

*Final Revised
Community Relations Plan*

for the

**Rockwell International Superfund Site
Allegan, Michigan**

August 1994

Prepared for: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

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1.0 Introduction

This document revises the 1989 Community Relations Plan developed for the Rockwell International (Rockwell) **Superfund*** site in Allegan, Michigan. This revision presents community relations activities proposed for the remainder of the Superfund cleanup at the Rockwell site.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), gathered information for this revision in face-to-face and telephone interviews on May 9, 10, and 11, 1994. The interviews were conducted with residents and local officials who live near the site. Additional information about the Rockwell site and the community surrounding it was obtained from federal, state, and local sources.

The revised Rockwell community relations plan provides the following information:

- Brief site description and history.
- Community profile.
- Summary of past and present site-related concerns.
- Community relations objectives and activities for remainder of the Superfund cleanup at the Rockwell site.
- Updated list of contacts.
- Locations for the information repositories and public meetings.
- Description of the Superfund process and a glossary of terms related to site cleanup.

EPA established the Superfund Community Relations Program to encourage two-way communication between communities and governmental agencies responsible for the Superfund program at individual hazardous waste sites. The goal of the community relations program is to involve residents and local officials in the Superfund process. This revised community relations plan reflects the concerns and interests expressed by community members near the Rockwell site. It presents the community relations activities planned for the remainder of the Rockwell cleanup. These activities were developed to meet the specific community concerns and interests expressed to EPA.

*Words in the glossary (Appendix D) appear in **boldface print** on first reference in this document.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 Site Description

The Off-Products Division of Rockwell International occupied a 30.4 acre site in Allegan, Michigan (Figure 1). The site is bounded on the north by the Kalamazoo River, on the east by River Street, on the south by North Street, and on the west by the Allegan wastewater treatment plant. A residential area surrounds the site. This area includes North Ward Elementary School, directly across River Street from the site, and a nearby mental health facility that offers adult day activity programs.

2.2 Site History

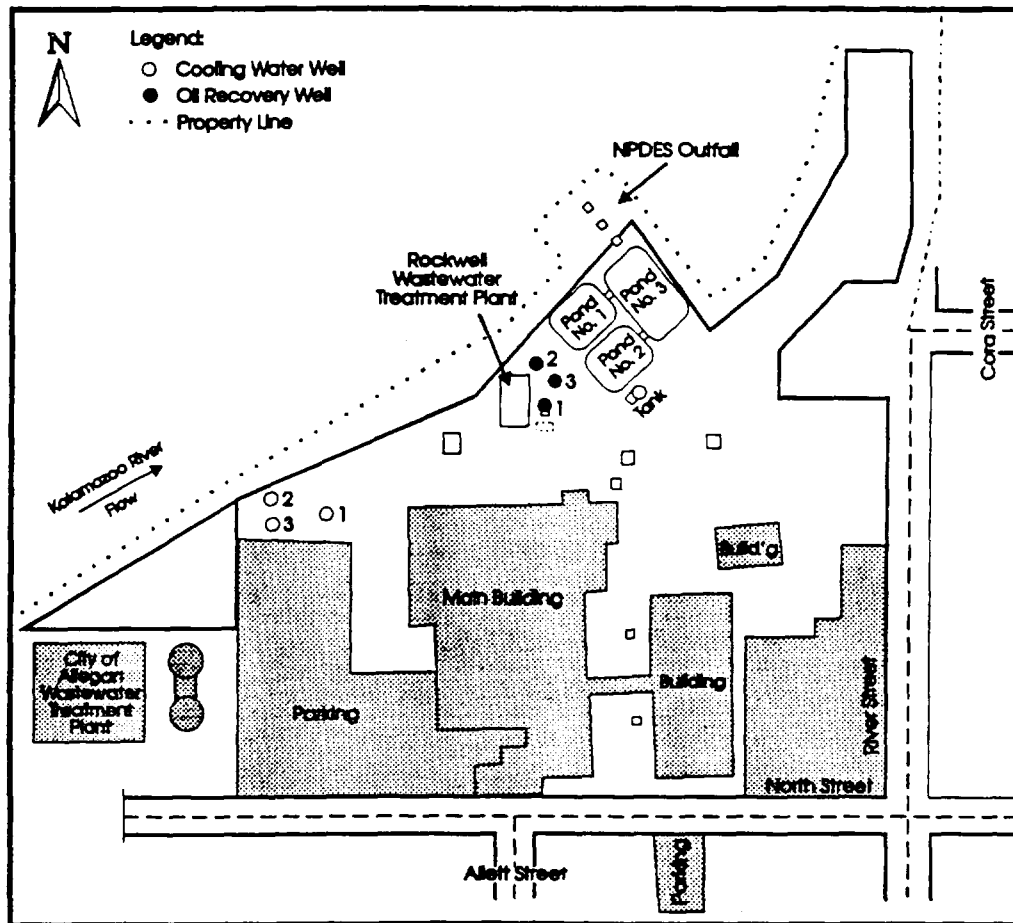
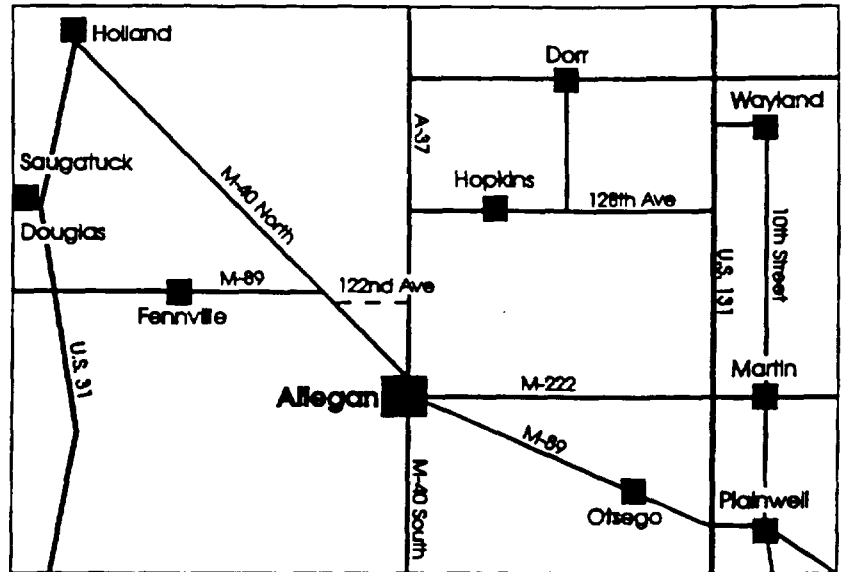
In 1920, the Rockwell plant began manufacturing driveline parts for heavy trucks and construction equipment. Operations included machining, part hardening (using cyanide until 1947, then heat treatment), and assembly. Manufacturing buildings occupied one quarter of the property; other portions of the property were used for an oil/water wastewater treatment facility, associated treatment ponds, cooling water wells, oil recovery wells, outdoor storage, and parking.

