



West Lake Update

March 3, 2023

Community Involvement Plan/ Technical Assistance Needs Assessment; Introducing Karmen King; Upcoming Public Meeting

Community Involvement Plan

EPA is currently updating the Community Involvement Plan (CIP) for the West Lake Landfill Site to incorporate any newly identified community needs or concerns. EPA's national Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) program contractor conducted a series of interviews to inform and facilitate this update. EPA will incorporate information collected during these interviews into the CIP and the Technical Assistance Needs Assessment (TANA).

A CIP is a site-specific tool that enables meaningful community involvement throughout the Superfund cleanup process. The goal of a CIP is to encourage and facilitate community engagement. The CIP describes how EPA will involve the community and address local needs during the Superfund process. EPA defines the "community" as those people and entities who have an interest in or are affected by the site. The CIP is a "living document," meaning that it can be updated or revised over the course of site cleanup to reflect long-term changes in the community.

Objectives of the CIP include:

1. Provide timely, site-specific information to community members so that they have the ability to participate in, or closely follow, site-related activities.
2. Provide opportunities for community input that are tailored to the needs and concerns of the community.
3. Help ensure that community members are well-informed, so they are knowledgeable about site activities and the Superfund process.
4. Enhance communications between EPA and local officials to help ensure that officials are informed of site-related activities and that EPA

benefits from the officials' insights regarding the community and its concerns, the site and its history, and local regulatory issues.

The TANA is a site-specific process that identifies whether a community requires additional support from EPA to understand technical information and to enable meaningful community involvement in the Superfund decision-making process. This information is collected from interviews conducted as part of the CIP process or independently. If identified, EPA can address the need for technical assistance through an EPA-funded contractor that provides independent assistance under the TASC program. The program can assist communities by dedicating resources to local communities to help explain technical information, answer questions from the community, interpret site-specific data, and help to understand complex environmental issues.

Introducing Karmen King

Karmen King is currently serving as the site's TASC representative. Karmen is an aquatic toxicologist with over 33 years of experience in ecological risk assessment, contaminated waste characterization, regulatory compliance, watershed science, and toxicology. Karmen is also an educator and has been an associate professor for over 10 years, and currently teaches chemistry to adult learners. Her work on the impacts of Superfund sites has extended throughout the remedial process, from initial field studies through to risk analysis and remedy development.



Karmen has been a "community member" living within the footprint of two different Superfund sites in Colorado (California Gulch Site in Leadville and Bonita Peaks Site in Silverton). Karmen was a Tech-

nical Assistance Grant (TAG) facilitator for the California Gulch Site and also the director of a proactive, community-led watershed group (Lake Fork Watershed Working Group) that worked with EPA, the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Land Management, and others to balance the Lake Fork watershed mine site cleanups with the California Gulch Site. She also has extensive experience working with tribes, providing educational services and materials as part of Superfund ecological risk assessment methods training.

Karmen graduated from Colorado State University with a Bachelor of Science in fisheries biology, Master of Science in environmental health/aquatic toxicology, and also studied epidemiology. She is outdoors-oriented and very attentive to detail.

Upcoming CIP/TANA Meeting and Listening Session

EPA will host an upcoming Community Meeting on March 28, 2023, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Machinists Hall, 12365 St. Charles Rock Rd., Bridgeton, Missouri, where updates to the CIP and site-specific TANA

information will be presented and discussed by the site's TASC representative, Karmen King. This meeting will facilitate public feedback and allow the public to provide any additional input on the CIP and TANA before they are finalized. A brief listening session will also be held after the CIP/TANA discussion where community members will have the opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns regarding the site. Registration for the meeting is not required but encouraged. Pre-registration to speak during the listening session is strongly encouraged because there are limited, two-minute time slots available. Please visit this [registration link](#) to view additional details, register for the meeting, and sign up as a speaker during the meeting.

EPA is also planning to hold a separate Public Meeting this spring to discuss the Design Investigation, which is an important part of the Superfund Remedial Design process. EPA will provide additional information on this meeting when it is available.

Site Resources

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West Lake Community Liaison: EPA's West Lake Landfill community liaison, Jessica Evans, is available every week at Bridgeton City Hall to speak with the public. Please call Jessica at 314-296-8182 for details.