



**Expanding the Conversation**

**EPA National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call**





*November 9, 2021*

working for environmental justice

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# Housekeeping

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-  Please join by phone or computer, not both
-  You are on mute, please enter questions and comments into the Q&A pod
-  If selected to speak during dialogue, please limit comment to 1 minute
-  Recording and transcript will be available online in the near future

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## En Español

Tenemos interpretación en español disponible para aquellos que prefieren escuchar en español.

- Cómo cambiar el canal de audio en español
- Las personas pueden agregar preguntas en español al módulo de preguntas y respuestas
- Los materiales de la reunión estarán disponibles en español.



*Spanish-language interpretation is available for those who prefer to listen in Spanish.*

- How to switch to Spanish language audio channel*
- Individuals can add questions in Spanish to the Q&A Pod*
- Meeting materials will be made available in Spanish.*

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## Agenda

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Welcome

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*Leadership Updates*

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Featured Topic: *Justice 40 – A focus on EPA's Superfund Remedial Program*

Listening Session and Dialogue

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Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

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Closing Remarks

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# Leadership Updates

**Matthew Tejada**  
*DIRECTOR, EPA OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE*

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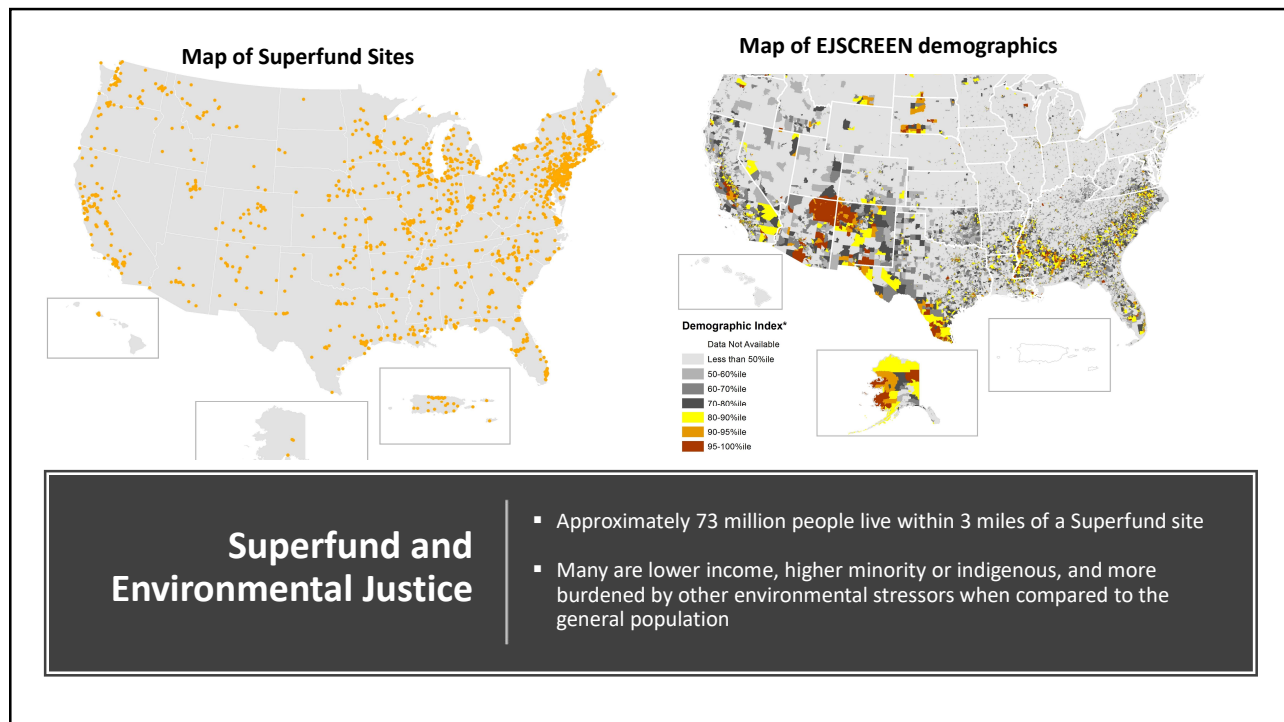
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### Superfund's Approach to Environmental Justice and Community Involvement

- Building Community Capacity
- Building Staff Capacity
- Building On Success

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## Justice 40 Initiative: Superfund Pilot

Superfund Remedial Program is one of six EPA programs participating in the pilot.