Until 1960, industrial wastewater from manufacturing at the Rockwell site was discharged directly into the Kalamazoo River. This wastewater contained sludge, heavy metals, process wastes, and oil. In 1960, Rockwell began to discharge the wastewater into an unlined collection pond directly behind the plant. Oil was collected on the surface of the pond and burned off, creating large amounts of black smoke. Oil burning stopped in 1965 after the Allegan County Health Department raised concerns about it.

In 1972, Rockwell activated a new onsite oil/water wastewater treatment facility and stopped discharging wastewater into the collection pond. The facility included six underground storage tanks and three new treatment ponds to contain treated water, untreated non-contact cooling water, and sludge. The original collection pond, with sludge in it, was filled in and built over.

In 1974, Rockwell obtained an **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)** permit to discharge treated water into Allegan's city sewer system. Sludge was placed in the treatment ponds until 1978, when a waste disposal contractor began to remove sludge periodically and properly dispose of it.

From the mid 1960s to the early 1970s, oil discharges and seeps from the unlined collection pond and other operations at the Rockwell site frequently were



Rockwell International Superfund Site

discovered in the Kalamazoo River. Rockwell officials attempted to control the problem, but were unsuccessful.

In 1973, Rockwell constructed a clay-filled trench to address the continuing discharge/seepage problem. When this did not eliminate the problem, Rockwell investigated the area and discovered leaking underground storage tanks. In 1976, the tanks were resealed. In 1977, three oil recovery wells were built to provide additional oil seepage control.

In 1978, 3,700 cubic yards of wastewater treatment sludge were excavated from one treatment pond and disposed of as hazardous waste. In 1981, Rockwell notified EPA about the hazardous waste in the treatment ponds. In 1984 and 1985, EPA and Rockwell conducted three preliminary studies to determine the nature of site contamination.

EPA's 1984 testing revealed **lead, arsenic, cyanide, and solvents** in the **groundwater** near the oil recovery wells. Lead also was discovered in the NPDES outfall. River sediment samples contained arsenic, chromium, solvents, and **organics**. Chromium and arsenic also were collected in upstream sediments.

