

ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE ACTION PLAN FOR FY 2010

October 1, 2010
EPA Region 4 Superfund

EPA – Region 4 Superfund Division

Community Engagement Initiative Update

Introduction

In December 2009, EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) introduced its Community Engagement Initiative (CEI) and released a proposed Action Plan to solicit input and feedback from community stakeholders and the general public. The Action Plan lays out principles, goals, and objectives that EPA can follow to help communities meaningfully participate in government decisions on land cleanup, emergency preparedness and response, and the management of hazardous substances and waste. The CEI provides an opportunity for OSWER to refocus and renew its vision for community engagement, build on the best practices, and apply them consistently in its processes.



The OSWER CEI contained three major goals and eight objectives. They are listed below:

Goal 1: Develop transparent and accessible decision-making processes to enhance meaningful community stakeholder participation.

Objective 1 – Decision-making processes: Identify and revise critical decision making processes, guidance, and rulemaking procedures to support more enhanced, transparent, and upfront collaboration with community stakeholders.

Objective 2 – Enforcement processes: Identify and evaluate how enforcement processes can advance the goals of community engagement.

Goal 2: Present information and provide technical assistance in ways that will enable community stakeholders to better understand environmental issues and participate in an informed way during the decision-making process.

Objective 3 – Technical assistance: Evaluate existing technical assistance processes and pursue specific actions to 1) improve and broaden the availability of technical assistance to communities and 2) enable broad and diverse community representation in decision-making processes.

Objective 4 – Risk communications: Evaluate and improve risk communication practices and provide cross-

program training so that hazard information is presented accurately and in ways that are clearly understandable to various community stakeholders.

Objective 5 – Delivery of information: Evaluate how information is delivered to at-risk and remote communities and develop options for improvement – to enhance communities' ability to be informed and meaningfully participate in decision-making processes. Issues include: electronic access/digital divide; simplified information; location of information; timely release of information.

Goal 3: Produce outcomes that are responsive to stakeholder concerns and are aligned with community needs and long-term goals to the extent practicable.

Objective 6 – Community engagement training: Develop and provide a training program to: 1) strengthen fundamental community engagement skills of key personnel to enable effective community engagement practices and strategies for projects and sites, and 2) enhance "One-site, One-team" project management approaches – to enable all team members to understand project and community facts, communicate a consistent message to the public and ensure that decision are based on the results of community consultation.

Objective 7 – Measures: Evaluate and measure the effectiveness of community engagement activities to promote continual improvement and identify needs and opportunities for future action.

Objective 8 – Local workforce development: Evaluate and promote job training and the use of local labor on environmental projects.



Superfund Division Community Engagement Initiative Action Plan

On January 15, 2010, the Region 4 Superfund Division published its Community Engagement Initiative Action Plan that contains 24 action items in support of the National CEI. The Superfund Division was already positioned to implement the CEI, since it recently reorganized to create an Office of Superfund Public Affairs and Outreach (OSPAO) that centralizes all community engagement activities under one office that reports to the Division Director. The OSPAO is staffed with 7 full-time Community Involvement Coordinators and one Community Involvement Assistant. OSPAO collaborated with all levels of Superfund leadership, Community Involvement Coordinators, Region 4 OEJ, and RCRA Division to develop its Community Engagement Initiative Action Plan. The Plan was also discussed and shared with the Acting Deputy Regional Administrator prior to submission to OSWER. Finally, the Superfund Division shared its Community Engagement Initiative Action Plan with all 8 States in Region 4 and has set up quarterly teleconference calls with State CI/EJ Liaisons to collaborate on activities and share information and best practices.