1. Develop a plan to engage with communities and other stakeholders
2. Identify benefits of programs
3. Propose methods to calculate and report on program benefits for disadvantaged communities

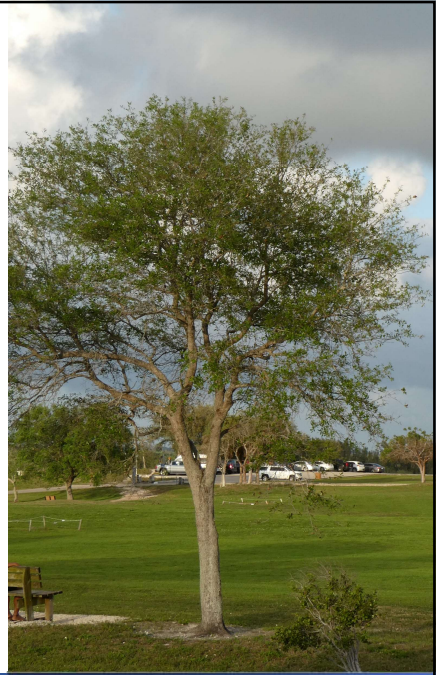


*Community leader and local government officials discuss future use of a Superfund site in Jacksonville, FL.*

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## What is Superfund?

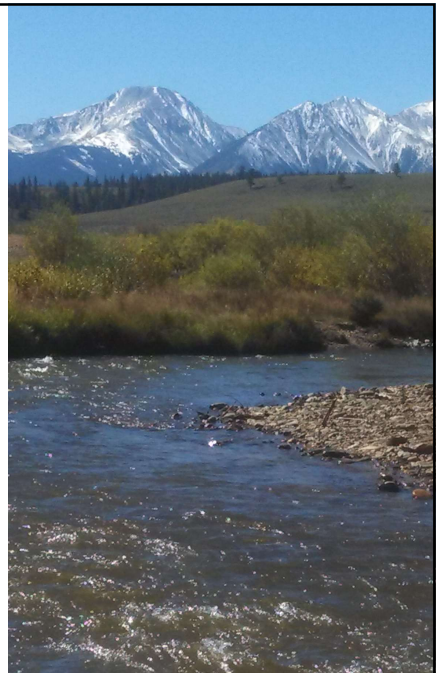
- Congress passed a law in 1980— *the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)* – that is commonly called Superfund
- Allows EPA to clean up contaminated sites and hold polluters accountable
- Provides funds and authority to clean up contaminated sites when there is no responsible party



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## Benefits of Superfund Cleanups

- 1 Long-term protection of human health and the environment
- 2 Involve communities in the Superfund decision-making process
- 3 Return sites to beneficial use
- 4 Make responsible parties pay for cleanups



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HJ3

## Benefit # 1: Long-Term Protection of Human Health and the Environment

- Studies show that cleanup at lead contaminated Superfund sites lowered the risk of elevated blood lead levels for children living within 2 kilometers of the sites by 13% to 26%
- Superfund cleanup reduces the incidence of birth defects in infants of mothers living within 1¼ miles of a site by roughly 20% to 25%



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## Benefit # 2: Involve Communities in the decision-making Superfund Process

- **Community Involvement** – providing opportunities for meaningful engagement in dialogue and collaboration with community members.
- **Technical Assistance** – Provide resources and funding for communities to better understand technical issues related to a cleanup and key considerations for a site's future use.
- **Superfund Job Training Initiative** – job readiness program that provides training and employment opportunities for people living in communities affected by Superfund sites.



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## Slide 13

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**HJ3** consider combining the health benefits on slides 12 and 13 onto one slide and moving economic benefits to a different slide on Superfund Redevelopment with some photos

Harrison, Jennifer, 10/12/2021



## Benefit # 3: Return Sites to Beneficial Use

- More than 700 Superfund sites are in new or continued use following cleanup
- Today these sites are parks, shopping centers, athletic fields, wildlife sanctuaries, manufacturing facilities, residences and more
- 2020 data shows 632 Superfund sites in reuse supported ~ 9,902 businesses generating annual sales of \$63.3 billion.
- They also employ more than 227,769 people who earned a combined income of \$16.3 billion.