In 1987, the Rockwell site was added to the **National Priorities List**, based on the 1984 test results. In 1988, Rockwell and EPA signed a consent order, a legal document stipulating that Rockwell would conduct a **remedial investigation (RI)** and **feasibility study (FS)** at the site. In 1989, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry completed a preliminary health assessment for the site, and the RI/FS began.

In the first phase of the RI, from 1989 to 1992, EPA investigated the following areas of concern:

- Rockwell wastewater treatment plant.
- Three wastewater treatment lagoons.
- Buried oil separation/settling pond.
- Former City of Allegan landfill.
- City of Allegan wastewater treatment plant.
- Kalamazoo River sediment
- Grassy field/reported area of standing water where **polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)** were discovered.
- Former railroad alignment, including the former oil floatation house and chip loading facility.

In November 1992, EPA began the second phase of the RI to fill in data gaps from the first phase of the investigation.

The following activities were scheduled to be completed in the second phase of the Rockwell RI:

- Modify the draft **risk assessment** developed in 1990 in the first phase of the investigation.
- Re-sample soil and sediment locations that were not properly tested previously.
- Establish background levels for contaminants in surface and subsurface soils and groundwater.
- Assess further PCBs in grassy area.
- Assess contamination in former railroad alignment area.
- Determine whether cyanide pots are buried onsite, and if they are, whether they have affected onsite soils.
- Assess further potential releases from the former Allegan Landfill to the Kalamazoo River.
- Assess further groundwater flow directions near the area.

The progress of the RI/FS has been affected by the need to expand Allegan's nearby wastewater treatment facility. EPA, in cooperation with MDNR divided cleanup of the Rockwell site into two parts: one part will address the former City of Allegan landfill and the other will address groundwater contamination.

EPA separated the Rockwell cleanup into two parts for two reasons. First, the contamination of concern at the Rockwell site is located 15 to 20 feet below ground surface. Residents have a municipal water supply and are not likely to come into contact with the contaminated deep subsurface soils; therefore, an immediate threat to the community from the deep subsurface contamination does not exist. Second, the City needs to expand its wastewater treatment plant as soon as possible. Completing the risk assessment and addressing the former onsite landfill will make it possible for the city to sell the bonds it needs to finance expansion of the wastewater treatment plant.

3.0 Community Profile

The city of Allegan is the county seat for Allegan County. It is bounded on the north, east, and west by Allegan Township and on the south by Trowbridge Township. It is approximately 25 miles from the city of Holland to the northwest, Grand Rapids to the northeast, and Kalamazoo to the southeast. The area surrounding Allegan is primarily rural.

According to a community profile of Allegan published by the Chamber of Commerce in February 1994, the population of the city of Allegan (1990 census) is 4,547; the population of Allegan County is 90,509. Although the population in the county has grown significantly, the population of the city of Allegan is about the same as it was in the 1960s.

Allegan is governed by a city manager and a seven member city council. A part-time mayor and mayor pro-tem are elected annually from within the city council.

Until the 1980s, the city's major employer was Rockwell International. Today, the major employer is Perrigo Company (a health and beauty aids manufacturer). Perrigo has seven plants located throughout Allegan. The second largest employer is Allegan General Hospital.

Allegan has an active Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's motto is "Allegan--Where yesterday and tomorrow come together." The Chamber works to promote business in Allegan and to encourage small businesses to come to Allegan. The area also has an active industrial development organization called The Alliance. One of the projects undertaken by The Alliance is to find a tenant, if possible, for the former Rockwell facility. Allegan also has one industrial park called Allegan Highlands Industrial Park.

Several newspapers serve Allegan, including the *Allegan County News & Gazette*, the *Kalamazoo Gazette*, and the free publication called *Flashes*. The Chamber of Commerce publishes a monthly newsletter. Allegan also has cable television access.

During the community interviews, residents noted it was hard to characterize the city of Allegan. Although it is an older community and somewhat isolated (the next city is approximately 15 miles away), it has a "good mix of people" because it is the county seat.

Residents commented that Allegan is a pro-active community, where citizens get involved in volunteer projects, such as the renewal of the riverfront, to improve

their community. They also mentioned that, overall, the community has a keen interest in politics, particularly state politics. According to those interviewed, most Allegan residents vote Republican and openly support conservative policies and traditional family values.

Information for this profile came from the 1994 EPA community interviews and the Allegan Chamber of Commerce.

