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# DID YOU KNOW?

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IS IMPORTANT

## TO THE SUCCESS OF THE SUPERFUND PROGRAM!

The law that governs the Superfund program requires EPA to conduct community involvement activities. More importantly, EPA has learned, through experience, that involving community members in the Superfund process actually improves the outcome of program activities. So, please get involved. Read our fact sheets. Come to meetings. Give us a call. We want to hear from you. We want you to know what we are doing and why, and we want you to tell us if there are issues we need to be aware of in your community as we go about our work. Do you have information about the site? Do you know about community members who may need site information in a language other than English? Are there persistent rumors about site-related risks that EPA should address? What is the best way to keep you informed? Please let us know.

This Community Involvement Plan (CIP) will:

1. Describe the Superfund program and process;
2. Tell you about opportunities to become informed and involved;
3. Provide a brief overview of the site history;
4. List the issues and concerns community members raised during interviews we conducted while preparing this plan;
5. Identify some of the resources and tools EPA will use to keep you informed; and
6. Provide contact information for key EPA staff members working on this site.

Last but not least, this CIP is intended to be a resource for EPA staff. The Superfund process spans several years, and site team members may change. The CIP will inform new team members about the community, identify community concerns, and list community resources for planning meetings and communicating with residents and officials.

***If you have questions about this document, the site, or the Superfund process, please contact the Community Involvement Coordinator for the site:***

**Amanda Miles**

US EPA Region 3

1650 Arch Street (3HS52)

Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

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215-814-5557 or toll-free:1-800-553-2509 x45525

# How is this CIP organized?

For ease of use, this document has been arranged in the following manner:

1. The Superfund Process Overview.....	06
2. Components of the Superfund Process.....	10
3. The Site in Your Community: Its Use and Regulatory History.....	12
4. Community Issues and Concerns .....	14
5. Community Involvement Opportunities and Resources .....	15
6. Communication Tools and Techniques.....	16
7. Appendices	
A. Contacts.....	18
EPA/ATSDR.....	18
Federal.....	19
State.....	19
Local.....	20
Other .....	20
B. Media Outlets	
Newspapers.....	21
Television.....	21
Radio.....	21
C. Potential Meeting Locations.....	22
D. Site Files Access	
Local Information Repository.....	23
EPA Office Repository.....	23
Online.....	23

CIP Organization, continued

E. Fact Sheets.....24

F. Community Demographics.....28

G. Superfund Partnerships.....31

H. Additional Websites & Resources.....33

## PART 1: SUPERFUND PROCESS Overview:

*In order to participate in or follow the Superfund process as it unfolds in your community, it is important to know what Superfund is and how it works. The following information was taken from EPA's website and links throughout the document will take you to additional information. Open links by clicking on them while holding down the 'Ctrl' button. If you are reading a paper copy of this CIP, EPA's Superfund website holds the same information, and more. It can be found by typing the following address into any internet browser: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/>*

*Additional web resources are provided in Appendix G.*

### Basic Information

#### What is Superfund?

Superfund is the name given to the environmental program established to address abandoned hazardous waste sites. It is also the name of the fund (now defunct) established by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (CERCLA). This law was enacted in the wake of the discovery of toxic waste dumps, such as Love Canal and Times Beach, in the 1970s. It allows the EPA to clean up such sites and to compel responsible parties to perform cleanups or reimburse the government for EPA-lead cleanups.

#### How Superfund Works

The Superfund cleanup process is complex and involves many steps. The Superfund Site Assessment Program determines if sites pose urgent risks needing immediate, short-term actions that should be taken by EPA's Superfund **Removal Program** or if sites pose less acute risks and should be placed on the **National Priorities List (NPL)**. Some sites require no further action or may be referred to state agencies, but sites placed on the NPL, like the Jackson Ceramix Site, undergo extensive investigation before appropriate cleanup plans can be determined and implemented. This long-term process is conducted by EPA's Superfund **Remedial Program**. However, even during Remedial Program activities, the Removal Program can take immediate actions at any time, if needed or beneficial. While investigating or addressing sites, EPA may also take actions to enlist or enforce the cooperation of those who may have contributed to site contamination or to recover costs from them. These parties are called **Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)**. EPA also partners with the states and takes steps to keep affected community members involved. It is important that community members know that EPA will work to ensure that cleanup actions are conducted safely and provide long-term protection of human health and the environment. The blueprint for these activities is the **National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP)**, a regulation applicable to all federal agencies involved in responding to hazardous substance releases. Over the past 35 years, EPA has located and analyzed tens of thousands of hazardous waste sites, protected people and the environment from contamination at the worst sites, and involved others in cleanup.

For more detail on the Superfund cleanup process and Superfund regulations, go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund>

For more about EPA's Removal Program and EPA's role in emergency responses, go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/emergency-response/epas-role-emergency-response>

## Who Implements Superfund?

EPA's **Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM)** (formerly known as OSWER - Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response), located in Washington, D.C., oversees the Superfund program. The **Office of Emergency Management** within OLEM is responsible for responses to emergencies and imminent risks. These activities are conducted by the Superfund Removal Program and are often short-term actions. The **Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation**, and the **Federal Facilities Response and Reuse Office**, also within OLEM, manage the long-term Superfund response program (Superfund Remedial Program) and responses involving Federal Facilities, respectively. In addition, OLEM manages the federal **Brownfields** program. The Brownfields program assists in the assessment of properties that do not qualify for the National Priorities List (NPL) but are known or suspected to be contaminated by hazardous substances. The goal of the Brownfields program is to encourage the reuse of abandoned or underutilized properties, remove blight from communities, and stimulate economic development and community improvement. **For more information about OLEM and the programs within it**, please click on this link: [OLEM Organization Chart](#) . The chart is also available in this document on page 8.

