearly killed Reverend Shuttlesworth and his family. On June 28, 1958, a second bomb was found on the east side of the church (marker, left) but was moved to a vacant lot before exploding. The third bomb exploded on December 13, 1962 and rocked the basement of the church. A group of young people had just finished cleaning up the church for the annual Christmas program. (Photo above Birmingham News file photo.)



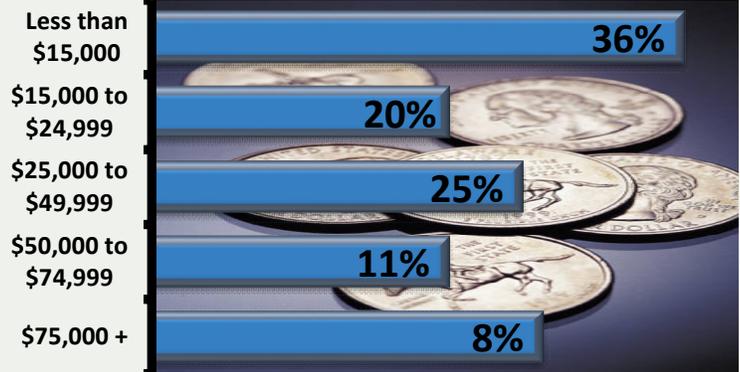
2.2 Demographics

Population, age distribution, economic status, and cultural heritage are key factors to consider when developing and implementing programs that serve the local community. These factors are discussed in this section.

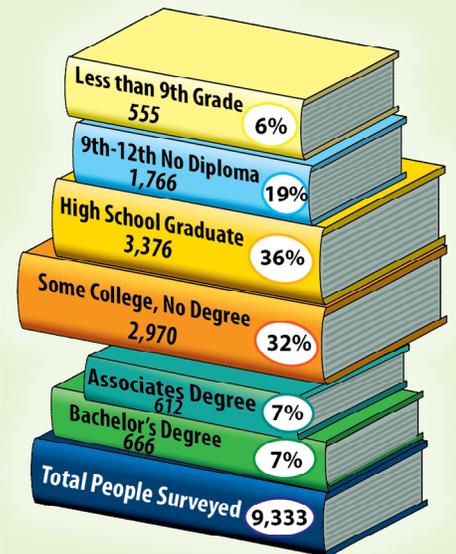
According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population within the Site study area is 14,606. The graphics below show the racial makeup and population for the Site study area.



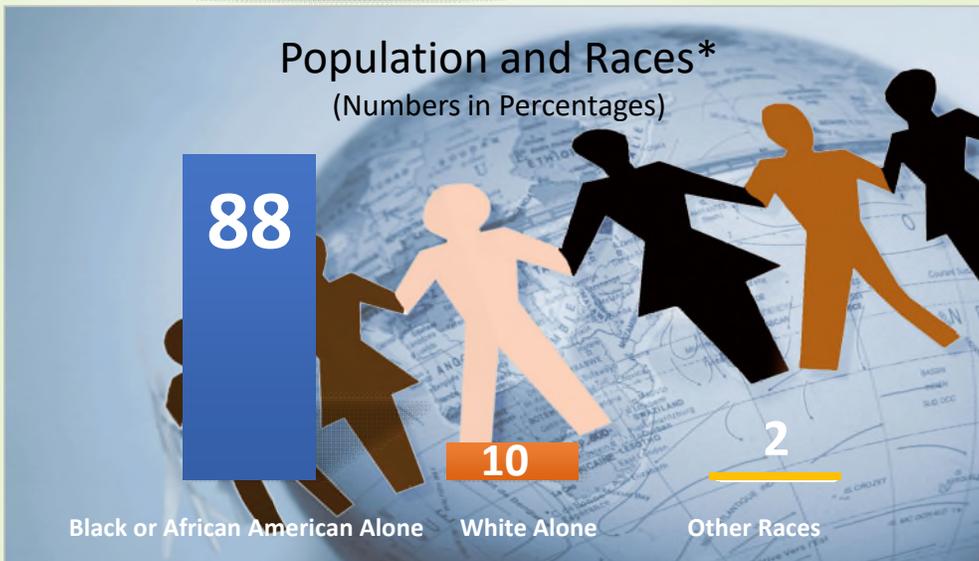
Household Income Levels



Education Levels for People Aged 25+ within the 35th Avenue Site Community



Population and Races* (Numbers in Percentages)



+Information was generated from EPA's EJSCREEN, which gets demographic information from American Community Survey (ACS) statistics. These statistics came from the 2011-2015 ACS. The ACS is conducted by the U. S. Census Bureau. These statistics came from the 2011-2015 ACS. The ACS is conducted by the U. S. Census Bureau.

2.3 Community Engagement

Successful community outreach depends on being available to the community and working with community members. Local residents, churches, community groups, neighborhood associations and the City government have been actively involved in Site-related issues and efforts to address Site contamination.

When the Superfund Division became involved in the Site, EPA immediately drafted a Community Outreach Plan of Action. The plan was written as a strategy to foster relationship-building among local elected officials, state and federal regulatory agencies, community leaders and concerned residents of the environmental justice community. Below are some of the activities EPA has conducted since the Superfund project began in 2012.

- Attended the three Neighborhood Associations' meetings to tell residents about the access agreement process and upcoming sampling efforts.
- Mailed out over 2,000 informational letters to residents requesting access for sampling.
- Hosted public meetings and information sessions to provide updates on site activities.
- Developed web site to host site information to keep the community updated on activities.
- Opened Community Outreach office; initial location was downtown Birmingham but is currently located at the Old Carver High School.
- Established a local Community Outreach phone number: 205-326-8760.
- Conducted several outreach efforts including working with City of Birmingham and Hands-On Birmingham and conducted multiple community outreach and door-to-door events to get more signed access agreements.
- Prepared and mailed several fact sheets to provide updates on site activities.
- EPA assisted and supported the community in organizing a community coalition, which is explained in more detail in Section 2.5.

As the cleanup activities have become more routine, EPA continues to work with individual residents concerning the cleanup of their properties and attends neighborhood association meetings or meets with community leaders as requested.



Superfund Division Director Franklin Hill listens to concerns from a community member.

ATTENTION!!!

**THE EPA NEEDS
TO SAMPLE YOUR YARDS.
HELP US TO HELP YOU!**

**CONTACT THE EPA OUTREACH OFFICE FOR MORE INFO AT:
205-326-8640**

During the access agreement push, EPA put signs out in the community to encourage property owners to give access to sample their properties.

Successful community outreach depends on being available to the community and working with community members.

EPA explains the access agreement process at a Collegeville Neighborhood Association meeting.



Community members ask questions and voice their concerns about the Site at an informational meeting.