4.0 History of Community Concern

Although some local residents have expressed interest in the Rockwell site, overall community interest in the site has been minimal. This may be due to the lack of a perceived threat or exposure routes from the site.

In the past, residents who expressed an interest in the site were concerned about its effect on the Kalamazoo River, the proximity of the site to an elementary school, and the financial responsibility for the site that may be assessed to the city of Allegan. Residents also were interested in more information about the site and cleanup activities. Although the site has caused groundwater contamination, groundwater quality has not been a major concern because most city residents receive municipal water from wells far removed from the area of the Rockwell site.

5.0 Current Community Concerns

To assess the current level of community concern about the Rockwell site and to revise the community relations activities, as necessary, to meet these concerns, EPA conducted face-to-face community interviews in May 1994. EPA interviewed a cross section of local officials and residents in and around the Rockwell site. Sixteen face-to-face and two telephone interviews were conducted in the city of Allegan and neighboring Allegan Township.

The level of interest in the Rockwell site still appears to be minimal. City officials said they had not received one question or complaint from citizens about the site in the past several years. During the interviews, however, residents had several questions about the site, such as when it will be cleaned up and are there cyanide pots (deposits) buried onsite. EPA officials explained the typical schedule for a Superfund cleanup and noted that activities at the Rockwell site are on schedule. EPA also reassured residents that no cyanide deposits had been found onsite.

Although one resident thought site cleanup was "unnecessary" because "nature would eventually take care of the soil and groundwater problems," most residents interviewed expressed three general concerns related to the Rockwell site:

- Protection of the Kalamazoo River.
- Expansion of the wastewater treatment plant.
- Site reuse.

Each of these concerns is more fully explained in the remainder of this section.

5.1 Protection of the Kalamazoo River

Protection of the Kalamazoo River is a significant environmental concern. During community interviews, several residents noted that through the efforts of concerned citizens and regulatory agencies, the quality of the Kalamazoo River has improved dramatically. They stressed that broad public support exists in Kalamazoo, and to a lesser extent in the Allegan area, to protect the river from further environmental damage and to remove remaining pollution from the river. Although strong support was expressed for protection of the river during the interviews, most residents are not worried about the effect of the Rockwell site on the river. They do not see the Rockwell site as a major factor in the pollution of the river. Other Superfund sites in the Kalamazoo area are perceived as greater threats to the river. Part of the pollution investigation at the Rockwell site has focused on the effect of

the site on the river. Some PCB contamination suspected to be from site leachate, as well as the contaminated groundwater, entered the river; however, the site has not been a significant source of pollution for the Kalamazoo River.

Those who are concerned about the effect of the Rockwell site on the river want to make sure the site is cleaned up properly so that site leachate or contaminated site groundwater do not pollute the river. They are also concerned that the cleanup standards for the river be strictly enforced to assure the community that every effort has been made to restore and protect the river.

5.2 Expansion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Although city officials stated in the interviews that they had not received one question or complaint from residents about the Rockwell site over the past several years, they noted they have received complaints from residents during the past year about odors in the area of the site. The odors have been attributed to the City of Allegan's wastewater treatment plant, which is adjacent to the Rockwell site. Most residents and local officials interviewed believe that the odors are the result of the need to expand the treatment plant. Although city officials are committed to upgrading the treatment facility to better serve the city of Allegan and surrounding communities, they cannot sell bonds for the expansion until some cleanup issues related to the Rockwell site are resolved. Specifically, the City, in cooperation with EPA and MDNR, has agreed to conduct a risk assessment of the portion of the site that once was a landfill. When the risk assessment is completed and the appropriate cleanup actions are taken, the portion of the site property occupied by the landfill will be available to the city for the expansion of the wastewater treatment plant.

EPA expects that the risk assessment will be completed in Summer 1994 and that a cleanup decision for this part of the site will be made later this same year.

5.3 Site Reuse

Reuse of the Rockwell site property or facilities is of interest both to residents and local business development officials. Business developers see the Rockwell site a prime industrial location in Allegan. They believe the onsite facilities would be a "wonderful" and "useful" location for the "right" company, such as a metal manufacturer. Local leaders interviewed stated that economic development was more of a concern in the Allegan area than environmental protection, although Allegan residents believe in protecting the environment. They noted that expansion

of the wastewater treatment plant and bringing in the "right kind of businesses" are the most important concerns in the Allegan area.