## US EPA Regions

Region 1--ME NH VT MA RI CT

Region 2--NY NJ PR VI

**Region 3--PA DE DC MD VA WV**

Region 4--KY TN NC SC MS AL GA FL

Region 5--MN WI IL MI IN OH

Region 6--NM TX OK AR LA

Region 7--NE KS IA MO

Region 8--MT ND WY SD UT CO

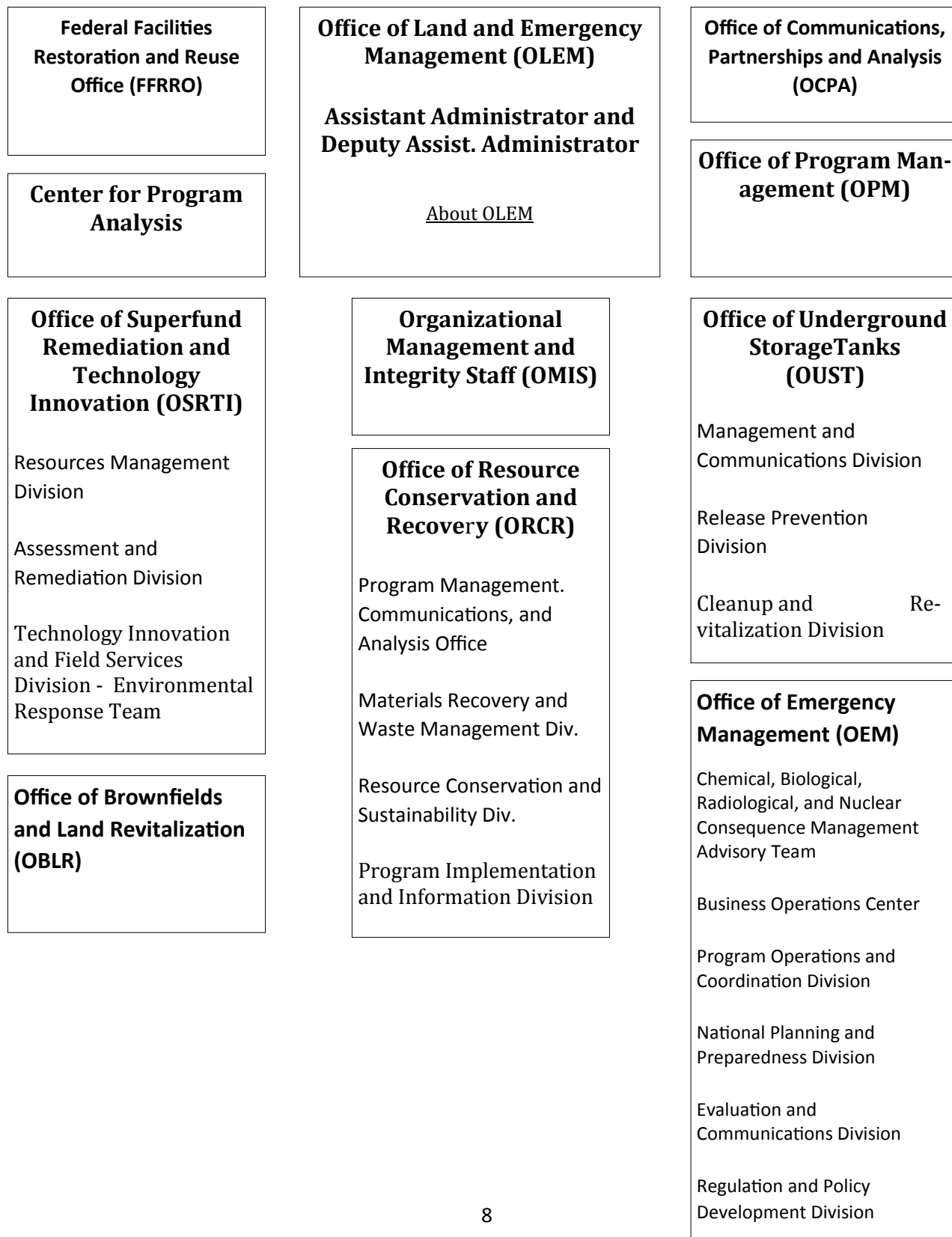
Region 9--CA NV AZ HI

Region 10--WA OR ID AK

EPA's ten Regional offices are responsible for implementing many of EPA's programs, including Superfund. Following is a list of the regions and the states in which they are active.

