

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



# Module 7: Community Involvement



# Module Overview

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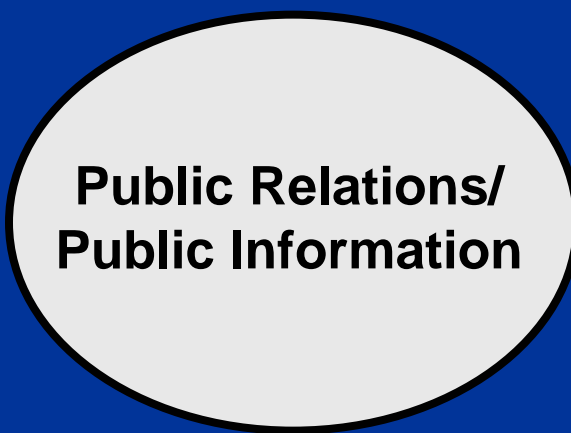
- ◆ Module Objective: Review and discuss the mission of EPA's Superfund community involvement program during removal and remedial actions
- ◆ Topics:
  - » Role of community involvement in Superfund
  - » Planning early for meaningful community involvement
  - » Implementing community involvement in removal actions
  - » Implementing community involvement in remedial actions
  - » Providing communities with technical assistance

# Trends in Superfund Public Participation

1980

1986

1994



Inform the public

Inform and listen to  
the public before  
the decision

Involve people in  
decisions that  
directly impact them



# Role of Community Involvement in Superfund

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- ◆ How EPA defines and applies community involvement
- ◆ Letter of the law versus the intent of the law



# A Real-Life Moment

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*“You will be most successful when you regularly interact with the community and proactively share information in an understandable way.”*

**Paul Groulx**  
**Retired OSC, EPA Region 1**

# Role of Community Involvement in Superfund

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- ◆ Forming a site team
- ◆ Objectives of community involvement

# Core Values for Public Participation

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- ◆ People should have a say in decisions about actions that affect their lives
- ◆ Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will be considered in the decision
- ◆ The public participation process communicates the interests and meets the needs of all participants
- ◆ The public participation process seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those who are potentially affected

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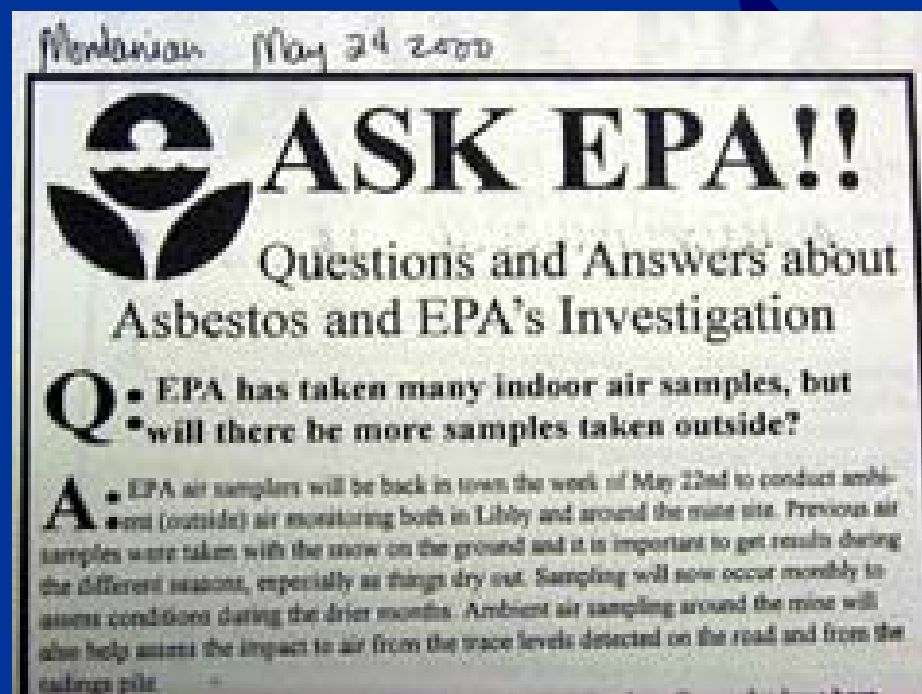
# Core Values for Public Participation

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- ◆ The public participation process involves citizens in defining how they participate
- ◆ The public participation process communicates to participants how their input was or was not used
- ◆ The public participation process provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way

# Planning Early for Meaningful Community Involvement

- ◆ When to start
- ◆ Site inspection



# Risk Communication

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## ◆ Goals

- » Increases knowledge and understanding
- » Enhances trust and credibility
- » Enhances dialogue to resolve disagreements

## ◆ Strategies

- » Identify stakeholders and concerns
- » Prepare overarching message map
- » Prepare outline of major questions

# Implementing Community Involvement in Removal Actions

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- ◆ Community involvement activities will vary depending on the type of removal action
  - » Emergency responses
  - » Time-critical responses that last less than 120 days
  - » Time-critical responses that last more than 120 days
  - » Non-time-critical responses

# Implementing Community Involvement in Remedial Actions

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- ◆ Each phase of a remedial action has its own set of community involvement activities
  - » PA/SI
  - » Listing on the NPL
  - » RI/FS
  - » Selection of remedy

# Community Involvement Plans

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- ◆ Specifies outreach activities
- ◆ Explains how the Superfund Site Team will involve community
- ◆ Role of the CIC





# Other Community Activities

- ◆ Federal facilities
- ◆ Residential relocation
- ◆ Dealing with the media



# Technical Assistance for Communities

- ◆ Programs are available to help communities understand technical aspects of the Superfund process
  - » TAG
  - » TOSC
  - » TAPP
  - » CAG
  - » Super JTI



## In Review

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- ◆ Community involvement plays a significant role in Superfund
- ◆ An important part of meaningful community involvement is early planning
- ◆ There are several required community involvement procedures in both removal actions and remedial actions
- ◆ Technical assistance is available for communities