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## Benefit # 4: Make Responsible Parties Pay for Cleanups

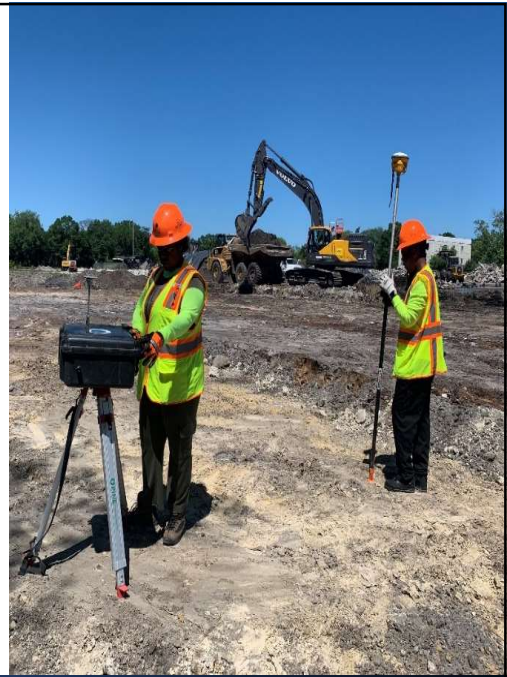
- EPA has attained \$48.4 billion in commitments from responsible parties since 1980.
- Of this amount, approximately \$40.9 billion has been committed to investigate and cleanup Superfund sites, and more than \$7.5 billion represents reimbursement to EPA for money spent cleaning up Superfund sites.
- 881 sites are being cleaned up by potentially responsible parties pursuant to 1415 agreements.



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## Additional Benefits: Superfund Removal

- The Superfund removal program conducts emergency and shorter-term responses when contamination poses an imminent and substantial threat to human health or the environment.
- Removals are classified as emergency, time-critical, or non-time-critical
- In Fiscal Year 2021, EPA completed **186** removal actions. Of these removal actions, the agency completed **103** emergency response actions in communities across the United States and its territories.



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## Future Focus Sessions

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States and Tribes

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Community Representatives

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Community Advisory Groups

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Technical Assistance Grants Recipients

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## Listening Session & Dialogue

### WRITE

WRITE ANY  
COMMENTS/QUESTIONS  
IN THE Q&A POD

### RAISE

WHEN PROMPTED,  
RAISE YOUR HAND TO  
ASK A QUESTION OR  
PROVIDE INPUT

- USING A PHONE? PRESS \*9 TO RAISE YOUR HAND

### LIMIT

PLEASE LIMIT  
QUESTIONS OR  
COMMENTS TO 1  
MINUTE

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## How Do We Maximize Superfund Benefits?

What services or resources can EPA provide to communities while we are cleaning up Superfund sites?

What programs or resources does your community need in order to participate in the Superfund decision-making process?

What could EPA do to ease your concerns about living near a Superfund site?

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# How Do We Maximize Superfund Benefits?

How can EPA remove barriers that make it difficult for the community to access EPA resources?

How can EPA better work with communities to address issues associated with gentrification?

*EPA can often influence how sites are revitalized for beneficial use, such as recreational areas, businesses, local government offices, public space and much more.*

How can EPA better engage with communities on future use of Superfund sites?

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## Superfund Points of Contact

Lavar Thomas, [Thomas.lavar@epa.gov](mailto:Thomas.lavar@epa.gov)

Bill Denman, [Denman.Bill@epa.gov](mailto:Denman.Bill@epa.gov)

Helen Duteau, [Duteau.helen@epa.gov](mailto:Duteau.helen@epa.gov)