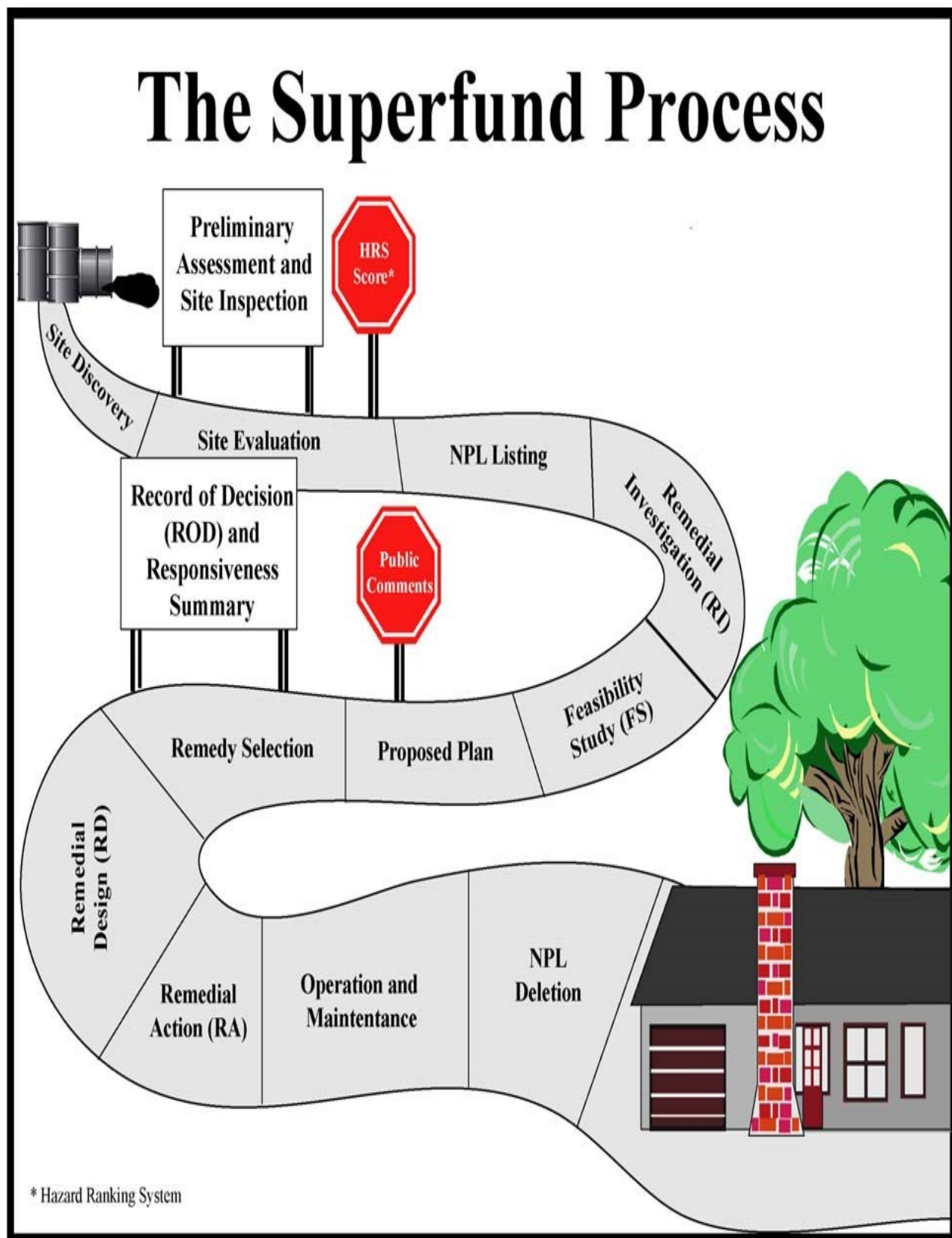
**Your community is located in Region 3.**

# Organization Chart for the Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM)





## Superfund Cleanup Process at a Glance



## **PART 2: COMPONENTS OF THE SUPERFUND REMEDIAL PROCESS**

*Cleaning up hazardous waste sites is a complex process often conducted in multiple phases or operable units. Brief descriptions of the primary steps are presented below. For more detailed information click on the link above. Some topics may be more easily accessed by using additional links that appear in the text in this section.*

### **Discovery**

EPA learns about new sites in many ways. Sometimes, reports are made by concerned individuals or by state and local agencies. New sites may also be discovered during routine inspections and field activities.

### **Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (aka Site Assessment)**

This step includes a review of historical information about the site and a site visit to determine if the potential for a release of hazardous materials is present. If a site poses a risk to human health or the environment, a determination will be made about whether the risk constitutes an emergency, requires a removal action, or needs a more detailed investigation. In some cases, site assessments may find that no further actions are required or that the site should be referred to the appropriate state agency for further assessment.

### **Hazard Ranking System\_(HRS)**

The method EPA uses to generate numerical scores for sites based on human and environmental exposure scenarios and contaminant migration pathways. Scores are used to determine whether potential risks posed by a site merit inclusion of the site on the National Priorities List (NPL), but scores are not used to compare risks among different sites.

### **National Priorities List (NPL)**

The NPL is a list of the sites presumed or determined to pose significant long-term risks to human health or the environment requiring detailed investigation.

### **Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS)**

An RI determines the nature and extent of contamination, assesses risks, and evaluates treatability. An FS develops, screens, and evaluates potential treatment technologies.

### **Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment**

EPA uses risk assessment to characterize the nature and magnitude of health risks to humans and ecological receptors (including microscopic organisms at the bottom of the food chain) from chemical contaminants and other stressors, that may be present in the environment. Such assessments are based on many variables, including but not limited to, the nature, toxicity, and concentrations of hazardous substances; the scenarios under which human or ecological receptors may be exposed; the frequency and duration of exposures; how contaminants may enter an organism (i.e. inhalation, ingestion, absorption etc.); and the physical characteristics (including age, health, and genetics) of potentially exposed individuals.

continued

## Components of the Superfund Remedial Process, continued

### Proposed Plan (Draft Remedy Decision for public comment)

EPA's Preferred Alternative for a site is presented to the public in a Proposed Plan. The Proposed Plan briefly summarizes the alternatives studied in the detailed analysis phase of the RI/FS, highlighting the key factors that led to identifying the Preferred Alternative.

### Records of Decision (ROD or Remedy Decision)

A ROD is a legal document which identifies which cleanup alternatives will be used at an NPL site and explains why the remedy was chosen and how it will be implemented. When remedies exceed \$25 million, they are reviewed by the National Remedy Review Board.

### Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RD/RA)

During this step, preparations are made for implementing the remedy selected for a site. Field studies may be conducted to inform the design. The bulk of the cleanup usually occurs during this phase. All new fund-financed remedies are reviewed by the National Risk-Based Priorities Panel.

### Construction Completion

This step documents the completion of physical cleanup construction, although it does not necessarily indicate that final cleanup levels have been achieved. This step may also indicate that response actions should be limited to activities that don't require construction, but which bring immediate and long-term threats under control.

### Post Construction Completion

These activities ensure that Superfund response actions provide for the long-term protection of human health and the environment. **Included here are Long-Term Response Actions (LTRA), Operation and Maintenance (O&M), Institutional Controls (ICs), Five-Year Reviews, and Cleanup Optimization.**

### National Priorities List Deletion

Deletion refers to the removal of a site from the NPL once all response actions are completed and all cleanup goals have been achieved.