EPA meets with resident to discuss cleaning up her property.

Council President Maxine Herring Parker Bridge

The Council President Maxine Herring Parker Bridge is a vehicular and pedestrian bridge connecting Finley Boulevard to Fred L. Shuttlesworth Drive in the Collegeville neighborhood. Before the bridge was constructed, Finley Avenue terminated U. S. Highway 31 at 27th Street North.

Construction of the 3-lane, 1000-foot bridge over two sets of Southern Railway tracks ended the problem of Collegeville being completely cut off from the rest of the city by at-grade railroad crossings. Though relief had been promised since the late 1960s, no concrete progress was made for decades. Environmental impact studies of various alternate proposals for a Finley Avenue extension were published in the early 1980s, but it wasn't until 2000, when an elderly couple died in a house fire while a fire truck waited for a train to pass, that

community leaders took on the challenge themselves.

Neighborhood president and later Birmingham City Council member and president Maxine Herring Parker championed the project, urging the city to fund a design and engineering study and to pass a council resolution in support of the proposal. When federal stimulus funds for road and bridge projects became available during the Great Recession, she lobbied U.S. Representative Arthur Davis in April 2009 to bring the proposal forward. Davis secured a \$10 million commitment of stimulus funds. The project was dedicated in memory of Councilor Maxine Parker following her death in December 2013. Her son, William Parker, was appointed to fill her seat on the council and is completed.



Construction of the bridge began in 2015.



The completed bridge was dedicated on June 13, 2017.



A Champion for the Community

Council President Maxine Herring Parker, a champion for the people in her community passed away on November 12, 2013. Her spirit, her dedication to Environmental Justice and hard work on behalf of the residents of North Birmingham is missed, but her legacy lives on.

EPA site staff have given several tours to interested parties including the EPA Regional Administrator, Congresswoman Sewell and an Indonesian Delegation, for example. EPA has also given workshops to students at the Hudson K-8 Elementary School.

EPA has a very robust Children's Environmental Health (CEH) Program. As such, EPA has participated in Environmental Education Summer Camps at Hudson K-8 Elementary. CIC Bryant demonstrating decontamination basics activity for youth.



EPA Region 4 hosted a delegation from the Ministry of Forestry and the Environment (MOFE) of the Republic of Indonesia. In attendance were three section chiefs from their hazardous materials program. The objective of this visit was to continue on-going support to the Republic of Indonesia in support of their mission to advance environmental protection regulations and activities.

Councilor William Parker greets the Indonesian delegation as they are briefed about the Site tour.

Superfund Division Director Franklin Hill addresses the media during the Site tour hosted by Congresswoman Terri Sewell. Mayor Woodfin, other City officials and School Board Representatives attended the tour and gained a better understanding of Superfund's role in the project and the status of cleanup activities.



OSC Rick Jardine explains the residential soils removal process to the Indonesian delegation.

2.4 Organizing a Community Coalition

Northern Birmingham Community Coalition

The communities of north Birmingham face many economic, environmental and social challenges. In an effort to bring together residents, community representatives and government agencies to address issues of environmental cleanup, enforcement and community investment EPA Region 4 sponsored the formation of a Community Coalition to plan for the future of the communities of north Birmingham (including the North Birmingham, Fairmont, Collegeville and Harriman Park neighborhoods). Meetings were held to gauge interest in the formation of a community coalition to empower the residents to develop an action plan. As a result of these meetings and the interest of the community, the Northern Birmingham Community Coalition (NBCC) was formed in 2013. The NBCC, collectively, disbanded in August 2016. The membership continued to work for the betterment of the community through Home Owner Associations and different organizations. Prior to disbanding, below are a few highlights of the Coalition's work in the North Birmingham communities:

- Partnered with Habitat for Humanity to **repair five Northern Birmingham homes** (2014).
- Partnered with the Greater Birmingham Regional Planning Commission and the City of Birmingham to **produce the *Northern Birmingham Community Framework Plan*** (2014-2015).
- Partnered with the Greater Birmingham Regional Planning Commission and the Georgia Institute of Technology to **produce the *North Birmingham Health Impact Assessment*** (2015).
- Partnered with Greater Birmingham Alliance to Stop Pollution (GASP) to **provide comments on two Title V Permits** to Jefferson County Department of Health for the ABC Coke and Walter Coke plants.
- Partnered with University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) to **document health disparities in Northern Birmingham** (2016).
- Partnered with Lawson State and EPA to **operate an environmental job training program** for residents living in areas impacted by contaminated lands (2016).
- Presented their Community Action Plan to area stakeholders at a Public Meeting in May 2016.

3.0 COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Based on community interviews and hundreds of conversations with local community members, city officials, community interest groups, and information received at public meetings and neighborhood association meetings, the main Site-related concerns expressed by community members include:

- “Checkerboard Effect”
- Health Concerns
- Recontamination
- National Priorities List

Checkerboard Effect

As EPA meets with property owners to discuss the cleanup activities, we are asked over and over “Why is only my front yard contaminated and not my back?” or “Why is my neighbor’s yard contaminated and mine isn’t?”

Though early in the process, it was believed that the contamination was caused from air deposition, EPA has found that the contamination on properties is attributable to “fill” that people used in their yards decades ago.

North Birmingham has historically been an industrial area. Many of the first residences built in this area were designed for factory workers and their families. Since this Site area was prone to occasional flooding from the Five-Mile Creek, it was common for local property owners to get free fill material from any one of the many foundries and industries operating in the area. The contaminants in the fill materials would vary according to which industrial source they came from and what process created them on a given day. The fill material was, generally, used in low-lying areas to level the ground. That is the most logical explanation as to how one property was contaminated but an adjacent property was not. This also explains how one yard could be “clean” in the front and contaminated in the back. It all depended on the type of fill material used and when it was obtained. That is how the term “checkerboard effect” was derived. This practice was commonplace, and it even pre-dated the origin of the EPA or any other environmental regulatory authority. There was limited knowledge at that time that these fill materials may have contained contaminants that were potentially hazardous to human health or the environment.



The “checkerboard” effect. The photo shows one of the first properties that was cleaned up. It is an example of where the back half of the lot was contaminated above EPA levels of concern while front half was not.

Health Concerns

Community members have expressed concern about the health problems in the community that they believe might have been caused by the site. Others have said that family members have died from cancer and asked if exposure to the lead is the cause of the health issues.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) – a Sister Agency to the EPA, completed a Health Consultation Study of the 35th Avenue Site and published it in 2017. The Study can be found at https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/pha/35thAvenueSite/35th_Ave_Site_Soil_HC_Final_01-18-2017_508.pdf or contact the ATSDR at 1-800-232-4636.

Recontamination

Residents also asked about the possibility of their property being re-contaminated.