Site reuse is also a concern of residents and school officials who live or work near the Rockwell site. These individuals understand and accept the need to expand the wastewater treatment plant. Most welcome the expansion because they believe it will alleviate the foul odors that plagued the area last summer. However, they object to the relocation of an industrial operation at the site. They worry that traffic and noise will increase, and the value of residential property in the area will decrease. These residents are accustomed to the site being in their neighborhood. Although a fence surrounds the site, no signs or other markers draw attention to it. As far as nearby residents interviewed by EPA were concerned, they want the site properly cleaned up, they do not want signs on the fence noting the property is a Superfund site, and they do not want to see the Rockwell facilities reused for industrial purposes.

6.0 Community Relations Program

As part of the community interviews, EPA asked local residents and officials to evaluate the effectiveness of previous community relations activities and to suggest the best methods for communicating with the community about future site activities. Using this information, and the requirements for public participation in the Superfund process, EPA developed objectives and activities for future community relations activities in conjunction with the cleanup of the Rockwell site.

6.1 Objectives

The community relations plan for the Rockwell site is designed to foster open communication among community members, state and federal agencies overseeing site activities, and other interested parties. The goal of the program is to foster dialogue between the community and EPA. It has two specific objectives:

- Address community questions about site cleanup promptly and in language that can be understood by the community.
- Update the community regularly regarding site cleanup activities.

6.2 Activities

During the 1994 community interviews, EPA asked community members and local officials whether they were satisfied with EPA's previous methods of informing the community about the site cleanup. These methods included fact sheets, press releases, public meetings, and information repositories at the Allegan Public Library and Waldo Library at Western Michigan University. Residents thought these methods had been adequate and recommended EPA use them in the future.

To meet the objectives of this plan, EPA's community relations coordinator and remedial project manager will be the main contacts for quick and reliable responses to questions concerning the sites. These individuals will also be responsible for disseminating information to interested citizens and the local media as technical milestones for the sites are met.

The following community relations activities will be implemented to coincide with cleanup of the Rockwell site:

- **Update site information repositories.**
Information repositories for the Rockwell site are at two locations: Allegan Public Library, 331 Hubbard Street in Allegan; and the Waldo Library, Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo. These repositories will be updated with site-related documents produced in conjunction with site activities.

- **Maintain dialogue with area residents and officials regarding site developments.**
Local officials and residents who have expressed an interest in the site are encouraged to call EPA with their questions or concerns. EPA's toll-free telephone number is 1-800-621-8431. EPA will update school officials at North Ward Elementary School before field work takes place that will require special protective clothing or heavy equipment, so that these officials can handle inquiries. EPA also will update local government officials on site developments so they can handle citizen inquiries.

- **Hold public meetings or availability sessions.**
Public meetings or **availability sessions** will be held to explain major site developments. At these meetings, EPA will explain the status of site cleanup, the schedule for future activities, and the health and safety measures undertaken to protect the community during these actions. Notice of a public meeting or availability session will appear in the *Allegan County News and Gazette*; meetings will probably be held in the Allegan County Area Technical and Educational Center, 2891 118th Avenue (M-222E) in Allegan or at the Griswold Auditorium on Hubbard Street in Allegan.

- **Prepare fact sheets and project update letters.**
Fact sheets and project update letters will be prepared to inform the community about site activities. These documents will provide the names,

addresses, and telephone numbers of EPA and MDNR representatives who are responsible for the site. They will also provide the schedule for site activities. Fact sheets and update letters will be sent to the site mailing list. This list has been maintained and updated during previous site activities and will continue to be updated.

- **Issue press releases.**

When appropriate, EPA will issue press releases to the media listed in Appendix A. These releases will be used to publicize public meetings and key points in the cleanup process.

6.3 Implementation Schedule

Table 1 is an implementation schedule for community relations activities recommended for the duration of the cleanup at the Rockwell site. The specific dates for these activities will be determined by the dates of the technical milestones.

Table 1
Implementation Schedule for Community Relations Activities

Technical Milestone	Community Relations Activities
At completion of RI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare fact sheets summarizing RI results. • Update site information repositories with the RI report and other relevant documents. • Prepare press releases about RI results. • Place public meeting notice. • Hold a public meeting or availability session to discuss RI results.
At completion of FS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare press releases and a proposed plan fact sheet to announce completion of the FS and presentation of the proposed plan for public comment. • Hold a public meeting to address citizen questions or comments about the RI/FS process or the proposed plan. A court reporter will be present at this meeting to record the meeting and public comments for the record. • Update site information repositories with the FS report and the proposed plan fact sheet before the start of the public comment period and at least two weeks before the proposed plan public meeting. • Announce the Record of Decision (ROD).
Completion of cleanup design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare fact sheets, summarizing design details and implementation schedule. • Prepare press releases and news ads about design details and implementation schedule. • Hold a public meeting or availability session to present design details and answer citizen questions.
Implementation of cleanup design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain telephone contact with local officials. • Prepare news releases, fact sheets, and site update reports, as needed. Inform local officials of site progress. • Hold meetings or availability sessions with community members, as needed, to respond to citizen inquiries about site activities.