The Superfund Division's Plan outlines enhancements to community engagement work that was already being performed within the Superfund Division, but it also includes new community engagement and outreach efforts. The Plan provides identified actions for all 8 Objectives in the Community Engagement Initiative. Major commitments include:

- Enhanced community engagement in the Remedial process at active and at proposed sites (with a special emphasis on environmental justice sites)
- Focus on Community Engagement Success Stories (to help facilitate better collaboration between community groups and EPA)
- Enhanced focus and use of Community Advisory Groups, Technical Assistance Programs, and Superfund Job Training Initiatives

OSPAO

- Building internal staff capabilities to improve community engagement (i.e., training in Risk Communications, Building Trust and Resolving Differences, Cross-Cultural Effectiveness, and Environmental Justice Analyses)
- Partnering with other Region 4 Programs (Office of Environmental Justice, Office of External and Congressional Affairs, RCRA Division) to collaborate on impacted and potentially impacted areas
- Enhanced "delivery of information" through expanded use of Region 4 website.
- Development of "standard" community engagement and community consultation language and commitments for Performance Standards.
- Enhanced outreach to communities ("Communiversity") to promote greater understanding of EPA's role and resources available to communities.
- Evaluation of past community engagement efforts at selected (2 or 3) sites to get feedback on past efforts and develop baseline to measure future efforts.




FY 2010 Community Engagement Initiative Accomplishments

Goal 1: Develop transparent and accessible decision making processes to enable meaningful community stakeholder participation.

Objective 1: Decision-Making Processes – Identify and revise critical decision-making processes and guidance to allow enhanced and upfront collaboration with community stakeholders.

Action Item 1 – Enhance community engagement in the Superfund Remedial Process at active and proposed sites (with special focus on environmental justice sites) during the pre-remedial process; remedial investigation planning; feasibility study scoping; selection of preferred alternatives; proposed plan; remedial design planning process; remedial action implementation; and site deletion process.

Accomplishments

- The Superfund Division has made **community engagement a high priority in Region 4**, focusing on communities which include environmental justice areas near Superfund sites. **In FY10, Region 4 conducted 86 public meetings/data availability/community listening sessions, published 98 public notices, established repositories at 12 local libraries, developed 15 new Community Involvement Plans, and developed 50 fact sheets for high-priority sites.** Results have already shown improved community involvement in these areas and recognizable improvement in the transparency of assessment activities and remediation decisions.
- The Region 4 Superfund Division has continued to be a **national leader in the listing of new sites to the National Priorities List (NPL)**, which is a priority for the Administrator. In FY 2010, we proposed **five (5) new sites and finalized six (6) new sites on the NPL**. Community engagement has already begun at the proposed sites, including the development of fact sheets, conducting community interviews, meeting with community leaders, hosting public meetings, issuing press releases on the proposed listing of the sites, etc. This is a part of the Region's efforts to have earlier and more meaningful community engagement at our sites.
- The Office of Superfund Public Affairs and Outreach and Site Assessment Staff worked collaboratively to **develop general guidance for incorporating community engagement into Superfund site assessment activities**. The general guidance establishes a framework for coordinating activities for planning, implementing, and incorporating consistent, interactive community engagement during site assessment activities. Community engagement efforts are now being identified for high visibility/high priority sites where there is a high potential for scoring > 28.5; existence of an organized citizen group in the area; presence of another NPL site and/or other EPA activities in the area; Congressional, state, or local government interest; presence of day care, schools, hospitals, etc., nearby; media attention; proximity to residential areas; and/or high potential for exposure of human population. Examples of our efforts can be found at **CTS Mills Gap site in**

Asheville, NC, and the Kerr McGee (Tronox) site in Columbus, MS.

- We have **intensified our focus on cleaning up our communities** at Superfund Remedial Sites where progress had been stalled or delayed, are confronting challenges, and producing tangible results at such sites as Cabot Carbon/Koppers, LCP, Chemfax, and Capital City Plume through sustained engagement, enforcement, and community outreach. At the **Cabot Carbon/Koppers site**, the Region 4 Superfund team is concluding 3 years of collaborative feasibility study development with State and local stakeholders that resulted in a Proposed Cleanup Plan that addresses the technical concerns of all parties. During FY 2010, Superfund also provided a technical assistance grant to an active community group and is providing for development of a site reuse plan through the TASC contractor. At the **Capital City Plume site**, Superfund is cleaning up contaminated groundwater through sustained engagement with a multi-disciplinary team made up of the City of Montgomery, Montgomery Water Works, Auburn University, and the U. S. Geological Survey that is in the process of designing and constructing an innovative phyto-remediation interim remedy that also provides downtown green space for the citizens of Montgomery. Since there are many EPA and State-lead projects in the Brunswick, GA, area, we've enhanced the Brunswick Environmental Leadership Newsletter where EPA can showcase our work at multiple sites in the Brunswick area. This quarterly newsletter gives EPA the opportunity to proactively reach the Brunswick community with information about our work there; Georgia EPD is also given the opportunity to use this newsletter to relay work on their sites that EPA may not be a part of, but that still impacts the residents of Brunswick.