Properties are not using fill dirt anymore. Environmental laws have improved over the decades and regulations are now in place that prohibit people from using untested fill material from industrial sources. EPA periodically tests the soil to determine if the contaminants are migrating. Results show contaminants are not leaching and re-contaminating properties.

After cleanup, confirmation sampling ensures all necessary contamination has been addressed and that property owners can resume full, unrestricted use of their properties. No long-term monitoring is required.



The soil is checked after digging up the contamination.

National Priorities List

Community members and local government officials have expressed that this Site should be placed on the NPL and others have wanted to know why it hasn't been and if it should be.

The NPL is a list of serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for investigation and possible long-term cleanup under Superfund. The list serves as an information and management tool for the Superfund cleanup process as required under the Superfund law. The NPL is intended primarily to guide EPA in determining which sites warrant further investigation to assess the nature and extent of public health and environmental risks associated with a site. EPA is required by law to update the NPL at least once a year (EPA is currently updating the NPL two times a year). Placing a site on the NPL does not assign liability to any party or to the owner of any specific property; nor does it mean that any cleanup action will necessarily be taken.

The NPL listing allows the EPA to access additional public funding to clean up a site if the EPA cannot find a viable responsible party to pay for the work. This is in addition to the money that the EPA is spending on the removal actions. Listing a site on the NPL signals the start of the long-term Superfund investigation and cleanup process at a site, known as the **Remedial Process**. A site remains on the NPL until all cleanup is completed and cleanup goals have been achieved. A site can be deleted from the NPL after all cleanup goals are met.

EPA believes that the removal program is currently the best program to continue cleanup of properties at the 35th Avenue Site. Listing the site on the NPL and making it a remedial cleanup may take longer to complete with no guarantee of listing because the NPL listing process is competitive.

4.0 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM GOALS AND ACTIVITIES

When establishing the objectives for a site-specific community involvement program, several

factors are considered, including federal requirements that assess the nature and extent of known or perceived site contaminants and known community concerns and requests.

To be effective, the community involvement program must be designed to meet the community's need to know, give information in a timely manner and accommodate the community's interests and its willingness to participate in decision-making processes. Information must be provided in language the public can understand.

To meet the needs of the community; to respond to information obtained during discussions with residents and information gathered at various meetings since January 2012; and to meet federal requirements; the following objectives have been established for community involvement efforts:

- ***Enlist the support and involvement of local officials and community leaders.***
- ***Regularly monitor community interest in the Site and respond accordingly.***
- ***Keep the community well informed of ongoing and planned Site activities using a variety of communication tools.***
- ***Provide follow-up explanations about technical Site activities and findings in plain language.***
- ***Provide opportunities for public input on key decisions.***

EPA has implemented, or will implement, the activities described below to meaningfully and actively engage the community in decisions regarding the cleanup of the Site. These activities are intended to provide opportunities for communication between the community and EPA and address key concerns and questions raised.

Community involvement is the process of engaging in dialogue and collaboration with community members. The goal of community involvement is to advocate and strengthen early and meaningful community participation during cleanups.

Maintain Point of Contact. EPA has designated points of contact for the project (see Appendix A). Contact information will be updated as necessary and will be provided on all written and electronic information. The community will be notified of any contact information changes.

Establish a Toll-Free Number for Residents to Ask Questions and Receive Information.

Residents can call 877-718-3752 as questions or concerns arise, rather than waiting for a public meeting or to receive written information. EPA also established a local hotline number that community members can call at any time. The Outreach Office local number is 205-326-8640. EPA publishes these phone numbers periodically in local newspaper advertisements and includes them on the EPA website, in all fact sheets and other EPA communications with the public.

Maintain Communication with Local Officials, Agencies and Community Residents.

EPA attends neighborhood association meetings and provides updates on Site activities as requested, as well as answers questions from residents. An Outreach Office was opened in October 2012 to give residents and other community members a place to come to ask questions and get updates (see Appendix B for location and hours). The Outreach Office is currently located in the EPA Trailer at the Old Carver High School site. EPA meets with local officials from the City of Birmingham and will continue to maintain communication with them throughout the Superfund cleanup process.

Provide Informational Packets with Sampling Results. After validated sampling results are received, EPA provides copies of the sampling results with a letter explaining the results, a Frequently Asked Questions fact sheet, and a "Ways to protect your health" flyer to the property owner and tenant.

Update and Maintain the Site Mailing List. A mailing list of local residents, organizations, businesses and officials has been established for the Site. This list is used for mailing fact sheets, site updates, invitations to public meetings and events and other site-related information to the community. The list will be updated regularly to reflect address changes, changes in elected officials, and to add new people interested in Site activities.

The Site mailing list is used to ensure that those that do not have access to the Internet or other information sources still have a way to receive Site information (via the U.S. Postal Service) and be notified about important meetings. If a community member is interested in being placed on the mailing list they can contact the current CIC, Kyle Bryant (see Appendix A for contact information).

EPA will continue to use the local neighborhood associations and churches to distribute information to residents as these have been successful ways of communicating information

Prepare and Distribute Fact Sheets, Newsletters and Site Updates. Fact sheets, newsletters, and Site updates summarizing current information about the Site and describing upcoming activities may be prepared and distributed to those on the Site mailing and email lists. These documents are written in non-technical language and are typically prepared to coincide with important Site activities.

EPA uses these types of documents 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 email or mailing lists, fact sheets and Site updates are also placed in the information repository.

Establish and Maintain a Site-Specific Information Repository. EPA has set up local information repositories at the Harriman Park Recreation Center located at 4347 F.L. Shuttlesworth Drive, Birmingham and at the North Birmingham Public Library located at 2501 31st Avenue North, Birmingham. Documents include fact sheets, technical reports, the CIP, general Superfund information, and other

documents. New documents about the Site will be added as they become available. Information repositories provide residents with local access to Site information in forms that can be easily read and photocopied for future use.

Establish and Maintain the Administrative Record. Copies of the Administrative Record for the Site can be found at Harriman Park Recreation Center located at 4347 F.L. Shuttlesworth Drive, Birmingham and at the North Birmingham Public Library located at 2501 31st Avenue North, Birmingham. EPA will update the Administrative Record as necessary. The Administrative Record provides residents with all documents EPA uses and considers to make decisions about the Superfund Site cleanup.

Conduct Public Meetings and Information Sessions. Public meetings and information sessions are typically held to communicate information and to solicit questions and input from the community. The purpose of the meeting or session should dictate the forum and frequency. The achievement of certain project milestones or discovery of new information may warrant a more formal public meeting with presentations of technical information by EPA personnel. During ongoing Site work, less formal information sessions may be needed to keep the community informed of Site progress, answer resident questions about ongoing work, and obtain information about the resident perceptions and concerns. EPA will also attend monthly neighborhood association meetings in Collegeville, Fairmont and Harriman Park to update and inform community members of site activities when requested.

