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Superfund Community Involvement Toolkit

REVISIONS TO THE SUPERFUND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT TOOLKIT SINCE PUBLICATION

As of October 2005, the following revisions have been made to the CD-ROM version of the Superfund Community Involvement Toolkit since publication in September 2002:

Revision 1 (May 2003): [Tab 16](#) (Federal Agencies) and [Tab 27](#) (Other EPA Programs) were revised to update contact information and website addresses.

Revision 2 (June 2003): [Tab 41](#) (Technical Assistance for Communities) was revised to reflect recent EPA rulemaking for administering Superfund Technical Assistance Grants (TAG). [Tab 40](#) (Superfund Regional Ombudsman) was revised to reflect the re-designation of Ombudsmen as Public Liaisons.

Revision 3 (July 2003): A new Tool on [Redevelopment Planning](#) ([Tab 47](#)) was added. Ten [OSWER Directives](#) related to Superfund Community Involvement were added.

Revision 4 (October 2005): A new Tool on [Evaluating CI Activities](#) ([Tab 48](#)) was added.

PREFACE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Superfund community involvement program provides citizens affected by abandoned hazardous waste sites with information and opportunities to participate as active partners in the decisions that affect the Superfund sites in their community. Although EPA's commitment to the community dates to 1980 when the Superfund program's enabling legislation was enacted, EPA's approach to the community has changed. EPA no longer just distributes Superfund site information to the public; it promotes meaningful citizen participation in the decisions affecting the sites. As a result of this change, local citizen participation is now speeding up the cleanup of many hazardous waste sites and reducing costs as well, demonstrating that local citizens and EPA can work together effectively to protect human health and the environment.

EPA's Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI) prepared this Superfund Community Involvement Toolkit to provide Superfund Regional Site Teams and other staff with a practical, easy to use aide for designing and enhancing their community involvement activities. The Toolkit also is intended to help avoid the pitfalls common to the community involvement process. The Toolkit enables EPA's community involvement staff and Regional Site Teams to quickly review and adapt existing community involvement tools, such as public notices, presentations, and community interviews, to their own needs. In addition, the Superfund Community Involvement Toolkit lists useful references and resources available to community involvement staff and provides examples of a wide range of outreach and educational materials. Electronic versions of many of the materials referenced in the Toolkit (templates, sample documents, fact sheets, etc.) have been assembled on the supplemental CD-ROM included in the Toolkit.

HOW TO USE THE TOOLKIT

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The Superfund Community Involvement Toolkit is a comprehensive and practical tool for promoting successful community participation in the Superfund process. The Toolkit contains tools which describe activities that Superfund Site Teams have used successfully or provides information on available resources. Tools are separated by numbered tabs.

Each tabbed section begins with an introduction that summarizes the tool or community involvement activity. The introduction provides a brief description of the activity, indicates whether the activity is required by law or regulation (if relevant), and includes suggestions on how to use the tool/activity and when in the Superfund process it works best. The introduction concludes with a brief summary of key tips for using the tool/activity. Any tools or aids follow the introduction.

Many tools include sample document templates, easy-to-use tools, fact sheets, and a wide range of suggestions and recommendations for implementing various community involvement activities. The tools are cross-referenced with related tools, and many include citations to other reference materials and guidance. The tools can be adapted, combined, or reinvented as necessary to fit the specific needs of community involvement staff or the Regional Site Team. Electronic versions of the supplemental templates and documents referenced in the Toolkit tab sections are included on the enclosed CD-ROM version of the Superfund Community Involvement Toolkit. The supplemental templates and documents on the CD-ROM are in either a PDF format for printout or a WordPerfect format that can be edited.

Toolkit CONTENTS

[Community Involvement Activities Throughout the Removal Process Timeline](#)

[Community Involvement Activities Throughout the Remedial Process Timeline](#)

<u>Tab</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
1.	Brownfields
2.	Citizen Recognition
3.	Communications Strategies
4.	Community Groups • Community Advisory Groups
5.	Community Interviews
6.	Community Involvement Impact Analysis
7.	Community Involvement Plans
8.	Community Profile
9.	Community Visioning Process
10.	Computer-Based Resources • Electronic Mail • Internet • LandView 6 • Superfund Document Management System • WasteLAN
11.	Contract Management
12.	Cross-Cultural Communications
13.	Exhibits
14.	Facilitation/Conflict Resolution/ADR • Facilitation • Conflict Resolution/Alternative Dispute Resolution
15.	Fact Sheets
16.	Federal Agencies • Army Corps of Engineers • Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry • Bureau of Reclamation • Centers for Disease Control/Prevention • Coast Guard • Department of Defense • Department of Energy • Department of the Interior • Department of Justice • Federal Emergency Management Agency • Department of Housing and Urban Development

TOOLKIT CONTENTS

TOOLKIT CONTENTS

- 17. [Focus Groups](#)
- 18. [Frequently Asked Questions/Referrals](#)
- 19. [Hot Sites Template](#)
- 20. [Informal Activities](#)
- 21. [Information Repository](#)
- 22. [Local Resources](#)
- 23. [Mailing List](#)
- 24. [Maps and Aerial Photographs](#)
- 25. [Media](#)
- 26. [On-Site Activities](#)
- 27. [Other EPA Programs](#)
 - Office of Air and Radiation
 - Office of Pesticide Programs
 - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
 - Toxic Substances Control Act
 - EPA's Water Program
- 28. [Partnering](#)
 - Community-Based Environmental Protection
 - Nat'l Assoc. of County and City Health Officials
 - Step-Up Program
 - Superfund Jobs Training Initiative
 - Weed and Seed
- 29. [Presentations](#)
- 30. [Public Availabilities/Poster Sessions](#)
- 31. [Public Comment Periods](#)
- 32. [Public Meetings](#)
- 33. [Public Notices](#)
- 34. [Residential Relocations](#)
- 35. [Resource Book](#)
- 36. [Responsiveness Summaries](#)
- 37. [Risk Communication](#)
- 38. [Special Events](#)
- 39. [Spokesperson](#)
- 40. [Superfund Regional Public Liaison](#)
- 41. [Technical Assistance for Communities](#)
 - Technical Assistance Grants
 - Technical Outreach Services to Communities
 - Technical Assistance for Public Participation

- 42. [Telephone](#)
- 43. [Translation Services](#)
- 44. [Treatment Technologies](#)
- 45. [Videos](#)
- 46. [Workshops](#)
- 47. [Redevelopment Planning](#)
- 48. [Evaluating CI Activities](#)

OSWER DiRECTIVES

- [9230.0-06 Responsiveness Summaries](#)
- [9230.0-08 Planning](#)
- [9230.0-09 Senior Employees](#)
- [9230.0-13 Turnover](#)
- [9230.0-15 Interviews](#)
- [9230.0-16 Public Documents](#)
- [9230.0-17 State and Local Officials](#)
- [9230.0-18 Citizen Concerns](#)
- [9230.0-20 Innovative](#)
- [9230.0-99 Early Community Involvement](#)

TOOLKIT CONTENTS