- Region 4 Superfund Division Director successfully

negotiated with the Governor of Mississippi over a two-year period to finalize the **first Superfund State Contract (SSC) ever between EPA and the State of Mississippi in 2010**. More significantly, the two site cleanups at the **Picayune Wood Treating and American Creosote Works site represent a commitment by the State to cost share on approximately \$50 million dollars of hazardous waste site cleanup**. Both sites are located in low income, disadvantaged neighborhoods and will represent significant improvement to the health and sustainability of the surrounding communities.



- TVA Kingston – Community Involvement Coordinator and On-Scene Coordinator were out-posted full-time at the TVA Kingston site** for approximately one year during the time-critical removal of fly ash from the Emory. They conducted site tours every Saturday at the request of residents interested in viewing clean-up progress. CIC was stationed at the TVA Outreach Center daily from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. each day. Residents requested that there be a staff person in the Outreach Center during those hours. Community members came into the Outreach Center daily to receive information or to discuss their concerns. Staff developed an EPA Quarterly Fact Sheet outlining the progress of clean-up activities. Fact sheets covered the period from May 2009 – May 2010 and focused on EPA's oversight and community involvement activities at the site. Staff also developed fact sheets concerning river advisories and closures and distributed to community. All fact sheets were made available at the Outreach Center.
- Horton Iron and Metal** – The Superfund team started community engagement at this site before the site was listed on NPL. This is an EJ community (Hispanic and White), and early engagement has helped with communication from EPA. Staff translated a Horton Iron & Metal Fact sheet into Spanish in preparation for an

Availability Session held on September 9, 2010. This session provided an opportunity for the community to ask questions on an individual basis about the site.

- CTS/Mills Gap Pre-Remedial Site** – This site has been proposed for the NPL and Region 4 issues a press release notifying the public. Additionally, the Superfund team worked to enhance community outreach by utilizing a site specific webpage. A meeting with community leaders was held in early September to address specific concerns of community. The assigned Community Involvement Coordinator also conducted community interviews and updated Community Involvement Plan for the site.



- Woolfolk Chemical Site** – Community Involvement Coordinator and Remedial Project Manager meets with the Woolfolk Alliance Group on a regular basis to discuss progress of the cleanup and to get community input. This has resulted in a great working relationship with all stakeholders and has made the decision-making process much easier. Remedial action continues at this site for OU3 and OU4, and we believe this good working relationship will continue. The **Woolfolk Alliance Group was recognized nationally with the Citizen's Excellence Community Involvement Award** in recognition of their unparalleled efforts; for working with the Region 4 Superfund team; and for serving as a model for community engagement, communication, cooperation, and collaboration.
- Developed guidance document on **“Communicating Environmental Data to Property Owners/Tenants Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)”**. This document provides procedures for EPA Region 4 staff to follow to effectively communicate environmental data findings to property owners/tenants using status update letters that are accurate, complete, clear, consistent, and readable for a general audience. The SOP applies to all media: ground water, soil, surface water, sediment, and air. The SOP includes procedural steps; checklist; records

management guidance; quality assurance and quality control measures; and Appendices including sample letters for no exceedances, primary exceedances, secondary exceedances, lead in ground water, and lead in soil.

Action Item 2 – For Federal Facilities, Region 4 will continue to participate and assist in community involvement Citizens Advisory Boards (CABs), Site Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs), Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs), and Technical Review Committees (TRCs).