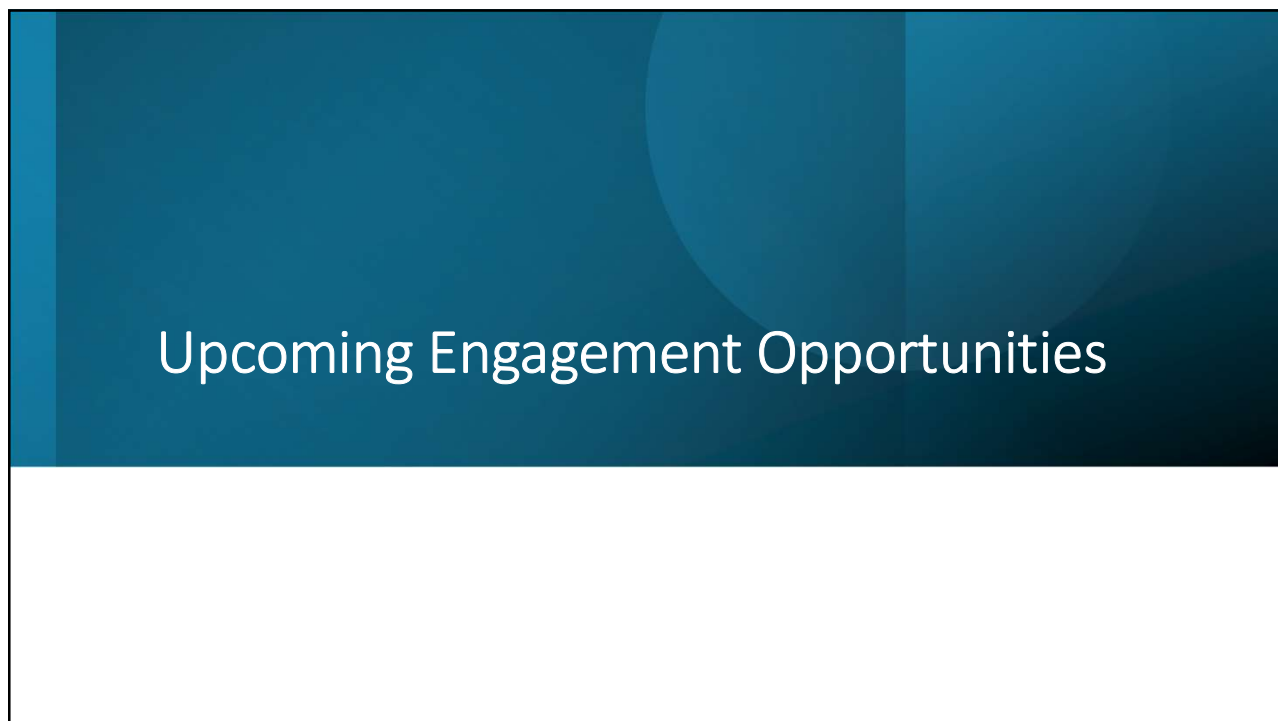
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# EJ Program Updates

**Matthew Tejada**  
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# Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

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## Upcoming Engagement Opportunities (cont.)

### EPA Region 4 EJ Workshop: Growing Grassroots: Building Capacity for Environmental Justice Work

#### **November 18:** Session 5 -- Understanding What's In My Drinking Water

The webinar will feature two distinct panels and a demonstration of "How's My Waterway," EPA's tool designed to provide the general public with information about the condition of their local waters based on data that states, federal, tribal, local agencies and others have provided to EPA.

- ❑ Panel 1 will focus on a discussion on the different roles and responsibilities related to unregulated contaminants in drinking water. The panel will feature presenters from various levels of government and a nonprofit organization.
- ❑ Panel 2 will focus on how to understand water quality reporting - from how to get access to consumer confidence reports to how to make sense of what is in one, and understanding what information is in one.

Register at [https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_bq61M9k\\_REW7YvrUQKI8WA](https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_bq61M9k_REW7YvrUQKI8WA)

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## Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

### EPA Environmental Justice Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples

- **November 30:** Justice 40 Initiative – A Whole-of-Government Approach to Advance Environmental Justice: will include information on EPA's commitment to this initiative, including some specific program efforts to implement the initiative
- <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/justice-40-a-whole-of-government-approach-for-environmental-justice-tickets-196611629677>

### EPA EJ Screen Office Hours

- **December 8 at Noon Eastern:** Join these open discussions and learn about EJSCREEN, as well as get your questions answered. For more information on EJSCREEN, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>

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## Closing

- ❑ **Next National EJ Community Engagement call:**
  - November 23, 2021, at 2 p.m. Eastern
  - <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls>
- ❑ **Subscribe to EPA's Environmental Justice listserv** for up-to-date information about EJ funding opportunities, events, and webinars:
  - Send a blank email to:  
[join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov](mailto:join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov)
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  - [Environmental-Justice@epa.gov](mailto:Environmental-Justice@epa.gov)