Develop and Distribute News Releases and Public Notices. EPA will prepare and release announcements to local newspapers and television media such as the *The Birmingham Times* to provide information about events such as opportunities for public input, significant Site investigation findings, completion of major milestones, important scheduling information, and other pertinent Site-related information.

News releases allow EPA to reach large audiences quickly. News releases and public notices are typically published to announce major events such as comment periods, public meetings, and major milestones such as the selection of a cleanup plan. Copies of the news releases and public notices will also be available in the Information Repository and on the EPA website.

Evaluate Community Involvement and Outreach Efforts and Make Adjustments as Necessary.

This CIP was designed to consider Site- and community-specific factors as well as to comply with federal requirements. Community concerns, the objectives of the community involvement program for the Site, and specific activities to address these concerns in this CIP were based to a large extent on information obtained during discussions and meetings with local residents and officials. EPA recognizes that changes in areas such as community perceptions, information needs, and population demographics can occur over time and that such changes may necessitate a revised approach to conducting community involvement activities. For this reason, as well as to determine whether the activities described in this CIP are achieving their intended objectives, periodic reviews will be done to determine whether additional activities are warranted or whether changes to current methods of implementing the activities outlined in this CIP are necessary.

Site Specific Website and Social Media Connections.

EPA has developed an internet website that provides community members with on-demand access to information (i.e., 7 days a week and 24 hours a day). The website has been established at <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/35th-avenue>. The website includes address and contact information for EPA local and regional office and staff, background information on the Site, notice of all public meetings/availability sessions with dates, location, time and topics, archives of EPA press releases, technical reports and updated schedules of EPA activities and progress. The website also provides a "contact us" email link where messages are sent directly to the site CIC and OSC. In order for the website to be an effective tool for informing the community of EPA activities, the site content must be reliable, informative, easy to find, and up to date. EPA will notify the web developer of necessary updates, and efforts.

Table 4.1 on the next page provides a list of community involvement activities and the

status of the activities from the EPA community action plan. Where appropriate, comments or other information is provided for each of the activities.

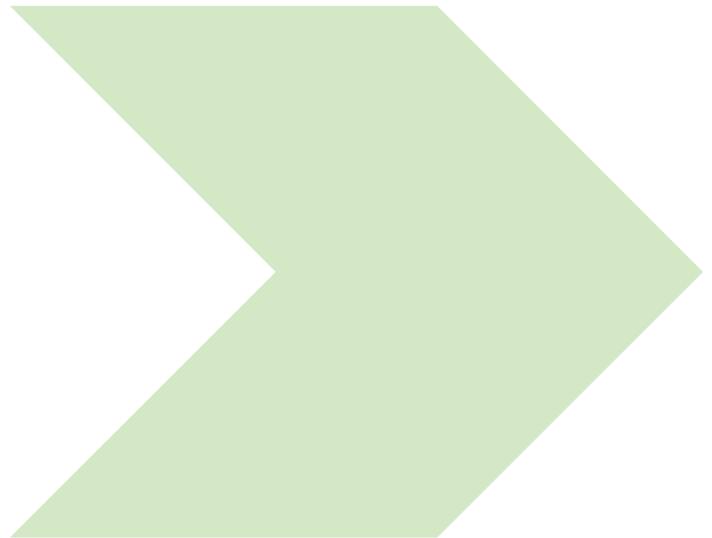


Table 4.1 Status Summary for Community Involvement Activities

Community Involvement Activities	Status	Notes
Establish and Maintain Point of Contact	Completed; update as needed	Kyle Bryant Community Involvement Coordinator EPA Region 4 404-562-9073 or toll free at 877-718-3752, ext. 29073 Bryant.Kyle@epa.gov
Establish a Toll-Free Number for Residents to Ask Questions and Receive Information	Completed; publish on written materials	877-718-3752
Outreach Office Hotline	Completed; publish on written materials	205-326-8640
Maintain Communication with Local Officials, Agencies, and Community Residents	Ongoing as needed	EPA will attend neighborhood association meetings and other community meetings as requested
Provide Informational Packets with Sampling Results	Ongoing	
Update and Maintain Site Mailing	Completed; update as needed	
Prepare and Distribute Fact Sheets, Newsletters, and Site Updates	Ongoing as needed	
Establish and Maintain a Site-Specific Information Repository	Completed; update as needed	See Appendix B for locations
Establish and Maintain the Administrative Record	Completed; update as needed	See Appendix B for location
Provide Site and Superfund information on the Internet	Completed; update as needed	https://www.epa.gov/superfund/35th-avenue . www.epa.gov/region4/superfund
Conduct Public Meetings and Information Sessions	Ongoing as needed	
Develop and Distribute News Releases	Ongoing as needed	
Evaluate Community Involvement and Outreach Efforts and Make Adjustments to the CIP as Necessary	Periodically throughout the cleanup process (at least every three years)	

5.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

This section provides the location, description and background of the 35th Avenue Superfund site and summarizes the investigation and cleanup activities conducted to date at the Site.

5.1 Site Location and Description

The Site is comprised of parts of the Collegeville, Fairmont and Harriman Park neighborhoods, Five-Mile Creek and Harriman Park Creek, located in North Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama (see Figure 1 on Page 3). Industrial facilities surround the communities that comprise the Site. The ERP Coke facility (formerly Walter Coke), located at 3500 35th Avenue N, Birmingham, is situated at the center of the neighborhoods that make up the Site. To the south of the ERP Coke facility is the Collegeville Neighborhood; to the east is the Harriman Park Neighborhood; and to the west is the Fairmont Neighborhood. Five-Mile Creek runs along the northern edge of the ERP Coke property and receives runoff from the facility. In addition, Harriman Park Creek runs through Harriman Park and receives runoff from the former chemical plant area of the ERP Coke facility. There are or have been other coke manufacturing facilities, foundries, chemical plants, and other industrial facilities in the area that also may be responsible for releases of hazardous substance that are impacting residential properties.

5.2 Site Background

In a report dated March 17, 2011, the Superfund Scientific Support Section determined that a time-critical removal action was warranted to address potential human health risks in the communities within the Site. Elevated levels of benzo(a)pyrene (BaP), lead, and arsenic are present at the Site. BaP and arsenic are classified as carcinogens.

It appears fill material potentially containing elevated levels of BaP, lead, or arsenic from nearby facilities was brought onto residential properties for property development and to mitigate against flooding. Analytical results of some of the fill material used were found to exceed EPA's residential Removal Management Levels (RMLs). RMLs are levels of concern or values used by EPA to help determine if any future removal actions may be needed. A determination that a sample result is higher than a RML by itself does not imply that an adverse health effects will occur.

