



# The Community Involvement Plan and the Community Advisory Group

## The Community Involvement Plan

- ***What is a community involvement plan?***
  - A management and planning tool with actions to be carried out during the course of site activities
    - \_ Encourages interaction between the affected community and involved agencies
  - Ensures that the community can participate in the decision-making process

# The Community Involvement Plan

## *What is the Preliminary Draft CIP?*

- An early draft of a CIP based on community interviews and standardized community involvement tools
- Main purpose is to generate discussion between the CAG and the involved agencies
- Presents concepts for discussion with corrections – punctuation, grammar, format, etc. – to be taken care of in final version

# The Community Involvement Plan

## ***Comments and concerns from community interviews***

- Some believe federal and state agencies should be more aggressive in forcing Dow to clean the rivers and bay, but ...
- Some worry that too aggressive agency actions will impose financial hardship on Dow and in turn on the 3 counties
- Some residents think the agencies should get more information into the local news media but ...
- Some residents believe local news media are biased toward Dow
- Some residents believe that the contamination has been in place too long and should be removed immediately but ...
- Some residents worry that disturbing the sediment will worsen the contamination

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## ***Some community recommendations and agency responses***

- Residents: There is a need for technical information, but it should be available in easier to understand form and interpreted by an unbiased source.



*Agency response: A Community Advisory Group composed of a widely diverse cross-section of local residents has been set up to serve as an that will objectively interpret technical documents and serve as intermediary between the public and the agencies.*

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## ***Some community recommendations and agency responses***

- Residents: Make information access easier

➔ *Agency response: EPA opened a local Community Information office in Saginaw with an additional site repository; a listserv notification system was set up for immediate notification of new activity; Internet information has been expanded and simplified*

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## ***Some community recommendations and agency responses***

- Residents: Meetings should be held in a convenient, neutral facility

➡ *Agency response: EPA and MDNRE have been holding meetings at SVSU, a facility with no connection to any local businesses or government agency. The agencies will hold meetings in other communities as deemed appropriate based on the topic.*



## The Community Involvement Plan

### ***The CAG and the CIP***

- Concentrate on Section 4, “the heart of the document”
- Offer additions, amendments, corrections, suggestions, enhancements, etc.
- Decide how much of a role CAG wants in CIP activities