Accomplishments

- **Continued to build relationships with community members** and other stakeholders through active participation in all CABs, SSABs, RABs and TRCs in Region 4. Participation rates are based on established meeting frequency. Sites with active community groups and EPA participation from January 2010 to date include: Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plan (KY) – 4; Oak Ridge Reservation (TN) – 6 full board meetings and 2 Environmental Management Committee meetings; and the Savannah River Site (SC) – 4 full board meetings and 10 committee meetings. Camp Lejeune (NC) – 3; Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station (NC) – 3; Milan Army Ammunition Plant (TN) – 2; Robins Air Force Base (GA) – 1; Myrtle Beach AFB (SC) – 2; and Parris Island Marine Corps Recruit Depot – 2.
- **Attempted to revive the Whiting AFB (FL) Restoration Advisory Board.** Efforts included approximately 250 – 300 mailings, radio announcements and newspaper notices to the community with no response. Efforts will be re-evaluated in FY 2011.



- Implemented the **Regional FFB Outreach Strategy** for the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation (TN). The strategy will enhance DOE opportunities to identify and respond to community concerns; promote better awareness of the DOE lead agency and oversight agencies' roles; and provide the foundation for future availability session(s) determined by responses

from the EPA-conducted survey during the June 19th-20th Secret City Festival, sponsored by the City of Oak Ridge. The Air Division participated with the Superfund Division to share information on Childrens Health. Approximately 247 brochures, fact sheets were handed out to people during the event along with the 258 surveys which were conducted. The Region evaluated the surveys and is developing a strategy to continue to provide further outreach with contract support to the community with information on human health and the environment surrounding the Site with involvement from the Oak Ridge Reservation personnel.

- EPA Savannah River Site team participated in the **Federal Facility Community Dialogue** sponsored by a citizen action group in Savannah, Georgia (April 24, 2010). Community members from federal facilities nation-wide collaborated with EPA regional and Headquarters representatives.

Action Item 3 – Plan and coordinate Community Success Showcase Meeting in 2 or 3 of our Region 4 states.

Accomplishments

- Staff has identified a couple of sites where the community stakeholders have had positive relationships with the Region and that has led to positive outcomes. These groups will be contacted in the first quarter of FY 2011 and asked to participate on a panel during the **"Communiversality"** training to discuss their environmental journey and their paths to success (Community Groups: Imani Group, Aiken, SC; Woolfolk Alliance Group, Fort Valley, GA; Citizens for Environmental Justice, Savannah, GA).
- Region 4 nominated the **Woolfolk Alliance Group** out of Fort Valley, Georgia, for the **National Notable Achievement Award: Citizen Excellence in Community Involvement Award**. The Group was selected for this National honor and was presented with the recognition at the EPA Region 4 Annual Awards Ceremony held on September 15, 2010. Fifteen members of the Alliance Group received this national award, including Mayor John E. Stumbo. The award was in recognition of their unparalleled efforts for working with the Region 4 Superfund team and for serving as a model for community engagement, communication, cooperation, and collaboration.
- The Superfund Division has been an active supporter of the **Jacksonville Environmental Justice Showcase Community Pilot** throughout FY 2010. The EJ Showcase Community Pilot is a

multi-media, cross-program approach to engaging multiple stakeholders in coordinated action in order to address environmental justice concerns in high-priority areas at a community-scale within each of the EPA Regions. The purpose is to bring together governmental and non-governmental organizations and build upon their collective resources and expertise regarding the best ways to achieve real results in communities. A **Community-based Integrated Planning Project** that will incorporate the principles of Environmental Justice and One EPA through a joint Region 4 and EPA Headquarters Superfund Redevelopment Program is underway in Jacksonville.



Action Item 4 – Educate and assist Superfund communities regarding the establishment of Community Advisory Groups to help provide a forum for community members to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to the Superfund decision-making process.

Accomplishments

- **TVA Kingston** – EPA staff assisted the community in forming the **Roane County Community Advisory Group (RCCAG)**. The RCCAG includes members from all the organized community groups around the site and other members from the county, business, and healthcare community. The CAG has met four times since its inception and EPA staff has attended each meeting. Staff attends meetings and provides updates to the CAG and answers questions/ concerns from the community. Staff provided site-specific training (information on all aspects of the clean-up (time critical and non-time critical) to the RCCAG and others members

of the community. EPA staff also provided information to the CAG on how to apply for the TAP grant funds. RCCAG applied for and was selected as the designated recipient of the funds.



Action Item 5 – Educate communities on the tools available to help them put Superfund sites back into productive use.