RCRA referred the Site data to Superfund for consideration under the Removal Program. Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) is knowledgeable about the Site and is aware of the on-going enforcement efforts.



Photo taken from the Harriman Park Recreation Center showing the ERP Coke facility (in the background on the left).



5.3 Site Investigations and Cleanup Activities

RCRA Activities

Under an agreement between EPA and Walter Coke, Walter Coke sampled several residential properties and schools in the summer of 2009 and again in 2010. Based on the sampling results, 52,000 cubic feet of contaminated soil were removed and replaced with clean soil at the Hudson K-8 School on June 8, 2011.

Superfund Activities

To date, over 1,940 residential properties have been sampled. Currently there are about 2,000 residential properties in the Site study area (see Figure 1 on Page 3). Once EPA receives the analytical results from the sampling, informational packets including sampling results are sent to property owners and tenants.

EPA's goal is to sample all properties in the sampling area. Numerous attempts to obtain access for 501 vacant residential properties were unsuccessful. EPA prepared a list of these properties and submitted it to the court to obtain judicial access to sample these properties. EPA met with community leaders for their input on which properties should be prioritized for judicial access. With their input, EPA submitted a list of 98 properties and on October 21, 2016 received judicial access to sample. A second list was presented to the court for an additional 403 properties and judicial access was granted on February 20, 2018. EPA has sampled all of the residential properties with judicially-authorized access and sampling results indicate that approximately 135 properties have contamination above EPA's residential RMLs. Below is a table with the updated metrics for the Site.

Properties in Sampling Area	1,994
Properties Sampled	1,940
Properties Above RMLs	600+
Properties Cleaned as of June 30, 2019	442

Residents are encouraged to contact EPA if they have questions about the results. Overall, approximately 600 properties contain concentrations of various contaminants higher than EPA's RMLs.

EPA used a priority-phased approach to address properties for cleanup. The first phase of properties included approximately 52 properties that had the highest concentrations of contamination. The second phase included a total of 31 properties where children live, schools, and apartments. Phase 3 included about 35 properties where concentrations for arsenic or BaP exceeded two times the residential RML. The remaining properties are all included in Phase 4. The priority-phased approach continues. If additional sampling results show a property meets phase 1 or phase 2 requirements, the cleanup of these properties are moved to high priority.

EPA continues to meet with residents whose property is planned for cleanup in the near future. EPA informs residents where excavation areas are, how the property will be restored, and answer questions. Excavated contaminated soil is sent to the staging area where it is sampled for landfill disposal purposes and then sent to an approved landfill.

Contaminated material removed during cleanup activities is brought to the old Carver High School, where it is stockpiled on the property for further sampling, before final disposal at an approved landfill. The stockpiled material is kept covered until it is taken away to the Jefferson County Landfill #1 in Gardendale, Alabama, which is about a 20-minute drive from Collegeville. EPA continues to haul away the contaminated soil on a weekly basis, as needed. The weekly schedule is to minimize the amount of contaminated soil stored at the old Carver High School.

For technical information, visit https://response.epa.gov/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=6845.

Enforcement Activities

EPA issued notices of potential liability to the following:

- Alabama Gas Corporation (Alagasco)
- Drummond Company, Inc. (Drummond/ABC Coke)
- Process Knowledge Corporation (KMAC Services)
- U.S. Pipe & Foundry, LLC (Mueller Water Prods.)
- Walter Coke, Inc.

Enforcement and civil investigation efforts are ongoing.

Appendices

- A Contacts
- B Community Resources
- C Environmental Justice
- D What is Superfund
- E Glossary

The following is a listing of the contact information for the 35th Avenue Superfund Site. The information is current as of July 2019.

U.S. EPA Region 4 Project Contacts	
<p>Region 4 Headquarters EPA Region 4 Superfund Division 61 Forsyth Street, SW Atlanta, GA 30303-8960</p>	<p>EPA Outreach and Field Office 3400 33rd Terrace N Birmingham, AL 35207 205-326-8640</p>
<p>Community Involvement Coordinator Kyle Bryant 404-562-9073 877-718-3752 bryant.kyle@epa.gov</p>	<p>On-Scene Coordinators Subash Patel 404-562-9217 patel.subash@epa.gov</p> <p>Jason Booth 404-562-9058 booth.jason@epa.gov</p>
Alabama Department of Environmental Management	
<p>Birmingham Field Office 110 Vulcan Road Birmingham, AL 35209 205-942-6168 www.adem.state.al.us/default.cnt</p>	
Federal Elected Officials	
<p>Senator Doug Jones 1800 5th Avenue North 341 Vance Federal Building Birmingham, AL 35203 -2171 205-731-1500</p> <p>330 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 P: (202) 224-4124 https://www.jones.senate.gov</p>	<p>Senator Richard Shelby 1800 5th Avenue North 321 Federal Building Birmingham, AL 35203 205-731-1384</p> <p>304 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 202-224-5744 https://www.shelby.senate.gov</p>
<p>Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell Two 20th Street North, Suite 1130 Birmingham, AL 35203 205-254-1960</p> <p>2201 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515 202-225-2665 https://sewell.house.gov/</p>	

State Elected Officials

Governor Kay Ivey

Office of the Governor
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130
334-242-7100
<https://governor.alabama.gov/>

State Senator Linda Coleman-Madison

District 20
926 Chinchona Drive
Birmingham, Alabama 35214
205-798-1045

Capitol Address

11 South Union Street, Suite 737
Montgomery, Alabama 36130
334-261-0864
Linda.Coleman-Madison@birminghamal.gov

State Representative Mary Moore

District 59
1622 36th Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35207
205-322-0254

Capitol Address

11 South Union Street, Suite 539 D
Montgomery, AL 36130
334-261-0508
mamoor48@bellsouth.net

Local Officials

Jefferson County Department of Health

1400 6th Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35233
205-933-9110
<https://.jcdh.org/>

City of Birmingham

710 20th Street North
Birmingham, AL 35203
205-254-2283

www.informationbirmingham.com/

Randall Woodfin

Mayor

<https://www.birminghamal.gov/about/mayors-office/>

Council Members

205-254-2294

www.birminghamalcitycouncil.org

Clinton P. Woods, District 1

205-254-2349

clinton.woods@birminghamal.gov

Hunter Williams, District 2

205-254-2038

hunter.williams@birminghamal.gov

Valerie Abbott, District 3

205-254-2355

valerie.abbott@birminghamal.gov

William Parker, District 4

(Councilor for neighborhoods impacted by EPA activities)