Table 1(Continued) Implementation Schedule for Community Relations Activities	
Technical Milestone	Community Relations Activities
Completion of cleanup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare press releases and fact sheets or update letters to announce completion of phases of cleanup design and implementation. Inform local officials of these events. • Hold a public meeting or availability session to address citizen inquiries, if needed. • Update site information repositories (ongoing).

**Appendix A
List of Contacts**

A. Federal Elected Officials

The Honorable Carl Levin (202) 224-6221
U.S. Senate
459 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-2201

District Office (616) 456-2531
110 Michigan N.W.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503-2313

The Honorable Donald W. Riegle (202) 224-4822
U.S. Senate
105 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-2202

District Office (616) 456-2592
110 Michigan N.W., Suite 716
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503-2354

The Honorable Peter Hoekstra (202) 225-4401
U.S. House of Representatives
1319 Longworth
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

District Office (616) 395-0030
42 West 10th Street
Holland, Michigan 49423

The Honorable Fred Upton (202) 225-3761
U.S. House of Representatives
1713 Longworth
Washington, D.C. 20515

District Office (616) 982-1986
421 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085-1234

B. State Elected Officials

The Honorable John Engler (517) 373-3400
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

The Honorable William Van Regenmorter (517) 373-2413
Michigan Senate 1-800-968-2320
Capitol Building
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing , Michigan 48909-7536

The Honorable Paul Hillegonds (517) 373-0836
Michigan House of Representatives
Capitol Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909

C. Local Officials

Allegan County Board of Commissioners

District 1 Commissioner John Vogelzang (616) 335-2888
823 Clarewood Court
Holland, Michigan 49423-7004

District 2 Commissioner Jeorge Fierro (616) 751-8809
3570 47th Street
Hamilton, Michigan 49419

District 3 Commissioner Kenneth Fein (616) 681-9442
4596 22nd Street
Dorr, Michigan 49348

District 4 Commissioner David W. Babbitt Chairman 6464 119th Street Fennville, Michigan 49408-9450	(616) 543-4272
District 5 Commissioner George Wesbey 5449 109th Avenue Pullman, Michigan 49450	(616) 236-5767
District 6 Commissioner Lou Thierwechter 630 Grand Street Allegan, Michigan 49010	(616) 673-5491
District 7 Commissioner Gary Melvin 1385 10th Street Martin, Michigan 49070	(616) 672-7657
District 8 Commissioner Jon C. Campbell Vice Chairman 1639 Elm Street Otsego, Michigan 49078	(616) 694-4632
District 9 Commissioner Muriel O'Leary 204 Golfview Plainwell, Michigan 49080-9109	(616) 664-4740
Allegan County Health Department William Hinz, Director 2233 33rd Street Allegan, Michigan 49010	(616) 673-5411
Allegan County Health Department Environmental Health Division Michael J. Patterson 2233 33rd Street Allegan, Michigan 49010	(616) 673-5411
The Alliance Barbara Kaarlie, Executive Director 2891 116th Avenue (M-222 East) Allegan, Michigan 49010-9004	(616) 673-8442

Allegan County Mental Health Services
Melissa Wilson, Supervisor
Adult Day Services Program
P.O. Drawer 130
Allegan, Michigan 49010

(616) 673-6617

Allegan City Council/Administrative Staff

David Ferber, Mayor

Wynn Morrie, City Council

Jon Cook, City Council

John Hotchkiss, City Council

Craig vanMelle, City Council

Paul Wylie, City Council

Keith Behm, Mayor Pro-Tem

Aaron Anthony
City Administrator

Robert Hillard
Administrative Assistant

Mary Lou Russell
City Treasurer

Doug Brousseau
City Assessor

Bernard Harris
Building Inspector

Dwight Fargo
Superintendent, Wastewater Treatment Plant

Dale Commons
Director of Public Works

Gracie Dailey
Manager, Griswold Auditorium

Kevin Blanchard
Fire Chief

City of Allegan Mailing Address: 112 Locust Street, Allegan, MI 49010
Telephone: (616) 673-5511