### Site Reuse/Redevelopment

EPA works with communities and other partners to return hazardous waste sites to safe and productive use without adversely affecting the remedy. By ensuring that there is an effective process to fully explore future uses before the cleanup remedy is implemented, the Agency has the best chance of making its remedies consistent with the likely future use of a site. This also gives communities the best opportunity to productively use sites following cleanup.

## PART 3: The Site in Your Community -- Its Use and Regulatory History

### Site History

The Jackson Ceramix, Inc. Superfund Site is located within the Borough of Falls Creek, in both Jefferson and Clearfield Counties in Pennsylvania. From 1917 until its closing in October 1985, the facility was used to manufacture and paint china. Chemicals and metals used in the china manufacturing process included lead and other metals and organic compounds. Poor chemical handling practices at the plant resulted in contamination of the groundwater, soil, sediment and wetlands. Wastewater generated from the china manufacturing process was contaminated with residual paints, oils and china glazing material. The wastewater was then discharged into a nearby unlined lagoon. The lagoon repeatedly discharged the wastewater and sludge into the floodplain east of the railroad tracks, covering approximately 20 acres of the floodplain with lead-contaminated sludge. Broken and unfinished china debris was stockpiled across the entire facility and was buried underground in the extreme southeastern corner of Falls Creek recreational park.

### Regulatory History

In April 1987, EPA conducted a site inspection of the Jackson Ceramix Site. Samples were collected from several areas of concern, including drums, the drainage ditch located adjacent to the Site, and the wastewater lagoon.

In July 1987, EPA Region 3's Technical Assistance Team performed a removal assessment at the Site.

In March 1988, additional samples were collected from the Site.

In January 1989, EPA oversaw the excavation and removal of sludge from the lagoon area and contaminated material from the drainage ditch. The excavated lagoon area was backfilled with clean material, and an 80-foot section of pipe was installed to ensure proper drainage.

In 1989, all drums identified on the property were stored in a secured, contained area.

On February 10, 1989, EPA's removal and stabilization activities were completed.

In October 1989, a fire completely destroyed the facility.

In May and June 1991, one off-site and four on-site monitoring wells were installed.

In February 1992, a representative of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service expressed concern about the potential threat to migratory birds posed by the lead-contaminated wetlands located near the Jackson Ceramix Site. As a result, an expanded site inspection was conducted at the site in March and April 1992.

Continued

## Regulatory History , continued

A two-phased interim response was conducted at the former manufacturing facility, under the direction of PADEP, during the periods of December 7, 1998, through February 5, 1999, and April 21, 1999, through July 15, 1999.

The response included 1) removal and off-site disposal of asbestos-containing material; 2) excavation and on-site treatment and stabilization of contaminated sludge and soil from 16 sumps, the drainage ditch, and the lagoon; 3) removal and off-site disposal or on-site treatment and stabilization of waste in pits and septic tanks, ceramic manufacturing process materials, construction debris, and staging materials; 4) demolition of two buildings, two kilns, two railroad cars, a chimney stack, and various other structures; 5) relocation of china waste and initial site grading; 6) and construction and re-vegetation of a soil cap over about 12 acres of the property.

In August 2001, under the Pennsylvania Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act, a pre-design investigation was conducted in the wetland east of the lagoon. The investigation included completion of 154 hand-augured soil borings in the wetland area. The investigation was conducted to assist PADEP to implement the remedial alternative selected from a feasibility study for the wetland area. Based on the analytical results reported from these samples, it was determined that approximately 13 to 24 acres of the wetland that received drainage from the Jackson Ceramix Site, contain lead greater than 1,000 parts per million (ppm).

In May 2005, EPA decided to perform further assessment of the Site to address approximately 20 acres of lead-contaminated wetlands and to investigate groundwater, soil, and air migration pathways on the entire site, including the former plant area.

In September 2005, Jackson Ceramix was listed on the National Priorities List of most hazardous waste sites, making it eligible for federal funding for cleanup.

In July 2009, EPA completed a field investigation of the areas located west of the railroad track and potentially impacted by the former plant.

In February 2010, EPA started the investigation of wetlands. In the fall of 2010, EPA collected soil, surface water, and ecological samples and installed new monitoring wells in the wetlands.

In late 2014 EPA conducted field sampling for the RI. The RI field sampling was completed in May 2015. The first draft RI report is expected in the fall of 2016.

## PART 4: Community Issues and Concerns

In order to gather updated information for Community Involvement Plans, EPA interviews residents and local officials who live and work near Superfund sites. The interviews are conducted to determine residents' understanding of Site activities and site history, as well as to learn about perceptions and concerns residents may have about the site or about EPA's involvement with it.

In November 2015, EPA and its contractor attempted to engage community members in the interview process. However, the majority of community members who were contacted were either unaware of the Site or were uninterested in participating in the interview process. As a result, only three interviews were conducted to inform this CIP.

Among the three community members who were interviewed, there was a low level of concern regarding the site and EPA's activities. Two interviewees spoke about health concerns following a fire at the facility in 1989, but they also said that they believe the site is being properly controlled now. Getting the site cleaned up and made available for future development and new job opportunities seems to be a primary concern for all those interviewed. Although community members are anxious to see the site redeveloped, they hope that future redevelopment will not cause additional environmental harm or detract from the surrounding residential areas.

Development of the Marcellus shale is creating jobs in surrounding areas, but is not without controversy. Some people are concerned about potential impact on water quality. At the same time, some community members are, reportedly, concerned that state and federal regulation of the gas industry could potentially limit new economic opportunities.

While residents may be wary of state and federal regulatory agencies, those interviewed, as well as some of those who declined to be interviewed, expressed a high level of confidence in local government. Interviewees did not identify any environmental groups or activists who may be interested in EPA's work at the site. The county conservation district works with the local municipality to address environmental concerns when they arise. Interviewees said the local municipality and the local barber shop are places residents go for information about community issues and events.