205-254-2464

william.parker@birminghamal.gov

Darrell O'Quinn, District 5

205-254-2679

darrell.oquinn@birminghamal.gov

Crystal Smitherman, District 6

205-254-2358

crystal.smitherman@birminghamal.gov

Wardine Alexander, District 7

205-254-2498

wardine.alexander@birminghamal.gov

Steven Hoyt, District 8

205-254-2304

steven.hoyt@birminghamal.gov

John Hilliard, District 9

205-254-2302

john.hilliard@birminghamal.gov

Neighborhood Associations

Collegeville Neighborhood Association

Meeting Dates and Location:

First Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
Greater Antioch Baptist Church
3309 33rd Street N

President: Vivian Starks

205-841-6502

Harriman Park Neighborhood Association

Meeting Dates and Location:

Fourth Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.
Harriman Park Recreational Center
4345 F.L. Shuttlesworth Drive

President: Willa M. Cole

205-841-7578

Fairmont Neighborhood Association

Meeting Dates and Location:

First Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.
Northside Church of God
2873 41st Avenue North

President: Ronald Mitchell

205-478-6575

North Birmingham Neighborhood Association

Meeting Dates and Location:

Second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.
North Birmingham Library
2501 31st Avenue North

President: Sandra Brown

205-251-1840

Housing Authority of the Birmingham District

Central Office

1826 3rd Avenue South

Birmingham, Alabama 35255

205-324-0641

Newspapers	
<p><i>The Birmingham Times</i> 115 3rd W Avenue Birmingham, AL 35204 205-251-5158 www.birminghamtimesonline.com</p>	
Television Stations	
<p>CBS-42, CBS affiliate, Channel 42 2075 Golden Crest Drive Birmingham, AL 205-322-4200 https://www.cbs42.com/</p>	<p>WBRC-TV, Fox affiliate, Channel 6 1720 Valley View Drive Birmingham, AL 35201 205-322-6666 https://www.wbrc.com/</p>
<p>WVTM-TV, NBC affiliate, Channel 13 1732 Valley View Drive Birmingham, AL 35209 205-933-1313 https://www.wvtm13.com/</p>	<p>ABC 33/40, ABC affiliate, Channel 40 PO Box 360039 Birmingham, AL 35236 205-403-3340 https://abc3340.com/</p>
Radio Stations	
<p>WAGG 610 AM CMG Birmingham 2700 Corporate Drive, Suite 115 Birmingham, AL 35252 205-322-2987 https://www.610wagg.com//</p>	<p>WBHJ 95.7 FM CMG Birmingham 2700 Corporate Drive, Suite 115 Birmingham, AL 35252 205-322-2987 https://www.957jamz.com/</p>
<p>WATV 900 AM 3025 Ensley Avenue 205-780-2014 https://myv949.com</p>	<p>WBHK 98.7 FM CMG Birmingham 2700 Corporate Drive, Suite 115 Birmingham, AL 35252 205-322-2987 https://www.987kiss.com</p>
<p>WJLD 1400 AM PO Box 19123 Birmingham, AL 35219 205-942-1776 http://wjldradio.com</p>	

The information below provides the locations of the information repositories, possible locations to host meetings and vendor information for audio visual needs and equipment rental.

EPA Community Outreach Office

Old Carver High School
3400 33rd Terrace North
Birmingham, AL 35207



Information Repositories and Administrative Record

North Birmingham Public Library
2501 31st Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35207
205-226-4025



Harriman Park Recreation Center
4345 F.L. Shuttlesworth Drive
Birmingham, AL 35207
205-841-6939



Meeting Locations

Hudson K-8 School

3300 F.L. Shuttlesworth Drive
Birmingham, AL 35207
205-231-3000



Harriman Park Recreation Center

4345 F.L. Shuttlesworth Drive
Birmingham, AL 35207
205-841-6939

Vendor Support for Meetings

Vulcan Audio Visual LLC

2616 3rd Avenue South, Suite B
Birmingham, AL 35233
James Thorn
thornsound@gmail.com
205-323-6935

Event Rentals Unlimited

201 Distribution Drive
Birmingham, AL 35209
Peggy Lee
205-545-9500
plee@erultd.com

AABCO Rents

2612 7th Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35233
205-252-9858

The Environmental Justice Act of 1992 obligates federal agencies to make environmental justice part of their overall mission by “identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.” Following this order, the Office of Environmental Equity within EPA became the Office of Environmental Justice. EPA’s Office of Environmental Justice ensures that all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, enjoy the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process for a healthy living, learning, and work environment. Ensuring environmental justice means not only protecting human health and the environment for everyone, but also ensuring that all people are treated fairly and are given the opportunity to participate meaningfully in the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

When making decisions about a cleanup and planning its community involvement initiative for a community, environmental justice issues must be taken into account. As part of this effort, EPA will improve collaboration between federal and state agencies and representatives from the city of Birmingham, neighborhood associations, religious groups and concerned residents, and address environmental challenges in more effective, efficient and sustainable ways.

EPA considers North Birmingham an environmental justice community, which means it is a community that historically is an under-represented minority and low-income area burdened with significant environmental challenges.

EPA defines environmental justice as **fair treatment** and **meaningful involvement** of all people--regardless of race, color, national origin or income -- with respect to development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

Fair treatment means that no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental, or commercial operations, or the execution of federal, state, local and tribal programs and policies.

Meaningful involvement means that potentially affected community residents have an appropriate opportunity to participate in decision-making about a proposed activity that will affect their environment and/or health.

EPA has this goal for all communities and persons across this nation. It will be achieved when everyone enjoys:

- the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and
- equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

For more information on Environmental Justice, visit <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND THE SUPERFUND PROCESS

Superfund is an environmental cleanup program enabled by a federal law enacted in 1980 known as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, or CERCLA. In 1986, another law, the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), reauthorized CERCLA to continue Superfund cleanup activities. The CERCLA law gives EPA the authority to require those parties responsible for creating hazardous waste sites to clean those sites up or to reimburse the government if EPA cleans up the site. EPA requires responsible parties to clean up hazardous waste sites through administrative orders, consent decrees and other legal settlements. EPA is authorized to enforce the Superfund laws in all 50 states and in U.S. territories. Superfund site identification, monitoring, and response activities are coordinated with state, tribal and territorial environmental protection or waste management agencies.



The Superfund program encourages active dialogue between communities affected by the release of hazardous substances and all of the agencies responsible for carrying out or overseeing cleanup actions. EPA follows a step-by-step process to determine the best way to clean up a polluted site and protect human health and the environment. EPA considers community involvement to be an important part of the Superfund program and opportunities for community involvement occur throughout the process. Figure D-1 on the next page outlines the stages of the Superfund process and highlights opportunities for community involvement at each step of the process. EPA will conduct activities at the Site in accordance with CERCLA.

