



# Five-Year Reviews

## Overview

EPA is required by statute [CERCLA 121(c)] to review remedies every five years at Superfund sites where waste is left onsite at concentrations that do not allow unlimited use and unrestricted exposure. The purpose of the five-year review is to evaluate the implementation and performance of a remedy to determine whether the remedy is (or will be when complete) protective of human health and the environment.

The Agency's technical assessment of a remedy after five years of operation examines the answers to three questions:

- Is the remedy functioning as intended based on the decision documents?
- Are the exposure assumptions, toxicity data, cleanup levels, and remedial action objectives used at the time of the remedy selection still valid?
- Has any other information come to light that could call into question the protectiveness of the remedy?

These questions provide a framework for organizing and evaluating data and ensuring that all relevant issues are considered when determining the protectiveness of the remedy.

As a matter of policy, EPA also conducts five-year reviews for remedial actions that require five or more years to complete. EPA also may conduct five-year reviews for removal actions conducted under CERCLA 104 at National Priorities List (NPL) sites where wastes are left in place and no remedial action is planned.

The five-year review process integrates information contained in decision documents, operational data for a remedy, and the experiences of those responsible for and affected by actions at the site. The site manager uses the information to assess the remedy's performance, and, ultimately, to determine the protectiveness of the remedy. Recommendations and follow-up actions to issues identified are documented in the five-year review report. The process consists of: (1) identifying the review team members; (2) notifying potentially interested parties of the start of the review; (3) proposing the components of and

This and all tools in the Community Involvement Toolkit should be used in conjunction with the [Community Involvement Handbook](#), which provides guidance to EPA staff on how EPA typically plans and implements community involvement activities at Superfund sites.

schedule for the review; (4) reviewing and evaluating data; (5) conducting the site visit and interviews; and (6) publishing the five-year review report and announcing the findings.

## Why This Is Important

Community involvement during a five-year review is not a statutory or regulatory requirement. However, the [Comprehensive Five-Year Review Guidance](#) says that, at a minimum, community involvement activities during the five-year review should include notifying the community that the five-year review will be conducted, notifying the community that the five-year review has been completed, and providing the results of the review to the information repository. The lead agency planning the five-year review is required to notify appropriate community representatives as well as all other potentially interested parties. Despite the fact that it is not a statutory or regulatory requirement, community involvement is an important part of the five-year review process. During the initial planning for the five-year review, CICs can provide valuable insight on a community's issues and concerns and help tailor community involvement activities for the five-year review to the particular needs of the community.

## Implementation

Five-year review planning may begin as early as a year before starting the review. The site manager forms a review team that decides what it will do at the site and when activities will be conducted. The CIC often participates on the review team as an advisor to convey the community's issues and concerns and to develop and implement activities to notify and involve the community. Community members, including representatives of a [community advisory group](#) (CAG) or [technical assistance grant](#) (TAG) recipient group may



provide information to the review team. In addition to notifying the community of the five-year review and its results, the review team may elect to conduct additional community involvement activities at high-profile sites, sites with significant public interest, and other sites for which the regional office determines a need for additional community involvement activities.

### Planning for the Five-Year Review and Notifying the Community

Initially, the CIC may review the existing [community involvement plan](#) (CIP), including the [community profile](#), for information about local officials, residents living near the site, the past level of interest in the site from individuals and groups in the community, and whether the community has a CAG or TAG recipient group. During planning, the CIC and review team should determine the best means for notifying the community that the review process will begin. Holding an open house or [public meeting](#) where community members can stop by to ask questions or pick up [fact sheets](#) may be effective in some communities. Other notification methods, such as issuing a [public notice](#) or a press release (see Attachment 1 and Attachment 2), broadcasting a public service announcement on radio or television, emailing announcements to community listservs (see Attachment 3), posting ads on community websites or in community newsletters (see Attachment 4 and Attachment 5), posting an announcement on the EPA site profile page (see Attachment 6), or mailing and posting printed announcements (see Attachment 7), also have been used.

As outlined in Table 1 below, some of this suggested information may be available on the EPA site profile page. Depending on the type of notice the review team has determined is the best fit for the community, it may not be necessary to duplicate information that is already available online as long as a link can be shared.

For high-profile sites or sites with significant public interest, the review team should carefully consider whether additional or enhanced community involvement activities are appropriate. Preparing a [community involvement strategy](#) for the five-year review is recommended for high-profile sites.