## PART 5. Community Involvement Tools and Techniques: Suggestions for Working with This Community

Throughout the work at the site, EPA used or will use press releases in local newspapers, fact sheets detailing progress at the Jackson Ceramix Site, and a site-specific website maintained to provide interested residents access to information and documents pertaining to the site. To access the website, click here: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/jacksonceramix>

Going forward, the following tools and techniques are suggested to inform residents of ongoing and upcoming cleanup activities:

- Hold an availability session or public meeting to explain ongoing/upcoming work;
- Develop and mail fact sheets, as needed, to update and inform residents of site status and upcoming work;
- Provide brief status updates/announcements via postcards or emails, as appropriate and preferred by interested parties;
- Base additional outreach activities, if any, on the input received from community members during the availability session, or on individual comments and requests provided via direct contact.

Below is a link to EPA 's Community Involvement Toolkit which provides additional information about the tools & techniques EPA may use during the cleanup process.

[Community Involvement Toolkit](#)

**To make suggestions or requests to help us keep your community informed,  
contact the CIC assigned to this site:**

**Amanda Miles**  
[miles.amanda@epa.gov](mailto:miles.amanda@epa.gov)  
or at  
215-814-5557 or 1-800-553-2509 x45525  
or at  
**US EPA Region 3**  
1650 Arch Street (3HS52)  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

## PART 6. Community Involvement

### Opportunities and Resources

EPA offers many opportunities and resources to facilitate the community's involvement in EPA's activities and decisions. Which tools are used and how many activities occur usually reflects the level of interest expressed by the community. For a comprehensive description of available resources and opportunities, go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/index.htm>

Some of the most frequently used opportunities and resources include:

#### Community Advisory Group (CAG)

A CAG is a self-governing stakeholder group that meets regularly to learn about EPA's cleanup process, discuss their issues and concerns, and provide feedback to EPA. EPA is able to provide support to the CAG by attending meetings, making presentations, procuring meeting rooms, advertising the meetings and providing copies of site-related documents. A CAG has not been formed at this site. Interested members may notify the Community Involvement Coordinator, Gina Soscia at 215-814-5538, to request assistance.

#### Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)

A TAG is a competitive federal grant awarded to an incorporated nonprofit organization of community members affected by the Site. Recipients contract with independent technical advisors who review and evaluate site-related documents. For more information, click on the link above or contact Region 3 TAG Coordinator Gina Soscia at 215-814-5538.

#### Technical Assistance for Communities (TASC)

TASC is a program that provides independent educational and technical assistance to communities affected by hazardous waste sites regulated by the Superfund and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) programs. Such assistance helps communities to better understand the hazardous waste issues confronting them and to be well-informed while participating in the decision-making process. For more details, click on the link above or contact Region 3 TASC Coordinator Gina Soscia at 215-814-5538.



## PART 7: Appendices

Appendix A: Contacts.....	18
Appendix B: Media Contacts.....	21
Appendix C: Potential Meeting Locations.....	22
Appendix D: Site Files Access.....	23
Appendix E: Fact Sheets.....	24
Appendix F: Community Demographics.....	28
Appendix G: Superfund Partnerships.....	31
Appendix H: Additional Websites & Resources.....	33

# Appendix A

## Contacts:

### EPA

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U.S. EPA Region 3  
1650 Arch Street – 3HS22  
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Philadelphia, PA 19103  
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1650 Arch St  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Phone: 215-814-5404  
Email: [brown.kinshasa@epa.gov](mailto:brown.kinshasa@epa.gov)

### ATSDR

#### **Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)**

Christine Lloyd  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-814-3142  
Email: [lloyd.christine@epa.gov](mailto:lloyd.christine@epa.gov)  
[www.atsdr.cdc.gov](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov)

# Appendix A

## Contacts:

### Federal

#### **Governor Thomas Wolf**

Office of the Governor  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
Phone: 717-772-8284  
<http://www.governor.pa.gov>

#### **Senator Robert P. Casey, Jr.**

393 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-6324  
<http://casey.senate.gov/>

#### **Senator Patrick J Toomey**

248 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-4254  
<http://toomey.senate.gov>

#### **Congressman Glenn Thompson - 5th District**

124 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: 202-225-5121  
<http://thompson.house.gov>

### State

#### **State Senator Joseph B. Scarnati, III - 25th District**

Senate Box 203025  
Room 292, Main Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
Phone: 717-787-7084  
[http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/member\\_information/senate\\_bio.cfm?districtnumber=25](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/member_information/senate_bio.cfm?districtnumber=25)

#### **State House of Representatives - 66th District - Cris Dush**

73 South White Street; Suite 2  
Brookville, PA 15825  
Phone: 814-849-8008  
[http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/member\\_information/house\\_bio.cfm?districtnumber=66](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/member_information/house_bio.cfm?districtnumber=66)

#### **Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**

230 Chestnut Street  
Meadville, PA 16335  
Phone: 814-332-6945  
<http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/>

# Appendix A

## Contacts:

### Local

#### **Jefferson County Commissioners**

Jefferson Place

155 Main Street, 2nd Floor

Brookville, PA 15825

<http://www.jeffersoncountypa.com>

#### **Clearfield County Commissioners**

212 East Locust Street

Suite 112

Clearfield, PA 16830

Phone: 814-765-2642 x5051

<http://www.clearfieldco.org/>

#### **Falls Creek Borough**

Cindy Fritz, Manager

Falls Creek Borough Bldg.

117 Taylor Avenue

Falls Creek, PA 15840

814-371-2121

### Other

#### **DuBois Area School District**

Dr. Luke Lansberry, Superintendent

500 Liberty Boulevard

DuBois, PA 15801

Phone: 814-371-2700

[llansberry@dasd.k12.pa.us](mailto:llansberry@dasd.k12.pa.us)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Falls Creek is served by schools in Brockway, Punxsatawny, and Brookville. Community members who have children or family members in school follow school events. So, care should be taken to avoid conflicting with school activities schedules when planning meetings about the site.