Accomplishments

- The **Excellence in Site Reuse Award** was given to the Davie Landfill and Taylor Road Landfill site teams in June 2010. EPA honored Broward County, Florida, for redeveloping the former David Landfill Site, once referred to by some as “Mount Trashmore” into the Vista View Park. EPA also honored Hillsborough County, Florida, for creatively using the former Taylor Road landfill site to serve multiple purposes that benefit the community.



- EPA and Harsco recognized a **model public-private partnership for Alabama slag remediation**. On June 9, 2010, a ceremony was held at the former Gulf States Steel site in Gadsden, Alabama, for the largest sustainable remediation project of its type in the U.S. Harsco is processing more than three million tons of abandoned slag over the next four years and will recover the valuable metal content for reuse in the production of new steel and other commercial uses. It is projected that 85 percent or more of the project’s total cost will be funded through recycling/reuse of on-site materials, thus minimizing the financial impact to taxpayers.

- To assist communities in implementation of the planned reuse of sites, Superfund Division issued **four (4) comfort letters** after discussions with prospective purchasers utilizing the Prospective Purchases Inquiry process to encourage redevelopment.

Objective 2: Enforcement Processes – Evaluate practices for involving community stakeholders in enforcement processes and develop guidelines for release of enforcement information.

Action Item 6 – Support OECA’s establishment of an Enforcement National Strategy that will include procedures to allow communities an opportunity to engage in settlement negotiations.

Accomplishments

National action item to be supported by Region

Action Item 7 – Place Public Notices of proposed settlements with compromises of cost and consent decrees on the Regional Superfund web and in the Federal Register.

Accomplishments

- Region 4 has **posted four (4) settlements** with compromises of cost on the website for public comment since January 2010. This is being done to involvement community stakeholders in the enforcement process.

Action Item 8 – Post information on Sites with ongoing negotiations on Superfund web.

Accomplishments

- To be determined – Decision made to postpone this activity until completion of OECA Enforcement National Strategy on community engagement in negotiations.

Goal 2: Present information in ways that will enable community stakeholders to better understand environmental issues and participate in an informed way during the decision making process.

Objective 3: Technical Assistance – Evaluate existing technical assistance processes and identify potential changes, needs and opportunities.

Action Item 9 – Evaluate the usage of technical assistance processes, including TAP, TAG, and TASC programs, identify technical assistance gaps and needs at Region4 sites, and develop strategies to improve technical assistance and support to broad and diverse stakeholder groups.

Accomplishments

- Region 4, Superfund Division, currently has **nine (9) active TAGs** with the most recent TAG being awarded in June 2010 to the Protect Gainesville Citizens, Inc., for the Cabot/Koppers Superfund Site in Gainesville, Florida. For the currently active TAGs in Region 4, EPA has provided cumulative funding in the amount of \$1,094,224. This includes TAGs at the Brunswick Wood Preserving site, LCP Chemicals, Inc., Escambia Wood Treating, Woolfolk Chemicals, Inc., Cabot/Koppers, Ward Transformer, Inc., Terry Creek Dredge Spoil, Stauffer Chemicals, and American Creosote Works.



- Region 4, Superfund Division, currently has **five (5) active TAPs** with the most recent TAP being awarded in May 2010 to the Improvement League of Plant City, for the Coronet Industries Superfund Site in Plant City, Florida. Other active TAPs include Jacksonville Ash/Forest Street, Jacksonville Ash/5th and Cleveland, Jacksonville Ash/Lonnie Miller, and Brown’s Dump.

Objective 4: Risk Communications – Evaluate and improve risk community practices and provide cross-program training so that risk information is presented accurately and in ways that are clearly understandable to various community stakeholders.

Action Item 10 – Conduct Risk Communications Training for new and existing Region 4 staff, including CICs, OSCs, RPMs, States, and Tribes.

Accomplishments

- Coordinated with Headquarters for the offering of **Risk Communication and Public Involvement Training** held in Region 4 on September 1-2, 2010. The training provided insights and strategies for establishing trusting working relationships with communities and other interest groups. The training used case studies to illustrate the difficulties one might expect and discussed strategies for success. The goal of the training was to engage professionals and discuss how to work with the public to achieve desired results. Twenty-seven participants were in attendance at this training, which received an

average overall rating of 3.79 out of 4.0 where 4.0 is excellent.