### Collecting Information for the Five-Year Review

The review team may conduct [community interviews](#) to collect additional information on current site conditions, problems, and concerns. The community interviews may include community members living near the site, members of a CAG or TAG recipient group (if either has been established), and other stakeholders who have been active in site activities in the past and could provide useful information about site conditions. Community members may tell EPA important information about unusual activities, such as dumping, vandalism, or trespassing at the site; materials leaving the site; unusual odors; or new land uses around the site. Interviews may also include discussions about [reuse and planning development](#), positive and negative ways the cleanup may be affecting the neighborhood, and other

**Table 1. Five-Year Review Notice**

What information to include?	Where might this be found?	When may it NOT be necessary to include in five-year review notice?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site name, location, and EPA site profile page URL</li> </ul>		Generally, this information will be included in the five-year notice.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead agency conducting the review.</li> <li>• Brief description of the selected remedy.</li> <li>• Summary of contamination addressed by the remedy.</li> <li>• Scheduled completion date of the five-year review.</li> </ul>	EPA site profile page	If information is on the EPA site profile page, and a link to EPA site profile page is provided.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How the community can contribute during the review process.</li> <li>• Contact with phone number for further information.</li> </ul>	EPA site profile page	Generally, this information will be included in the five-year notice.

*At a minimum, the information in Table 1 should be provided to the community about the five-year review, either through the five-year review notice or on the EPA site profile page.*



activities affecting the site. In addition to providing information to assist in the five-year review, these interviews can help the Agency document changes in the community itself or in the community's interests and concerns.

### Completion of Five-Year Review

Upon completing the five-year review, the review team writes a report that provides background information on the site and cleanup actions, a summary of the five-year review activities, and an explanation of the review results. For each remedy under review, the explanation of results includes a protectiveness statement indicating whether the remedy is protecting human health and the environment.

Before the report is complete, the CIC should determine the most appropriate ways to notify

the community that the review is complete and available. These could include distributing fact sheets, placing online ads (see Attachments 4 and 5), posting an update to the EPA site profile page (see Attachment 6), or any other method that may have been used to advise the community at the beginning of the five-year review process. Be sure to include a link to the five-year review document in all communications.

As outlined in Table 2 below, please note that some of this suggested information may be available on the EPA site profile page and/or in the completed five-year review document. Depending on the type of notice the review team has determined is the best fit for the community, it may not be necessary to duplicate information that is already available online, as long as a link can be shared.

**Table 2. Five-Year Review Completion Notice**

What information to include?	Where might this be found?	When may it NOT be necessary to include in five-year review notice?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site name, location, EPA site profile page URL, and a hyperlink to the completed five-year review document if available</li> </ul>		Generally, this information will be included in the five-year notice.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead agency conducting the review.</li> <li>• Brief description of the selected remedy.</li> <li>• Summary of contamination addressed by the remedy.</li> <li>• Brief description of the results of the five-year review.</li> <li>• Protectiveness statements.</li> <li>• Brief summary of the data and information that provided the basis for determining protectiveness and a brief summary of the issues, recommendations, and follow-up actions directly related to the protectiveness determination.</li> <li>• Locations where a copy of the five-year review can be obtained or viewed, including information repositories.</li> <li>• Contact name and phone number for further information.</li> <li>• Date of next five-year review, or if no more reviews are needed, the rationale for this determination.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EPA site profile page</li> <li>• Completed five-year review document</li> </ul>	If information is on the EPA site profile page or in the completed five-year review document, and a link to EPA site profile page and/or completed five-year review document is provided.

*At a minimum, the information in Table 2 should be provided to the community about the five-year review, either through the five-year review notice or on the EPA site profile page.*



## Tips

- CICs should be aware of the five-year reviews scheduled for their Region during each fiscal year and should contact the site manager to learn more about the five-year review schedule.
- As a member of the site team, the CIC should be ready to take the lead in reviewing the CIP, conducting community interviews, developing a communication strategy at high-profile sites, and notifying the community that a five-year review will begin.
- CICs should work with the review team to notify the community about the results of the five-year review when the review is completed.
- Consult EPA's [Comprehensive Five-Year Review Guidance](#) (OSWER No. 9355.7-03B-P) for more information. (Appendix A of the five-year review guidance provides information on community involvement.)

