



**ICCL**  
international  
committee on  
contaminated  
land

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

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[www.epa.gov/superfund/community](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community)

# Purpose of Briefing

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- 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

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- ◆ 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

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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

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- ◆ 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

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- ◆ 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)

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- 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)

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- ◆ 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

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- ◆ 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

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- ◆ 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



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# Lessons Learned

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

# Resources

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EPA Superfund Community Involvement

[www.epa.gov/superfund/community](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community)

International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)

[www.iap2.org](http://www.iap2.org)