Allegan Township Officials

Eugene Hough (616) 673-5051
Supervisor
2041 30th Street
Allegan, Michigan 49010

Hollis Hough (616) 673-2580
Clerk
2967 120th Avenue
Allegan, Michigan 49010-9513

Trowbridge Township Officials

James Menck (616) 673-6416
Supervisor
2955 108th Avenue
Allegan, Michigan 49010

Catherine S. Boysen (616) 673-3623
Clerk
909 26th Street
Allegan, Michigan 49010

Valley Township Officials

Gloria Vick (616) 673-5962
Supervisor

Jennifer Veenkant (616) 673-4279
1976 Lincoln Road
Allegan, Michigan 49010

D. Community Group/School

Allegan Chamber of Commerce (616) 673-2479
Lisa Richlich Lovett, Director
300 Water Street
P.O. Box 338
Allegan, Michigan 49010

North Ward Elementary School (616) 673-6003
Tim Locker, Building Coordinator
440 River Street
Allegan, Michigan 49010

E. Federal Agency Officials

David S. Novak (312) 886-9840
Community Relations Coordinator (800) 621-8431
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Boulevard (P-19J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Karen Sikora (312) 886-1843
Remedial Project Manager (800) 621-8431
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Boulevard (HSRW-6J)
Chicago, Illinois 60604

F. State Agency Officials

Mary B. Geitka (517) 373-9832
Environmental Quality Analyst
Superfund Section, Environmental Response Division
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

(Mailing Address)
P.O. Box 30426
Lansing, Michigan 48909

(Street Address)
301 South Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48933

George Carpenter
Chief
Site Management Unit 1
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

(517) 373-4811

(Mailing Address)
P.O. Box 30426
Lansing, Michigan 48909

(Street Address)
301 South Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48933

G. Media

Newspapers

Allegan News and Gazette (weekly) (616) 673-5534
P.O. Box 189
Allegan, Michigan 49010

Kalamazoo Gazette (616) 946-2000
401 S. Burdick Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

Television

WLLA (616) 345-6421
P.O. Box 3157
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49003

WWMT (CBS) (616) 388-3333
590 West Maple Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008

WOOD-TV 8 (616) 456-8888
120 College SE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

WXMI TV 17 (616) 364-8722
3117 Plaza Drive NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

Radio

WKGH

Tom Olejniczak
2871 M-222
Allegan, Michigan 49010

(616) 673-8094

WKMI (ABC)

P.O. Box 911
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49005

(616) 344-0111

WKZO (CBS)

590 West Maple Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008

(616) 345-2101

Appendix B
Locations of Information Repositories and Public Meeting Places

Locations of Information Repositories

Allegan Public Library (616) 673-4625
331 Hubbard Street
Allegan, Michigan 49010-1258
Contact: Donna Roop
Librarian

Notes: Hours of Operation: Monday through Thursday--Noon to 9:00 p.m.
Friday and Saturday--9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Sunday--closed
Handicap access; photocopier available

Waldo Library
Reference Section--Government Documents (616) 387-5208
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008
Contact: Michael P. McDonnell
Reference Librarian for Documents and Maps

Notes: Hours of Operation: Monday through Thursday--7:45 a.m. to Midnight
Friday--7:45 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Saturday--8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Sunday--Noon to Midnight
Handicap access; copier available; limited parking

Possible Public Meeting Locations

- Griswold Auditorium** (616) 673-3456
(operated by the City of Allegan)
Hubbard Street, Allegan
Contact: Gracie Dailey
- North Ward Elementary School Gymnasium** (616) 673-6003
(located across the street from the Rockwell site)
Contact: Tim Locker, Building Coordinator
- Allegan County Area Technical & Education Center** (616) 873-3121
2891 118th Avenue (M-222 East)
Allegan, Michigan 49010-9004

Appendix C

Description of Superfund Process

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), more commonly known as "Superfund," was passed in 1980 and amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) in 1986. CERCLA authorizes EPA to investigate and respond to releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health or the environment. CERCLA established a fund of \$8.5 billion to pay for the investigation and cleanup of sites when parties responsible for the problems are unable or unwilling to pay for the work. EPA may then, through legal action, recover the costs of the investigation and cleanup from the responsible parties to replenish the fund for other Superfund projects.

After a site is discovered, the state investigates it and scores it, using the Hazard Ranking System (HRS). This system addresses several factors:

- Possible health risks to the human population.
- Potential hazards created by the substances at the site.
- Potential for the substances at the site to contaminate air or drinking water supplies.
- Potential for the substances at the site to pollute or harm the environment.