## Other Sources of Information

- EPA's [Superfund Five-Year Reviews](#) website
- [Superfund Today: Focus on Five-Year Reviews Involving the Community](#) (EPA 540-F-01-011)
- [Five-Year Reviews, Frequently Asked Questions and Answers](#) (OSWER 9355.7-21)
- [Getting to Know the Five-Year Review: A Guide for Communities Near Federal Facilities](#) (video)

## Attachments

- Attachment 1: *Example of a Public Notice to Notify Community of the Start of a Five-Year Review*
- Attachment 2: *Example Press Releases on Five-Year Reviews from EPA Region 1*
- Attachment 3: *Example Email Sent to a Community Listserv Requesting Input at the Start of a Five-Year Review*
- Attachment 4: *Example of an Online Ad Requesting Information for the Five-Year Review*
- Attachment 5: *Example Newsletter Ad Informing Community of the Five-Year Review*
- Attachment 6: *Example of a Five-Year Review Notice Posted on an EPA Site Profile Page*
- Attachment 7: *Example Postcard Sent to Households Informing Them of a Five-Year Review*



## Attachment 1: Example of a Public Notice to Notify Community of the Start of a Five-Year Review

# EPA PUBLIC NOTICE

## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Reviews Cleanup at [Redacted] Superfund Site

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting its fourth five-year review of the [Redacted] Site Name, located in the Town of [Redacted] Town Name, [Redacted] County Name County, [Redacted] State. The purpose of this five-year review is to ensure that the remedy is functioning as intended and continues to be protective of public health and the environment. A summary of the cleanup activities and an evaluation of the protectiveness of the implemented cleanup remedies will be included in the five-year review report.

### What is an EPA Five-Year Review?

The purpose of a five-year review is to ensure that implemented remedies at Superfund sites function as intended and continue to be protective of human health and the environment. These regular reviews, which are required by federal law when contaminants remain at a site, include:

- Inspection of the site and cleanup technologies;
- Review of monitoring data, operating data, and maintenance records; and,
- Determination if any new relevant regulatory requirements have been established since EPA's original cleanup decision was finalized.

### When will EPA's Five-Year Review Report be available?

It is anticipated that the five-year review report will be available at the website noted below by [Redacted].

### For more information

There are several ways to review information on this site. The Administrative Record, which includes EPA decision documents used for selecting the cleanup remedy, is available for public review at the information repositories listed below. Project information is also available online at the website noted below.

#### EPA Region [Redacted]

#### Superfund Records Center

**John Smith**

**Phone: (555) 555-3322**

**Email: smith.john@example.email**

**(call to make an appointment)**

**Jane Smith**

**Local Library Repository Center**

**Phone: (555) 555-5678**

**Email: smith.jane@example.email**

### You may also contact

If you have any questions or concerns about the site, please contact:

**Jane Doe**

**EPA Remedial Project Manager**

**Phone: (555) 555-6666**

**Email: doe.jane@example.email**

**OR**

**John Doe**

**EPA Community Involvement Coordinator**

**Phone: (555) 555-1212**

**Email: doe.john@example.email**

**For more information, visit:**

[www.epa.gov/superfund/\[Redacted\]](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/[Redacted])



# Attachment 2: Example Press Releases on Five-Year Reviews from EPA Region 1

**i** We've made some changes to [EPA.gov](#). If the information you are looking for is not here, you may be able to find it on the [EPA Web Archive](#) or the [January 19, 2017 Web Snapshot](#).



[Environmental Topics](#)   [Laws & Regulations](#)   [About EPA](#)  

## News Releases from Region 01

CONTACT US   SHARE        

# EPA Begins Reviews of Nine New England Site Cleanups this Year

02/25/20\_\_

Contact Information:  
John Doe  
555-555-1212

BOSTON - EPA has begun reviewing site cleanups at nine Superfund Sites, including four Federal Facilities, across New England by performing required Five-Year Reviews of each site. The reviews this year will include sites in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont.

Once a cleanup remedy or part of a remedy is in place at a hazardous waste site, it is important for EPA to regularly check on its progress to ensure the remedy is working properly to clean up the site. The primary purpose of the formal Five Year Review is to ensure continued protection of public health and the environment at the given Superfund Site. In addition to extensive review of the remedy itself, the engineering and the overall functionality, EPA may also look at outside variables that could potentially affect the performance of the remedy, including things like redevelopment, climate change impacts and overall wear and tear.

EPA conducts evaluations every five years on completed clean up and remediation work performed at sites listed on the "National Priorities List" to determine if the implemented remedies at the sites continue to be protective of human health and the environment. Five year review evaluations identify any deficiencies to the previous work and, if called for, recommend action(s) necessary to address them.

The Superfund Sites where EPA will begin Five Year Reviews in Fiscal Year 2016 are below. Please note, the Web link provided after each site provides detailed information on site status and past assessment and cleanup activity. Once the Five Year Review is complete, a report of its findings will be posted to this website. The web link also provides contact information for the EPA Project Manager and Community Involvement Coordinator at each site. Community members and local officials are invited to contact EPA with any comments or concerns about a Superfund Site or the conclusions in the recent Five Year Review.

