



ICCL
international
committee on
contaminated
land

October 4-5, 2011 • Washington, DC Metro Area



Superfund Community Involvement Program Presentation for the International Committee on Contaminated Land October 5, 2011

Suzanne Wells, Chief,
Community Involvement and Program Initiatives Branch
Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation
www.epa.gov/superfund/community

Purpose of Briefing

- Describe Superfund's statutory requirements for community involvement
- Provide overview of Superfund's community involvement resources
- Share a site-specific example
- Discuss benefits and lessons learned

Superfund Community Involvement Statutory Requirements

- ◆ The Comprehensive Emergency Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 117 requires EPA to:
 - publish a notice of the proposed cleanup plan, and make the plan available to the public
 - provide an opportunity for a public meeting, and submission of public comments
 - publish the final plan, discuss any significant changes from the proposed plan, and respond to significant comments
 - make available Technical Assistance Grants to groups of individuals affected by a site; grants may be used to obtain technical assistance in interpreting site-related information
 - make site-related documents available to the public

Community Involvement Program Goals

EPA strives to provide meaningful opportunities for the public to be involved in the Superfund cleanup process.

Key aspects of our community involvement efforts include:

- Early involvement
- Technical assistance programs
- Creating forums for discussion
- Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI)

Early Involvement

- ◆ Most statutory requirements occur after a site remedy is selected
- ◆ Superfund begins working with the community early, often when a site is discovered
- ◆ A Community Involvement Plan (CIP) developed early in the process helps EPA understand community needs and concerns, and form strategies to work with the community to meet their needs and concerns

Technical Assistance

- ◆ EPA can provide Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs) of up to \$50,000 or more to communities for them to hire independent technical advisors
- ◆ Technical advisers help community members understand technical issues about sites
- ◆ Enables community members to be involved in site clean up
- ◆ <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tag/>

Technical Assistance (con't)

- Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) contract provides independent, non-advocacy educational and technical assistance to communities affected by hazardous waste sites
- Enables community members to be involved in site clean ups
- <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tasc>

Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI)

- ◆ Provides job training opportunities in communities affected by Superfund sites, and encourages their employment in site cleanup activities
- ◆ <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/sfjti/>

Case Study: Palos Verdes Shelf

- ◆ Palos Verdes Shelf is a Superfund site located off the coast of Los Angeles, California
- ◆ High levels of DDT and PCBs contaminated marine sediments had accumulated in fish
- ◆ People who regularly eat fish caught in this area face greater health risks
- ◆ Palos Verdes Shelf is used extensively by commercial and sport fishermen

Palos Verdes Shelf Institutional Controls Program: Fish Contamination Education Collaborative

- ◆ Containment remedy selected for the site:
 - placement of a cap over the most contaminated and erosive area of sediments;
 - monitoring of the natural recovery, and
 - an institutional controls program that promotes healthy fish consumption.
- ◆ EPA brought together community partners to form the Palos Verdes Shelf Fish Contamination Education Collaborative (PVS FCEC)
- ◆ PVS FCEC educates community members and fishermen about safer fish consumption practices
 - avoid eating White Croaker
 - eat only the fillet of fish; remove head, fatty parts and skin



October 4-5, 2011 ▪ Washington, DC Metro Area



October 4-5, 2011 ▪ Washington, DC Metro Area



October 4-5, 2011 ▪ Washington, DC Metro Area

Lessons Learned

- ◆ Community Involvement Improves Decision Quality
- ◆ Build Relationships
- ◆ Be Proactive
- ◆ Plan Ahead
- ◆ Cooperate and Collaborate
- ◆ Communicate Clearly
- ◆ Be Creative

Resources

EPA Superfund Community Involvement

www.epa.gov/superfund/community

International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)

www.iap2.org