- Region 4 participated on a **Headquarters' workgroup charged with leading the effort to implement a risk communication education program** for the Agency. This education program is intended to strengthen the risk communication practices across the waste programs.



Action Item 11 – Continue Community Education and Understanding Risk Training at Federal Facilities. Provide funding to a joint EJ grant with DOE. The Grant will be to a Historically Black College and University and will provide training on environmental risks to EJ communities.

Accomplishments

- In FY 2010, Region 4 continued its efforts in this area through its partnership with Department of **Energy and Savannah State University (HBCU)**. Savannah State University has existing ties to community groups through its affiliation with the Harambee House and the Citizens for Environmental Justice Organization led by Dr. Mildred McClain.



- Coordinated presentation to the **Oak Ridge Reservation's Site Specific Advisory Board** (Tennessee) on May 12, 2010 on EPCRA Section 313 Toxics Release Inventory and the Risk-Screening Environmental Indicators. This information addressed the group's concern of the cumulative effects of toxic chemical releases and other waste management activities impacting counties near the Oak Ridge Reservation.
- On July 27, 2010, EPA RPM served as an instructor at the **Savannah State University TREAT workshop** designed to educate teachers

about radiation issues and environmental clean.

- EPA Savannah River Site Project Team in negotiation with DOE to resume DOE-sponsored environmental justice meetings around Savannah River Site.



Action Item 12 – Develop and offer Community Involvement 101 Briefings for Superfund Division staff, as well as other Regional program staff to increase knowledge and skills in community engagement and outreach.

Accomplishments

- Staff from the Office of Superfund Public Affairs and Outreach presented **the Community Involvement Module in the Superfund Fundamentals 101** training course offered in Region 4 in April 2010. The objective of the module was to review and discuss the mission of EPA's Superfund involvement program by defining community involvement; explain why the community should be involved; discuss when to begin community involvement activities; explain the role of community members in Superfund cleanups; explain the role of EPA representatives in community involvement; and to share additional tools for community involvement.



- Staff from the Office of Public Affairs and Outreach presented information on the Agency's and Region 4's **Community Engagement Initiative** to Remedial Project Managers and

State Representatives at the Site Assessment Workshop held in Point Clear, Alabama on May 18-20, 2010. The purpose of the workshop was to provide for training and an opportunity for the sharing of information about new and changing approaches and policies that affect Superfund Site Assessment activities in Region 4. The workshop was educational and interactive and provided an excellent opportunity to focus on site assessment, share innovations, and establish more region-wide consistency. All states in the region had an opportunity to showcase accomplishments and innovations, or to raise issues of importance. Community Engagement Initiative Updates were also provided at Superfund All Hands Meetings and at Quarterly Branch Meetings to ensure that all Superfund staff was well aware of the Initiative and the Superfund Division's Action Plan.

- Superfund staff collaborated with the RCRA Division on the **Community Engagement (CE) Training** offered on September 8-9, 2010, in Region 4. This was a basic course targeted for EPA technical staff, middle managers and invited State staff to think about and learn how to apply behaviors that will enhance quality CE outcomes. CE and public participation is often described as "processes to understand public values and use diverse input in a planned effort to improve decision-making and communications." This 2-day introductory course touched on highlights of CE preparation and execution. Superfund staff provided their best real-life examples of types of CI/CE tools that were placed on a display table at the back of the CE Workshop. These included: Fact Sheets; Community Involvement Plans; Community Interview Forms; Mailing Lists; Surveys; Community Involvement Evaluations; and Public Notices.

Objective 5: Delivery of Information: Evaluate how information is delivered to at-risk and remote communities and develop options for improvement.

Action Item 13 – Partner with the Region 4 Environmental Justice Office, Office of External and Congressional Affairs, Brownfields Program, RCRA Program, and Community Action for a Renewed Environment to identify work areas for collaboration in potentially impacted areas. Host quarterly meeting to ensure collaboration and sharing take place.

