Superfund Community Participation Options

Presentation to:
Columbia Falls Aluminum Company
Community Liaison Panel

January 21, 2016

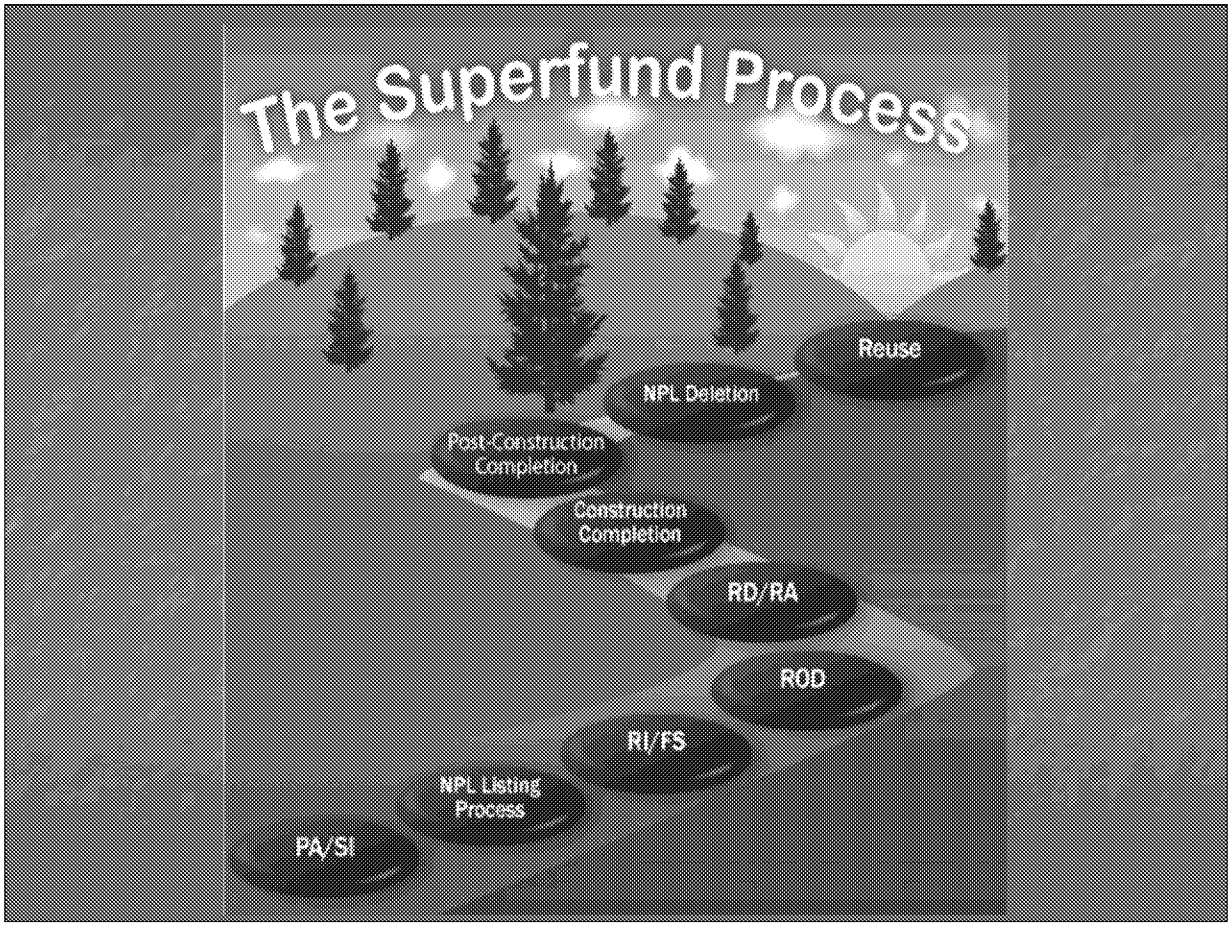
Agenda

- Recap – Superfund Process
- Community Involvement Activities
- Community Involvement Plan Development
- Community Participation Options
- Community Resources

What is Superfund?

Goals of Superfund:

- Protect human health and the environment by cleaning up abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous substance sites
- Involve communities in the cleanup process
- Make responsible parties pay for the cleanups
- Return previously polluted land to productive use


The Superfund Process
Reuse
NPL Deletion
Post-Construction Completion
Construction Completion
RD/RA
ROD
RI/FS
NPL Listing Process
PA/SI

The Superfund Process

Public Input for Listing

- Listing a site involves federal rulemaking with a 30-day public comment period
- Public meeting
- Governor's support

NPL Listing Process

The Superfund Process

RI/FS

Remedial Investigation (RI)

- Once a site becomes listed, a RI is done to characterize the nature and extent of contamination and source(s).
- Nature and Extent involves:
  - Baseline Risk Assessment
  - Field Sampling and Analysis

The Superfund Process

Feasibility Study (FS)

- Based on information found in the RI, an FS is done which identifies and evaluates options for reducing site risks. Essentially how to break the exposure pathway. The options identified are then evaluated against 9 criteria.

RI/FS

Community Involvement

Community Involvement During RI/FS

- Community Interviews
- Community Involvement Plan (CIP)
- Community Advisory Group (CAG)
- Other Community Resources

Community Involvement

Community Interviews

- Includes state and local officials, community leaders, media representatives, potentially responsible parties, and interested residents.
- Identifies awareness of activities at the site, public concerns about the cleanup, and how and when local residents want to be involved.

Community Involvement Plan

- Specifies the outreach activities that address identified community concerns and expectations;
- Describes what EPA will do;
- Explains how the Site Team will involve the community in site cleanup; and
- Identifies specific activities, outreach products, or programs EPA will use to address the community's concerns.

Community Involvement Plan

A Community Involvement Plan will include:

- A capsule site description;
- Community background information;
- Community issues and concerns;
- Community involvement activities and timing
- A copy of the interview questions;
- An official contact list;
- The location(s) for public meetings;
- The location of the information repository; and
- Local media contacts.

Community Involvement

- Community Involvement Group (CAG)
  - Enhances public participation in the cleanup process;
  - Provides public forum where representatives of diverse interests can discuss needs and concerns and share community preferences for site cleanup and remediation;
  - Group should self-governing and be fully representative the diverse interests of the community;
  - Could be formed from an existing group or a new group could be formed;
  - May not be needed or appropriate at every site.

Community Involvement

- Resources for Communities
  - Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)
  - Technical Assistance Service for Communities (TASC)
  - Superfund Redevelopment Initiative (SRI)
  - Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center (CPRC)
  - Superfund Job Training Initiative (Superfund JTI)

Community Involvement

- Individuals potentially affected by a site have a voice in the cleanup process
- EPA's Regional staff help communities get involved by providing:
  - Educational materials
  - Outreach activities
  - Site information
  - Training
  - Technical assistance
  - Other support (example: translating information into local language and dialects)

Community Involvement

Ways to get involved:

- Attend public meetings and hearings
- Participate in community interviews
- Join/form a CAG
- Visit local information repository sites
- Contact your local Community Involvement Coordinator and/or Site Manager

Contact Information

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