## Appendix B: Media Contacts

### Newspapers

#### ***The Courier-Express***

500 Jeffers St.  
PO Box 407  
DuBois, PA 15801  
Phone: 814-371-4200

#### ***The Gant Daily***

219 S. 2nd St.  
PO Box 746  
Clearfield, PA 16830  
Phone: 814-765-5631

### Television Stations

#### ***WTAJ-TV***

5000 Sixth Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16602  
Phone: 814-943-3001

#### ***WJAC-TV6***

49 Old Hickory Lane  
Johnstown, PA 15905  
Phone: 814-255-7600

### Radio Stations

#### ***Q102 WOWQ-FM***

801 East DuBois Avenue  
DuBois, PA 15801  
Phone: 814-371-6100

#### ***WDBA FM***

28 West Scribner Avenue  
DuBois, PA 15801  
Phone: 814-371-1330

#### ***Sunny 106.5 FM***

12 West Long Lane  
DuBois, PA 15811  
Phone: 814-375-5260

## Appendix C: Potential Meeting Locations

### **Falls Creek Fire Department**

4 First Street  
Falls Creek, PA 15840  
Phone: 814-371-6288

### **Clarion Hotel & Conference Center**

1896 Rich Highway  
Dubois, PA 15801  
Phone: 814-503-8151

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Community members reportedly rely on the municipal building and the local barber shop for news. These locations should be considered when disseminating information to the community. They may be willing to display fact sheets or announcements or to make copies available for residents to take home.

## Appendix D: Site Files Access

### ***Dubois Public Library***

31 South Brady Street

Dubois, PA 15801

Phone: 814-371-5930

Hours of operation: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday & Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Closed Sunday

### ***U.S. EPA Region 3***

Administrative Records Room

1650 Arch Street

Philadelphia, PA 19103

Phone: 215-814-3157, by appointment

### ***Online***

In addition to the links found throughout this document, the following link will connect you to EPA's Superfund Administrative Record (AR) Files. AR Files contain documents and data EPA relied on when making cleanup decisions for a site. At this time, there is an AR file for Removal Program actions taken at Jackson Ceramix. However, the Remedial Program AR file will not be compiled until the current Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study are done and EPA prepares a Proposed Plan for public comment.

[www.epa.gov/arweb](http://www.epa.gov/arweb) (hold down "Control key" and click on website)

Select state

Select site name

Identify type of information you seek (for instance: Removal; Remedial; EE/CA, etc.)

Choose "Add Search Conditions" and select type of materials (Documents, Letters, etc.)

PLEASE NOTE: EPA recently redesigned many of its webpages. If you encounter problems when trying to access information, please contact the Community Involvement Coordinator for the site so that we may correct the problem.

## Appendix E: Fact Sheets

**January 2013—"EPA Continues Investigation"**



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 3  
DELAWARE, MARYLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, WEST VIRGINIA  
AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



## Jackson Ceramix Superfund site EPA Continues Investigation

FALLS CREEK, PA

JANUARY 2013

### PROGRESS REPORT ON REMEDIATION INVESTIGATION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), continues its Remedial Investigation (RI) of the Jackson Ceramix Superfund Site (Site). The purpose of the RI is to find out the source and extent of contamination, evaluate options for cleanup, and determine if the site can be redeveloped to provide economic, environmental, and/or social benefits.

The RI began in the spring of 2010 and additional sampling took place in June 2012. EPA expects to complete the RI in the summer of 2013 and will keep the community updated on our progress.

The EPA has been working with the Borough of Falls Creek and prospective land developers to redevelop the former china manufacturing facility and the area north of the railroad tracks between First Street and Slab Run Road.

EPA's investigation of the site (Figure 1) includes:

- The former china manufacturing facility;
- The former lagoon; and
- The Sandy Lick Creek floodplain due east of the former china manufacturing facility.

As a precautionary measure, EPA included the Falls Creek Park in the investigation (labeled as Baseball Field Area in Figure 1) because of its proximity to the Site. While we did detect low levels of metals and organic compounds, the levels do not pose a health risk to people playing in or visiting the park.

### 2010 WORK SUMMARY

EPA has completed the following work which began in 2010:

- Sampled soil, sediment, and surface water from

the Jackson Ceramix site and the baseball field area.

□ Installed and sampled 34 temporary and permanent groundwater monitoring wells.

Results of the samples taken at the former facility, the former lagoon and the floodplain areas indicate the presence of lead and other metals and organic compounds in the soils, sediment, surface water and groundwater.

Caution signs with EPA's contact information have been installed in these areas.

### ADDITIONAL SAMPLING NEEDED

Based on the 2010 sample results, EPA determined that more information was needed to better assess the extent of contamination at the site and the risk to human health and the environment. The additional sampling began in June 2012 and included:

- 92 soil samples collected from 28 sample locations within the Sandy Lick Creek floodplain.

□ Additional sampling at the southern portion of the baseball field area and the former manufacturing facility property.

- At least two additional rounds of samples of the groundwater monitoring wells.

In an effort to complete the groundwater investigation, EPA would like to gather well information from residents who live within one mile of the site.

## EPA CONDUCTS RESIDENTIAL WELL SURVEY

In the fall of 2012, contract workers for the EPA went door-to-door to collect information about residential groundwater wells. The information will help EPA determine the best approach for remediating groundwater contamination by identifying the use of the underlying groundwater and the locations of wells in the vicinity of the Site.

A report summarizing the well survey information will be available to the public in late February 2013. Private information such as names and addresses will be kept confidential. The report will be available at: [http://loggerhead.epa.gov/anweb/public/search\\_results.jsp?siteid=PAD001222025](http://loggerhead.epa.gov/anweb/public/search_results.jsp?siteid=PAD001222025)

## SITE BACKGROUND AND CLEANUP HISTORY

Jackson Ceramics is located within the Borough of Falls Creek off of Third Street, in both Jefferson and Clearfield counties. Between 1917 until its closing in October 1985, the facility manufactured and painted china.