Accomplishments

- Superfund staff **worked extensively with the Environmental Justice, Office of External and Congressional Affairs, RCRA Program, and Community Action for a Renewed**

Environment (CARE) on community engagement activities throughout FY 2010. EJ Manager and Region 4 Public Affairs Director met with Superfund staff to discuss roles and responsibilities and develop strategies for continued collaboration. All programs attended and participated in Community Listening session with the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) held in Picayune, MS in November 2009, and also in the Community Outreach Meeting with the AA for OSWER held in Region 4 in April 2010. Finally, all programs attended and participated in the Town Hall Meeting held in Jackson, MS, with the EPA Administrator and Congressman Bennie Thompson in January 2010.



Action Item 14 – Partner with the Region 4 Environmental Justice Office and the Integrated Geospatial Analysis Section of the Office of Policy and Management to conduct environmental justice analyses for Superfund communities and develop strategies for enhanced community engagement. Provide basic and intermediate training for all community involvement staff on GIS and EJSeat.

Accomplishments

- Superfund staff developed or enhanced their knowledge and skills in utilizing **GIS and EJSeat** to conduct environmental justice analyses for designated Superfund sites. This information was used in developing Community Involvement Plans and Community Action Plans in and around Superfund sites.

Action Item 15 – As needed, utilize the services provided by EPA's Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center to provide mediators and/or facilities. Additionally, as needed, utilize services for conflict prevention and consensus building when working with contentious communities.

Accomplishments

- Staff in the Office of Superfund Public Affairs and Outreach are being developed into “experts” in the field of **conflict resolution** to foster and enhance relationship building with contentious communities. Three OSPAO staff participated in the National Environmental Conflict Resolution Conference held in May 2010. Additional training will also be provided in 2011.

Action Item 16 – Enhanced and expanded use of Region 4 website and CERCLIS to increase community engagement and provide timely, accurate, and up-to-date information on Superfund activities at various Superfund and Superfund Alternative Sites.

Accomplishments

- **Data management improvements to the division WEB site** have been made to provide information to the public that is relevant, accurate and timely. These upgrades include standardizing all 260+ Site Summary Profile Pages; new videos to the Multimedia page; removed over 500 pages of ROT; and finalized all remaining PDF documents to meet Section 508 compliance standards.

Action Item 17 – Continue use of web-based information systems (inside and outside of firewall) for emergency response actions.

Accomplishments

- EPA developed a **website dedicated to the clean-up activities at the TVA site**. The website is widely publicized and many community members use the website to obtain information on activities. The website includes all the Pollution Reports, information on dredging, fact sheets, press releases, advisories, and other pertinent information. www.epatvakingston.com



- **CTS/Mills Gap Removal Site** – Utilizing EPAOSC.net, staff continues to update site information, project status, and downloads site-related documents for the community to review.

Goal 3: Produce outcomes that are responsive to stakeholder concerns and help meet community needs and long-term goals to the extent practicable.

Objective 6: Community Engagement Training – Develop and provide training to strengthen fundamental community engagement skills and enhance one-site, one-team project management approaches.

Action Item 18 – Conduct training for new and seasoned Superfund staff in Building Trust and Resolving Differences; Community Culture and the Environment; Cross-Cultural Effectiveness; etc.

Accomplishments

Training on Emotion, Outrage and Public Participation has been scheduled for Region 4 on November 9-10, 2010, through the Community Involvement University. In these challenging times of environmental, health, cultural, economic and social changes, this is a course that will enhance your practice, support your clients and equip you to think about and learn how to apply behaviors that will enhance quality public participation outcomes where communities are emotional or outraged and, therefore, not yet at the place where they can fully participate in a public engagement process. This course is based on the work of Dr. Peter Sandman, combined with the International Association for Public Participation's (IAP2's) core concepts for meaningful and effective public participation. We are also working with the Community Involvement University to bring the **Building Trust and Resolving Differences** course as well late in FY 2011.



Action Item 19 – Attend and participate in community training program that is being developed by OSWER for site managers and key personnel involved in site activities.

Accomplishments

To be determined . . . will participate when scheduled by OSWER.

Objective 7: Measures – Evaluate and measure the effectiveness of community engagement activities to promote continual improvement and identify needs and opportunities for future action.

Action Item 20 – Develop “standard” community engagement and community consultation language for individual commitments to be included in Superfund Division staff that incorporates the principles of transparency, community participation, and collaboration.