If the site poses an immediate threat to public health or the environment, EPA can intervene with an emergency response action. In October 2012, staff from EPA's Superfund Emergency Response and Removal Program began overseeing the activities concerning the 35th Avenue Superfund site. The Access Period began in October 2012 and formally concluded in May 2013, though EPA will still accept access agreements.

EPA's Emergency Response and Removal Program is to protect the public and the environment from immediate threats posed by the release or discharge of hazardous substances. In this case, that involved removing contaminated soil from properties with contamination levels above EPA's RMLs. These removal activities were the first steps in stopping the potential for exposure to contaminants that posed risks to people and the environment.

Visit these EPA websites for more information on the Superfund process:

Superfund

www.epa.gov/superfund

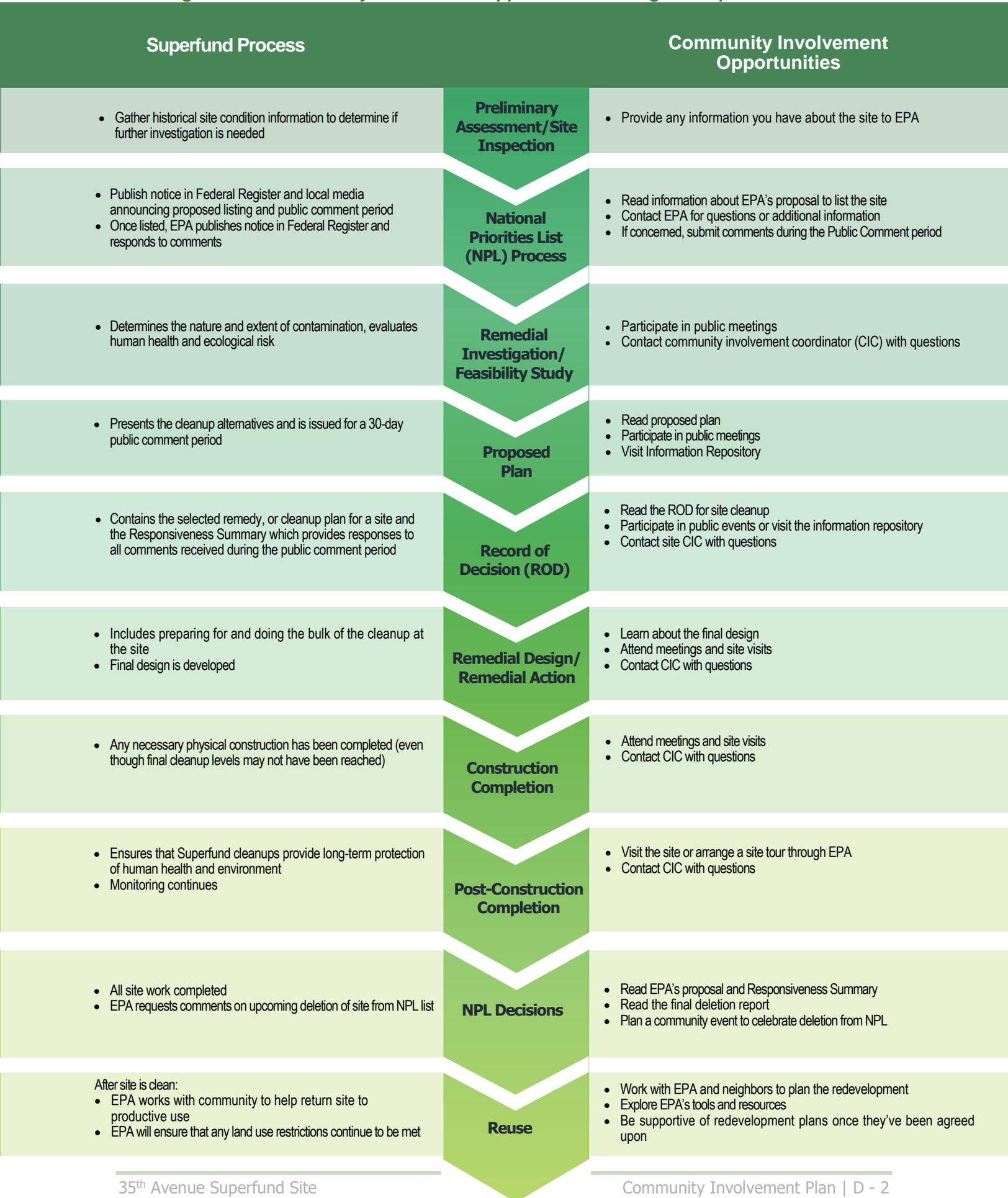
Cleanup Process

www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/index.htm

Community Involvement

www.epa.gov/superfund/community/index.htm

Figure D-1 – Community Involvement Opportunities During the Superfund Process



The following list includes terms bolded in the CIP and also provides definitions of commonly used terms in the Superfund process and environmental work.

Administrative Record. A file that is maintained for the public and contains information used to make a decision about a site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The file is available for public review at a central location, such as the EPA Regional office. A copy the administrative record is usually placed in the same location as the site information repository.

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Superfund created ATSDR within the federal Public Health Service to work with other government agencies to initiate and implement a variety of health-related responsibilities. ATSDR develops toxicological profiles, prepares site-specific health assessments, establishes formal registries of persons exposed to hazardous substances, develops and disseminates health education information, establishes and maintains literature inventories on hazardous substances, helps prepare health and safety programs for workers at Superfund sites and workers responding to emergency releases, and provides health-related support in public health emergencies.

Arsenic. An element of varying appearance found naturally in the environment. Arsenic has been used in the production of boric acid, pharmaceutical products and pesticides. It is a byproduct of copper, zinc and lead smelting. Exposures over a long period of time have caused birth defects and genetic damage in test animals. There is evidence that it can cause skin, lung, liver and bladder cancer in humans. More information can be found on the following website.
www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts2.pdf.

Benzo(a)pyrene (BaP). A member of a class of compounds known as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons that usually occur as complex mixtures and not as single compounds. BaP is primarily produced by incomplete burning of organic materials such as coal, coal tar, and petroleum. BaP does not break down easily in the environment and is suspected of causing cancer in humans. See Page 4 for additional information on BaP.

Cleanup. Actions taken to deal with a release or threatened release of hazardous substances that could affect public health or the environment. The term is often used broadly to describe various response actions or phases of remedial responses, such as the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS).

Community. An interacting population of various types of individuals, or species, in a common location; a neighborhood or specific area where people live.

Community Engagement. The process of involving communities in all phases of the cleanup process. Communities are asked to provide input on how the cleanup will be conducted and how it may affect community plans and goals. See also Community Involvement.

Community Involvement. The term used by EPA to identify its process for engaging in dialogue and collaboration with communities affected by Superfund site. EPA's community involvement approach is founded in the belief that people have a right to know what the Agency is doing in their community and to have a say in it. Its purpose is to give people the opportunity to become involved in the Agency's activities and to help shape the decisions that are made.