**Connecticut**  
New London Submarine Base, New London, CT  
Review of 24 Sites and 12 Operating Units  
[www.epa.gov/superfund/newlondon](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/newlondon)

**Maine**  
Eastern Surplus, Meddybemps, ME  
Review of Entire Site Remedy  
[www.epa.gov/superfund/eastern](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/eastern)

**Massachusetts**  
Fort Devens-Sudbury Training Annex, Sudbury, MA  
Review of Area 7  
[www.epa.gov/superfund/sudburyannex](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sudburyannex)

Materials Technology Lab, Watertown, MA  
Review of Operable Units 1 and 3  
[www.epa.gov/superfund/aml](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/aml)

**New Hampshire**  
Coakley Landfill, North Hampton, NH  
Review of Operable Units 1 and 2  
[www.epa.gov/superfund/coakley](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/coakley)

Dover Municipal Landfill, Dover, NH  
First Review of the entire remedy  
[www.epa.gov/superfund/dover](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/dover)

**Vermont**  
Pine Street Canal Superfund SiteBurlington, VT  
Review of Entire Site Remedy  
[www.epa.gov/superfund/pinestreet](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/pinestreet)

[Contact Us](#) to ask a question, provide feedback, or report a problem.

	<b>Discover.</b>	<b>Connect.</b>	<b>Ask.</b>
	Accessibility	Data.gov	Contact Us
	EPA Administrator	Inspector General	Hotlines
	Budget & Performance	Jobs	FOIA Requests
	Contracting	Newsroom	Frequent Questions
	Grants	Open Government	



## Attachment 3: Example Email Sent to a Community Listserv Requesting Input at the Start of a Five-Year Review

### EPA Contact

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**From:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [usepa@service.govdelivery.com](mailto:usepa@service.govdelivery.com)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 06, 20\_\_ 9:39 AM  
**To:** EPA Contact  
**Subject:** EPA to Review Site Cleanup

**EPA to Review [Site Name] Cleanup**

**We Invite Your Input by February 10, 20\_\_**

### Cleanup Plan Is Being Revised

[Site Name] was listed as a Superfund site in 1987. Over the past 30 years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made significant progress in cleaning up this site to make it a healthier place for people, fish, and shellfish. However, creosote and related chemicals still present some risk. The EPA recommended additional cleanup actions in April 20\_\_, and accepted public comments on our draft cleanup plan through June 20\_\_. We are now revising the cleanup plan to address the comments received, and will issue a final cleanup decision, which will include responses to public comments, this spring.

### Asking for Community Input

*In the meantime, the EPA is beginning its fourth Five-Year Review of the site. We are required to review Superfund cleanups at least every five years at sites where contaminants remain in place. The EPA uses the review to ensure that cleanup actions are protecting people's health and the environment. You may have information and ideas to share about the site that will assist us with this review.*

We encourage you to send your input by February 10, 20\_\_ to John Doe, EPA, 555-555-1212 or [doe.john@example.email](mailto:doe.john@example.email).

Visit the site page: [www.epa.gov/superfund/wyckoff-eagle-harbor](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/wyckoff-eagle-harbor)



You may unsubscribe or update your subscriptions or e-mail address at any time on your [Subscriber Preferences Page](#). All you will need is your e-mail address. If you have any questions or problems, please e-mail [subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com](mailto:subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com) for assistance.

This service is provided to you at no charge by the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 10](#).

#### STAY CONNECTED:





# Attachment 4: Example of an Online Ad Requesting Information for the Five-Year Review



59

## Archaeologists find rare Native American artifacts in Willamette Valley



3.8k shares



Volunteer archaeologist Megan Wonderly discovers an obsidian Native American tool during the excavation. The tool, known as a biface, is an estimated 1,000 to 4,000 years old and could help researchers better understand early trade routes. (Oregon Parks and Recreation Department)

By [Samantha Matsumoto](#)

[Print](#)

[Email the author](#)

[Email](#)

on August 15, 2016 at 1:22PM, updated August 15, 2016 at 1:23PM

Thanks to a discovery by a local landowner, archaeologists unearthed the first recorded Native American tools of their kind in the Willamette Valley this summer.

While building a pond on his property, the landowner, who was not identified, found 15 obsidian hand axes. He reported his discovery to the Oregon State Historical Preservation Office, which led an archaeological dig at the site in June.

The tools, known as bifaces, are a rare find, said assistant state archaeologist John Pouley, who led the dig.

"Of approximately 35,000 recorded archaeological sites in Oregon, few, likely less than 25, consist of biface caches," he said.