Accomplishments

- **Community engagement and community consultation individual commitments** have been drafted for inclusion in FY 2011 Performance Plans for Superfund supervisors and staff. The individual commitments incorporate the principles of transparency, community participation, and collaboration and will be used, along with other individual commitments on site clean-ups, to ensure that every Superfund site team member is aware of his/her obligations to these principles and that each will be evaluated on his/her efforts.

Action Item 21 – Pending availability of funding, conduct a third-party evaluation of community engagement efforts at selected, high profile sites.

Accomplishments

This is an FY 2011 action item that will be completed in 2011 pending availability of funding.

Objective 8: Local Workforce Development – Evaluate and promote job training initiatives, job creation for JTI graduates, and the use of local labor on environmental projects.

Action Item 22 – Evaluate the usage and benefits of the Superfund JTI Program at Region 4 sites and seek opportunities to provide training and employment opportunities for underserved citizens living in communities affected by Superfund sites.

Accomplishments

- The **Savannah River Site (SRS)** is the first federal facility to participate in a worker-ready program and the first in Region 4. Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI) focuses on bringing job opportunities to economically challenged communities around SRS. **SRS SuperJTI, round 1**, December 2008 – August 2009. This Initiative was funded by EPA Headquarters, Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) and supported by Region 4. Over 250 interested candidates; 90 people selected for “try-outs”; 16 participants were selected, trained, and graduated on August 2009. Sixteen graduates hired by SRNS (DOE contractor).



- **Savannah River Site, SuperJTI, round 2** – March 2010 – July 2010. Funded by EPA Headquarters, TASC; supported and implemented by Region 4. 321 people from the local communities participated in candidate orientations. 179 people were invited to try-outs. 39 participants were selected, trained, and graduated on July 9, 2010, and are currently employed by SRR, Inc. (DOE contractor). The SRSJTI received the **Suzanne E. Olive Award for Exemplary Leadership in National EEO Honor Award in 2010** due to the success of the initiative nationally. This Site has been recognized as a national model to be used for other Sites as part of the AA OSWER Community Engagement Initiative Superfund Job Training Initiative. Savannah River Site, SuperJTI, round 3 – in planning stages. To be funded and implemented by Region 4.



- **Jacksonville SuperfundJTI Program** – Graduated a total of 26 local citizens through this program. 24 are currently working. Community outreach included online registration; radio advertisements; email distributions, and television, as well as the dispersal of 500 print fliers via door-to-door outreach. A total of 70 radio ads ran; an official Jacksonville website was set up; and a call center established received a total of 2,110 calls. Of the participants selected for the program, 77% live in the Superfund area.



- **Camilla Wood Preserving Site** – In planning stages of utilizing SuperJTI at this site.

Action Item 23 – For emergency response and remedial actions, continue to encourage contractors to employ locally when it's possible to obtain a qualified workforce.

Accomplishments

- Region 4 Superfund Division, Emergency Response and Removal Branch, continues to encourage contractors to employ locally when possible.

Action Item 24 – Develop and launch EPA “Communiversality” – a planned community engagement and educational program that promotes greater understanding of EPA resources through active learning and capacity building.

Accomplishments

- Staff developed an overview of the Communiversality concept that is currently being reviewed internally. Next steps include: identifying subject matter experts within the Agency and externally who are interested in facilitating workshops during this event; identifying community groups that have had successful relationships with Region 4; developing training modules; organizing logistics for the event; etc. The Communiversality will be launched in 4th quarter 2011.



COMMUNITY INPUT MATTERS TO EPA!

Collaboration
Technical Assistance
Environmental Justice
Transparency

Community Engagement is the process of helping communities participate in decisions on land cleanups, emergency preparedness and response, and the management of hazardous substances and waste.

Our Goals...

- Develop transparent and accessible decision-making processes to enhance meaningful community stakeholder participation.**
- Present information and provide technical assistance in ways that will enable community stakeholders to better understand environmental issues and participate in an informed way during the decision-making process.**
- Produce outcomes that are responsive to stakeholder concerns and are aligned with community needs and long-term goals to the extent practicable.**

U.S. EPA-Region 4 SUPERFUND DIVISION