Community Involvement Coordinator. The EPA official whose lead responsibility is to involve and inform the public about the Superfund process and response actions in accordance with the interactive community involvement requirements set forth in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan.

Community Involvement Plan. A plan that outlines specific community involvement activities that occur during the investigation and cleanup at the site. The CIP outlines how EPA will keep the public informed of work at the site and the ways in which residents can review and comment on decisions that may affect the final actions at the site. The document is available in the site's information repository maintained by EPA. The CIP may be modified as necessary to respond to changes in community concerns, information needs and activities.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Federal Law passed in 1980 and modified in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) to investigate and cleanup abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. CERCLA is commonly known as Superfund because the Act created a special tax that goes into a Trust fund. EPA either pays for the site cleanup when the responsible parties cannot be located or are unwilling or unable to perform the remedial actions; or takes legal action to force responsible parties to clean up the site or reimburse EPA for the cost of the cleanup.

Consent Decree. A legal document, approved by a judge, that formalizes an agreement reached between EPA and potentially responsible parties (PRP) through which PRPs will conduct all or part of a cleanup action at a Superfund site; cease or correct actions or processes that are polluting the environment; or otherwise comply with regulation where the PRP's failure to comply causes EPA to initiate regulatory actions.

Contaminants. Any physical, chemical, biological or radiological substance or matter that has an adverse effect on air, water or soil.

Contamination. Introduction into water, air and soil of microorganisms, chemicals, toxic substances, wastes or wastewater in a concentration that makes the medium unfit for its next intended use. Also applies to surfaces of objects, buildings and various household use products.

Environmental Justice. Equal protection from environmental hazards for individuals, groups, or communities regardless of race, ethnicity, or economic status. This applies to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. It implies that no population of people should face an unfair amount of negative environmental impacts of pollution or environmental hazard due to a lack of political or economic strength levels.

Feasibility Study (FS). The second part of a two-part study called an RI/FS. The feasibility study involves identifying and evaluating the most appropriate technical approaches to addressing contamination problems at a site. Alternatives are evaluated for their effectiveness in protecting human health and the environment.

Hazard Ranking System (HRS). A numerical screening system used by EPA to evaluate the relative potential risks to public health and the environment from releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances from contaminated sites. Data from preliminary site investigations is used to develop a site score from 0 to 100 indicating the potential for substances released in ground water, air, surface water, or soil to affect people on or near the site. The HRS score is the principal factor used to determine if a site qualifies for the National Priorities List.

Hazardous Substance. Any material that poses a threat to human health and/or the environment.

Hazardous Waste. Waste that is dangerous or potentially harmful to human health or the environment, especially when improperly treated, stored, or disposed. Hazardous substances are usually found in hazardous wastes.

Information Repository. The information repository is usually located in a public building that is convenient for local residents, such as a public school, city hall, or library, and contains current information, technical reports, reference documents, and other information regarding a Superfund site. As the site proceeds through the remedial process, the file at the information repository is updated.

Lead. Lead is a naturally occurring bluish-gray metal found in small amounts in the earth's crust. Lead can be found in all parts of our environment. Much of it comes from human activities including burning fossil fuels, mining, and manufacturing. Lead has many different uses. It is used in the production of batteries, ammunition, metal products (solder and pipes), and devices to shield X-rays. Because of health concerns, lead from paints and ceramic products, caulking, and pipe solder has been dramatically reduced in recent years. The use of lead as an additive to gasoline was banned in 1996 in the United States. Exposure to lead can happen from breathing workplace air or dust, eating contaminated foods, or drinking contaminated water. Children can be exposed from eating lead-based paint chips or playing in contaminated soil. Lead can damage the nervous system, kidneys, and reproductive system. More information can be found on the following website: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts13.pdf.

National Priorities List (NPL). A list generated by EPA depicting the uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites that are priorities for long-term remedial investigation and response. The list is based primarily on the score a site receives using the HRS. A non-federal site must be on the NPL to receive money from the Trust Fund (Superfund) for remedial action. Federal properties listed on the NPL do not receive money from the EPA Trust Fund, but EPA takes a more formal role in the cleanup process. EPA is required to update the NPL at least once a year.

On-Scene Coordinator. The designated EPA official who coordinates and directs Superfund removal actions.

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs). PAHs are a group of organic contaminants that form from the incomplete combustion of hydrocarbons, such as coal and gasoline. PAHs generally occur as complex mixtures and not as single compounds. PAHs are an environmental concern because they do not break down easily, are toxic to aquatic life, build up in humans and animals, and several PAHs are suspected to cause cancer in humans. See Page 4 for more information on PAHs.

Potentially Responsible Party (PRP). The parties (e.g., individuals, companies, or government agencies) potentially responsible for, or contributing to, the release of hazardous substances into the environment. Whenever possible, EPA requires PRPs or RPs (responsible parties), through administrative and legal actions, to clean up hazardous waste sites they have contaminated.

Public Meeting(s). Formal public sessions that are characterized by a presentation to the public followed by a question-and-answer session. Formal public meetings may involve the use of a court reporter and the issuance of transcripts.

Proposed Plan. A public participation requirement of CERCLA in which EPA and/or the PRP summarize for the public the preferred cleanup strategy, rationale for the preference, and alternatives presented in the detailed analysis of the RI/FS. The proposed plan may be prepared as a fact sheet or a separate document. In either case, it must actively solicit public review and comment on all alternatives under consideration.

Public Comment Period. The time during which the public can review and comment on various documents. A 30-day minimum comment period is held to allow the community time to review and comment on the document.

Remedial Investigation (RI). A study designed to collect the data necessary to determine the nature and extent of contamination at a site.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). This law was passed in 1976 and is the principal Federal law governing the disposal of solid and hazardous waste. Gives the EPA the authority to control hazardous waste from start to finish. This includes the generation, transportation, treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous waste. RCRA also sets forth a framework for the management of non-hazardous solid wastes.

Responsiveness Summary. A summary of oral and written comments received by EPA during a public comment period on key site-related documents, with EPA's responses to those comments. The responsiveness summary highlights community concerns to be taken into account by the Group in making decisions on a site and is a key part of the Record of Decision (ROD).

Superfund. The Trust Fund established under CERCLA to pay for cleanup of abandoned hazardous waste sites if PRPs cannot be identified. Superfund is the common name for CERCLA and is often used as an adjective for hazardous waste sites and the investigation and cleanup process directed by EPA.

Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA). SARA established standards for cleanup activities and stipulates the conditions for off-site disposal of wastes. The amendments also clarified many public participation questions and made federal facilities accountable under the statute.