The tools are an estimated 1,000 to 4,000 years old. They were found on the traditional territory of the Santiam Band of the Kalapuya, which stretches between present day Portland and Roseburg. During the dig, archaeologists consulted the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation.

With the assistance of the tribes, local universities and private archaeological firms, Pouley and his team determined that the unfinished tools were from the Obsidian Cliffs in the Central Oregon Cascades. They likely would have been used in trades before being worked into finished tools, Pouley said.

### EPA/OREGON DEQ FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF THE SUPERFUND SITE

If you have any information that we should consider, please contact EPA by . The final report will be available after .



[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

#### MOST READ



Freshman quarterback Justin Herbert has 'shocked' Oregon Ducks teammates this fall



NE Portland home surrounded by police, man barricaded inside



Oregon standoff defendant Jon Ritzheimer pleads guilty in federal conspiracy case



Archaeologists find rare Native American artifacts in Willamette Valley



4,000 flee as wildfire roars into California town: 100 homes, businesses homes







## Attachment 5: Example Newsletter Ad Informing Community of the Five-Year Review

### EPA REVIEWS CLEANUP

#### ██████████ Superfund Site

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting a Five-Year Review of the ██████████ Superfund Site located in ██████████ County. EPA inspects sites regularly to ensure that cleanups conducted remain fully protective of public health and the environment. A prior review of the site in 20\_\_ determined that the remedy was protective in the short-term, and that more testing was needed to make a long-term protectiveness determination. Since then, additional tests have been conducted indicating successful cleanup of groundwater. Detailed test results and a protectiveness determination will be available January 20\_\_.

**To access results of the review (starting January 20\_\_):**

Website URL  
██████████

**See detailed site and contact information:**

Site page URL  
██████████

**To ask questions or provide site information:**

**Contact:** John Doe **Phone:** 555-555-1212

**Email:** doe.john@example.email

**Protecting public health and the environment**





# Attachment 6: Example of a Five-Year Review Notice Posted on an EPA Site Profile Page



[Environmental Topics](#)
[Laws & Regulations](#)
[About EPA](#)

### Superfund Site:

- Superfund Home
- This Site's Home Page**
- Site Contacts
- Cleanup Activities
- Health & Environment
- Stay Updated, Get Involved
- Redevelopment
- Site Documents & Data
- View Site on Map

Site Name

City, State

### Announcements and Key Topics

To view the Public Notice of Five-Year Review: [click here](#)

### Background

The [redacted] site is a [redacted]-acre property located in [City, State], near the Raritan River. The [redacted] Site or Facility Name [redacted] was a precious metals recovery operation. Gold and...  
[Continue reading background >](#)

[CONTACT US](#) [SHARE](#)

### Site Contacts

Community Involvement Coordinator  
[Jane Doe](#)  
 (555) 555-6666

Remedial Project Manager  
[John Doe](#)  
 (555) 555-1212

### Site Location

Street Address:  
 23 A Street  
 Philadelphia, PA 01234

[Superfund Home](#) | [Superfund Site Search](#)



### Discover.

- Accessibility
- EPA Administrator
- Budget & Performance
- Contracting
- Grants
- January 19, 2017 Web Snapshot
- No FEAR Act Data
- Privacy
- Privacy and Security Notice

### Connect.

- Data.gov
- Inspector General
- Jobs
- Newsroom
- Open Government
- Regulations.gov
- Subscribe
- USA.gov
- White House

### Ask.

- Contact Us
- Hotlines
- FOIA Requests
- Frequent Questions

### Follow.



LAST UPDATED ON FEBRUARY 14, 2018



## Attachment 7: Example Postcard Sent to Households Informing Them of a Five-Year Review



### **EPA to Review Past Cleanups at** [Redacted] **Superfund Site**

Region ■

January 20\_\_

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is beginning a five-year review of the [Redacted] Superfund site in [Redacted] City, State. This review will look at the cleanups of the different project areas listed below:

- Project Area 1  
Contact: John Doe  
☎ 555-555-1212
- Project Area 2  
Contact: Jane Doe  
☎ 555-555-666
- Project Area 3  
Contact: John Smith  
☎ 555-555-3322
- Project Area 4  
Contact: Jane Smith  
☎ 555-555-5678

The EPA will evaluate the cleanups at the site to determine if they continue to be protective of people and the environment. EPA will collect site information, review monitoring data, review laws, and consult with officials. If you have information you would like us to consider during our review, please contact the project manager associated with that particular project area before April 15, 20\_\_.

The final report will be out by the end of this year. For more site information, visit:

✓ [Redacted] Website URL

☎ TTY users call the Federal Relay Service at 800-555-5555 and give the operator John Smith's phone number.

SAMPLE

