Proposed NDEP Community Involvement and Participation Plan Approach

1. If NDEP assumes the lead regulatory role, a community workshop will be conducted to review the overall project schedule and opportunities for input. The NDEP will use this opportunity to scope preferences for ongoing community communication and build public comments into a draft community involvement plan (CIP). The draft CIP will be completed within 90 days after the deferral agreement is executed. The community will have 30 days to review the draft CIP and provide comments. The NDEP will have 45 days to finalize the CIP after the public review and comment period. The NDEP will also seek input for the timing of fact sheets and public meetings to support transparency on project progress and key milestones in the future.

2. For significant steps in the process (e.g. completion of major documents), the NDEP will continue to offer facilitated roundtable format meetings to allow open discussion and explanation of how input has been considered in decision-making.

3. The NDEP will post a schedule on a share-point site with advance notice of anticipated document submittal dates.

4. All interested parties will be provided 30 days to submit comments to NDEP on most documents (e.g. work plans, reports) and 45 days for major documents. NDEP will consider all comments received and either discuss or provide written responses to comments.