If a site's HRS score is high enough, it is placed on the EPA's National Priorities List. Every site on the National Priorities List qualifies for the federal Superfund program. After a site is listed, the EPA undertakes a thorough investigation to identify parties who may be legally responsible for the contamination problems. The search for potentially responsible parties (PRPs) can and frequently does continue throughout the remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) for the site. Once identified, these PRPs are asked to participate in the cleanup. If they are able to do so, but still refuse, they may be faced with legal action.

EPA develops a work plan and conducts an RI to assess the nature and extent of contamination to characterize potential risks to the community and the environment. EPA then performs an FS to examine various alternatives to correct or control the contamination. When the FS is completed, EPA evaluates the alternatives identified and recommends the alternative considered best for the site. A public comment period follows to give community members the opportunity to submit their comments on the alternatives. After the public comment period, EPA

considers the community's concerns and chooses a specific long-term action for the site. This action is presented in a record of decision, EPA's formal decision document that summarizes the decision-making process and the selected cleanup remedy for a site. After the record of decision is signed, the design of the remedy is developed and implemented.

The time needed to complete each of these steps is different for every site. In general, an RI/FS takes two to three years. Design of corrective action takes two to four years. Implementation of the actual corrective action typically takes two to four years. Groundwater treatment, as required at the Rockwell site, may take many years to complete; groundwater monitoring may continue indefinitely.

EPA monitors the site during all remedial activities. If contamination becomes an imminent threat to public health or the environment at any time, EPA may conduct an emergency action to alleviate the problem. In addition, EPA keeps residents and officials informed about activities at the site and provides opportunities for citizens to participate in the decision-making process. EPA considers citizen input in its decision regarding site cleanup.

Appendix D Glossary

Arsenic

A silvery-white, brittle, very poisonous chemical element used in the production of pesticides, glass, and medicines.

Availability Session

An "open house" meeting hosted by EPA to meet informally with citizens regarding site activities in a one-on-one situation.

Chromium

A grayish-white, crystalline, hard, metallic chemical element with high resistance to corrosion.

Cyanide

An extremely poisonous, white, crystalline compound with an odor of bitter almonds. Cyanide is used to harden steel and in electroplating.

Feasibility Study

An identification and analysis of possible cleanup alternatives for a site. Each alternative is screened. Those which appear to be appropriate for a site are then screened in detail, using nine evaluation criteria that include cost, protection of human health and the environment, and compliance with applicable environmental regulations.

Groundwater

Groundwater forms when rain or other precipitation soaks through sand, gravel, or rock and fills small openings or crevices beneath the ground surface. The rock, or sand and gravel formations, are called aquifers. When water accumulates in sufficient quantity, it can provide a resource for drinking water.

Information Repository

A file containing information, technical reports, and reference documents regarding a Superfund site. The information repository is usually in a public building, such as a library or city hall, that is conveniently located for community residents. As the site proceeds through the Superfund remedial process, the file at the information repository is continually updated.

Lead

A heavy, soft, malleable, bluish-gray metallic chemical element used in piping and in numerous alloys and compounds.

National Priorities List (NPL)

EPA's list of the most contaminated hazardous waste sites in the country. NPL sites are eligible for the Superfund program.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

A requirement of the Clean Water Act that regulates the discharge of water into a receiving stream.

Organics

Compounds that contain carbon.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

A group of organic compounds used since 1926 in electric transformers as insulators and coolants, as well as lubricants, carbonless paper, adhesives, and caulking compounds. PCBs degrade slowly over time and can be accumulated and stored in the fatty tissues of animals and humans. EPA banned the use of PCBs in 1976.

Record of Decision

A public document that explains the cleanup alternative selected by EPA for a Superfund site. The record of decision is based on information gathered during the site investigation. It also reflects EPA's consideration of public comments and community concern regarding the site.

Remedial Investigation (RI)

A remedial investigation examines the nature and extent of contamination problems at a site.

Risk Assessment

Part of the remedial investigation process that assesses the risk to human health and the environment by looking at risk associated with present site use and possible future site use. Risk is calculated for carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic effects from site contaminants.

Solvents

A substance, usually a liquid, that can dissolve another substance.

Superfund

A term commonly used to describe the federal program established by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). CERCLA is a federal law passed in 1980 and amended in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act. CERCLA created a special tax that goes into a trust fund, commonly known as Superfund, to investigate and clean up abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. Under the Superfund program, EPA can either pay for site cleanup when the responsible parties cannot be located or are unwilling or unable to perform the work, or take legal action to force responsible parties to clean up the site or reimburse EPA for the cost of the cleanup.