Chemicals and metals used in the china manufacturing process included lead and other metals, and organic compounds. Poor chemical handling practices at the plant resulted in contamination of the groundwater, soil, sediment and wetlands.

Wastewater generated from the china manufacturing process was contaminated with residual paints, oils and china glazing material. The wastewater was discharged to an unlined lagoon (labeled as the Farmer Lagoon on Figure 1).

The lagoon repeatedly discharged the wastewater and sludge into the floodplain east of the railroad tracks, covering approximately 20 acres of the floodplain with lead-contaminated sludge.

Broken and unfinished china debris was stockpiled across the entire facility and was buried underground in the extreme southeastern corner of the Falls Creek recreational park.

Multiple investigations and removal actions have been conducted at the Site by the EPA and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection since 1987 including:

1987-A Site Inspection was completed.

1989-Drums containing lead, PCB-contaminated oil, organic materials, flammable solids and liquids were removed.

1992-A groundwater investigation began along with an evaluation of risks to migratory birds by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

1998-1999-Stockpiled hazardous chemicals, contaminated soils, sediment, and debris were removed and the former facility was covered with two feet of clean soil.

2010-A wetlands soil investigation began to delineate lead contamination within the floodplain.

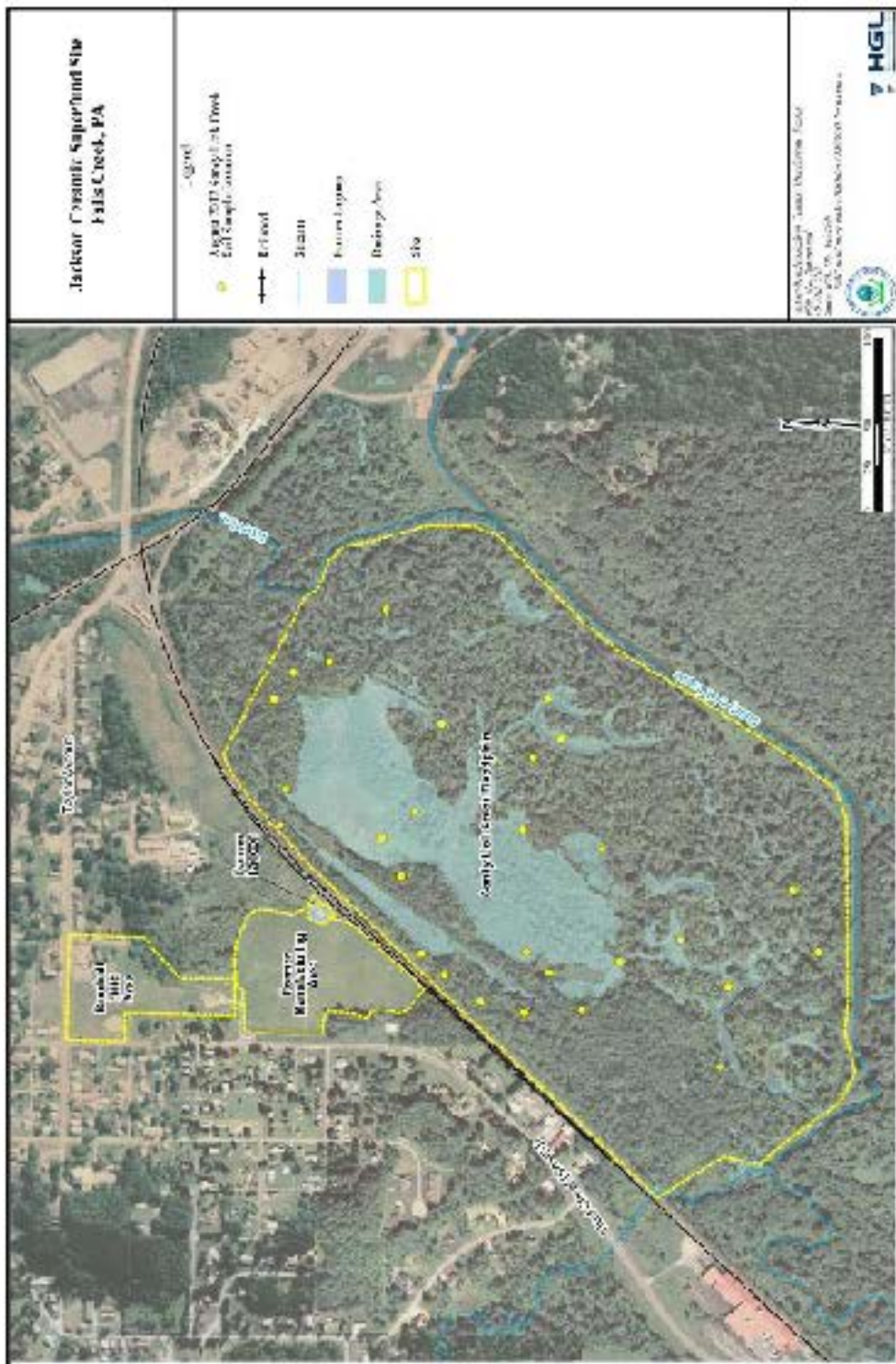
## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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On the web: <http://www.epa.gov/rcg3hwmd/npl/PAD001222025.html>





## Appendix F. Community Demographics

### **Borough of Falls Creek Demographics**

As of the census of 2010, there were 983 people, 414 households, and 274 families residing in the borough. The population density was 1,030.4 inhabitants per square mile. There were 445 housing units at an average density of 466.4 per square mile .

The racial makeup of the city was :

- 99.08% White
- 0.20% Hispanic or Latino of any race
- 0.20% Native American
- 0.10% Asian
- 0.61% from other races

There were 414 households, out of which 26.1% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 55.6% were married couples living together, 7.2% had a female householder, and 33.8% were non-families. 28.5% of all households were made up of individuals, and 12.6% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.37 and the average family size was 2.93. In the borough the population was spread out with:

- 23.3% under the age of 18
- 7.4% from 18 to 24
- 28% from 25 to 44
- 22.3% from 45 to 64
- and 19.0% who were 65 years of age or older

The median age was 38 years. For every 100 females there were 95.0 males. For every 100

females age 18 and over, there were 97.9 males.

The median income for a household in the borough was \$30,455, and the median income for a family was \$39,219. Males had a median income of \$33,417 versus \$19,732 for females.

## Appendix F. Community Demographics

### Jefferson County, Pennsylvania Demographics

As of the census of 2010, there were 45,932 people, 18,375 households, and 12,862 families residing in the county. The population density was 70 people per square mile (27/km<sup>2</sup>). There were 22,104 housing units at an average density of 34 per square mile. The racial makeup of the county was:

- 98.97% - White
- 0.13% - Black or African American
- 0.41% - Hispanic or Latino or any race
- 0.16% - Native American
- 0.21% - Asian
- 0.01% - Pacific Islander
- 0.07% - from other races,
- 0.45% - from two or more races.

There were 18,375 households out of which 30.30% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 56.80% were married couples living together, 9.10% had a female householder, and 30.00% were non-families. 26.60% of all households were made up of individuals and 13.80% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.45 and the average family size was 2.96.

In the county, the population was spread out with:

- 23.60% under the age of 18
- 7.70% from 18 to 24

- 27.20% from 25 to 44
- 23.60% from 45 to 64,
- and 13.80% who were 65 years of age or older.

### Clearfield County, Pennsylvania Demographics

As of the census of 2010, there were 81,642 people, 32,785 households, and 22,916 families residing in the county. The population density was 73 people per square mile. There were 37,855 housing units at an average density of 33 per square mile. The racial makeup of the county was:

- 97.40% - White
- 1.49% - Black or African American
- 0.56% - Hispanic or Latino or any race
- 0.12% - Native American
- 0.26% - Asian
- 0.01% - Pacific Islander
- 0.26% - from other races,
- 0.46% - from two or more races.

There were 32,785 households out of which 29.70% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 56.60% were married couples living together, 9.30% had a female householder with no husband present, and 30.10% were non-families. 26.30% of all households were made up of individuals and 13.10% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.44 and the average family size was 2.94.

## Appendix F. Community Demographics cont'd

### **Clearfield County, Pennsylvania Demographics cont'd**

In the county, the population was spread out with:

- 22.70% under the age of 18
- 7.70% from 18 to 24
- 28.8% from 25 to 44
- 23.90% from 45 to 64,
- and 16.90% who were 65 years of age or older.

The median age was 39 years. For every 100 females there were 99.50 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 97.50 males. 0.46% - from two or more races.

## Appendix G. Superfund Partnerships

### Superfund Partnerships

While management of the Superfund program lies mainly within the Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI) within EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM), many responsibilities fall within other programs and agencies.

#### Within EPA

##### Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

This office is responsible for addressing imminent risks that require quick action to eliminate hazards or stabilize them until additional investigations can be conducted. Such actions are generally short in duration. OEM also conducts emergency responses and emergency preparedness training to ensure first responders (state and local emergency responders) are prepared to respond to releases of hazardous substances.

##### Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse (FFRRO)

This office resides in OLEM and is the interface between EPA and federal agencies, such as the Department of Energy and Department of Defense, as they conduct cleanups of their own facilities.

##### Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization (OBLR)

This office is responsible for supporting reuse of blighted sites and revitalization of cleaned-up Superfund sites. Blighted properties are addressed by the Brownfields Program, established by an amendment to Superfund's authorizing legislation, CERCLA. The Brownfields Program promotes the evaluation and development of properties known or suspected to be contaminated, yet not qualified for listing on the National Priorities List (NPL). The **Land Revitalization Program** seeks to promote beneficial reuse of cleaned-up NPL sites. By restoring formerly undesirable properties to beneficial reuse, EPA helps to strengthen local economies and reduce urban sprawl.

For more information about the work of OLEM, click here: [About OLEM](#)

##### Office of Research and Development (ORD)

This office is the scientific research arm of EPA. Its research helps to ensure that EPA's actions are based on solid science and up-to-date technology.

#### Other Federal Government Agencies

##### Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

ATSDR is responsible for conducting health assessments for communities in proximity to Superfund sites. It also maintains toxicological profiles of many contaminants.

## Appendix G. Superfund Partnerships cont'd

### National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

This agency studies and supports research to learn how the environment affects people in order to help promote healthier lives. It conducts research on health effects of hazardous substances that aid in Superfund assessment and cleanup decisions.

### US Army Corps of Engineers

This construction-oriented agency is often contracted to conduct the construction for Superfund cleanups .

### States and Tribes

States and Tribes have roles in addressing Superfund sites in their areas at every stage of the Superfund cleanup pipeline. However, EPA Region 3 currently has no federally recognized Tribes.

### State Superfund Programs

For information about state Superfund programs, visit the website of the environmental agency in which your site is located. **For the Jackson Ceramix Superfund Site, visit the website of:**  
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP)

### Tribal Superfund Program

EPA works with tribes to cleanup or prevent contamination on or near Tribal lands for the protection of human health and the environment.



## Appendix H: Additional Websites & Resources

### **EPA Website for the Jackson Ceramix Site:**

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/jacksonceramix>

### **ATSDR ToxFAQS page:**

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp>

### **Information related to lead:**

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/substances/toxsubstance.asp?toxid=22>

### **A Citizen's Guide to the Superfund Program:**

<http://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/11/175197>

### ***The Superfund Process at a Glance:***

<http://epa.gov/superfund/superfund-cleanup-process>