



Remediation & Redevelopment Division  
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## **Public participation and community involvement endeavors by the DEQ Remediation and Redevelopment Division (RRD)**

*The Remediation and Redevelopment Division (RRD) administers Part 201, Environmental Remediation, Part 213, Leaking Underground Storage Tanks, and portions of Part 215, Michigan Underground Storage Tank Financial Assurance, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994, Public Act 451, as amended (NREPA). In addition, the RRD manages portions of the federal Superfund program, established under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA). Together, these four statutes and related administrative rules guide the RRD's efforts in remediation and redevelopment of brownfield sites throughout Michigan.*

Public participation is an integral part of the site cleanup program, providing a two-way exchange of information between the state and the community affected by a cleanup. Public participation activities are designed to allow all interested parties, including residents and liable parties, the opportunity to review, comment and provide other input on response actions. Public participation activities insure that the public's concerns on remedial actions are heard by the DEQ before major decisions are made.

The tools used for public participation activities required by law may include notice letters to local units of government and public health departments, newspaper notices, and public meetings or hearings (see item A). Staff may augment these with many other public participation endeavors including information bulletins, newsletters or meetings with community groups at any time during the cleanup process as appropriate (see item B).

### **A) RRD public participation/noticing based on statutory requirements: *newspaper notices, public meetings, public comment periods***

- Part 201: Section 20104a (Brownfield Redevelopment Board re: state-owned sites of environmental contamination); Section 20105 (notification to owner/operator of site inclusion/removal from Part 201 list of contaminated sites AND to public re: web site viewing of this list); 20120d (public noticing at sites where limited or site specific category response actions will be undertaken, where the DEQ is using public funds, at sites where groundwater cleanup requirements are proposed to be waived, or at any site during various stages of remediation where the DEQ determines significant public interest exists).
- Part 213: public noticing in the DEQ Calendar of sites where a mixing zone determination has been made, pursuant to Section 3109a(2) of NREPA. Note: Owner/operators of leaking underground storage tanks however, have several reporting requirements under Part 213 (e.g. notice to impacted parties and local units of government, notice of aesthetic closure).
- CERCLA (Superfund): public noticing during various stages of Superfund site investigation and remediation activities is required by statute during: pre-remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS), Record of Decision (ROD) process, kick-off of the remedial action, and delisting of a Superfund site from the federal National Priorities List (NPL) of contaminated sites. Information on a Superfund site must also be provided to the community at a local information repository (library). Though not a statutory requirement, the RRD regularly provides public noticing at other stages of

site cleanup/ remediation where significant public interest exists, such as the five-year review of each Superfund site. Requirements for public noticing are also set forth in the 1990 National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) and in the 2001 Superfund Community Involvement Handbook (pages 75-91).

## **B) RRD public participation endeavors beyond the statutory requirements**

- Technical Outreach Services for Communities (TOSC): RRD supports and directs communities to this free technical assistance program that uses university resources to help community groups understand the technical issues involving the hazardous waste sites in communities. TOSC aims to empower the community to participate substantively in the decision-making process regarding their hazardous substance problems. *Example: Pall-Gelman/Ann Arbor; Windiate Park/Flint*
- Community Involvement Plan (CIP): A plan designed by the community with the RRD that allows the community to learn and stay informed about the investigation, cleanup and redevelopment process at a site of environmental contamination. *Examples: Tittabawassee/ Midland, Pall-Gelman Sciences/Ann Arbor, and ALL Superfund sites*
- Citizen Information Committees (CIC): Generally, a core group of interested community leaders and members who meet regularly with the RRD over a site of environmental contamination to stay fully informed of and remain fully involved in decisions regarding site investigations, activities, plans, findings and developments. *Examples: Kalamazoo River and Pine River Superfund sites*
- Technical Assistance Grant (TAG): TAG is a grant program that provides funds for citizen groups to hire independent technical advisors to help them understand and comment on technical decisions regarding Superfund cleanup actions. RRD Superfund staff always ensure a community is aware of the TAG program and given whatever assistance is needed in the TAG applications process. *Examples: Tar Lake Superfund site/Mancelona (Traverse Group administers TAG)*
- Pollution Emergency Alert System (PEAS) hotline: RRD manages the DEQ's 24 hour hotline (800-292-4706) for public reporting of environmental emergencies
- RRD Rotator: RRD provides a staff person to field RRD-specific calls received at the DEQ Environmental Assistance Center's toll free number (1-800-662-9278) -- the public's one stop shopping hotline for DEQ information. Each DEQ division provides a staff person to the Center.
- DEQ Calendar postings: RRD actions are announced bi-weekly in the DEQ Calendar publication. The public announcements include RRD cleanup and redevelopment site actions/findings; promulgation of Administrative Rules; compliance and enforcement actions; and RRD-hosted trainings, conferences, and workshops.
- Task Forces: Creation of the Redevelopment of Urban Sites (REUS) task force in Detroit is a good task force example. RRD and City specialists meet periodically with a common goal to speed cleanups at contaminated sites in Detroit, particularly those with economic development potential.
- Information repositories: information on a site of environmental contamination is made available to the community at a local site/repository (library) in the community as well as at DEQ district/field offices. *Examples: ALL Superfund sites; Tittabawassee/Midland*
- Web-based information/postings: RRD-related information and publications (general or site specific) can be found at this web site: [www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq), click on Land, Land Redevelopment or Land Cleanup.
- Exhibits/displays: RRD exhibits at local, state, national events, displaying RRD information materials and providing one-on-one staff /customer assistance. *Examples: MI Deal Flow Conference 2001; Brownfields 2001 (Chicago-EPA)*
- Public meetings/hearings: RRD meets with the community to discuss site specific investigation, cleanup and redevelopment findings/actions. *Example: Former Shell Oil Dist. Plant/Grand Haven.*
- Informal community group meetings/conference calls: RRD project managers maintain regular contact with communities to discuss site actions, investigations, redevelopment options.

## B) RRD public participation endeavors beyond the statutory requirements *(continued)*

- Trainings, seminars, workshops: RRD hosts many technical information-education outreach events for the regulated community, staff, and other state/federal agencies. *Examples include: Part 201 Cleanup Criteria Training, Part 201 Sampling Strategies and Statistics Training, Part 201 Administrative Rules Training.*
- Brownfield Bus Tours: One of RRDs more popular education outreach events are public guided bus tours of brownfield sites; RRD has hosted these public tours at several national conferences and symposiums.
- Media/press events: RRD arranges press conferences at high profile sites of contamination (*Tittabawassee/dioxin/Midland site*) and hosts press promotions at successfully redeveloped brownfield sites (*former Lufkin Rule/Gallade Technologies/ Saginaw site*).
- Non-RRD sponsored events: RRD staff are regularly asked to speak at meetings or events held by other governmental, educational, professional, regulatory, judicial, legislative, media/press, advisory, business, citizen, and career-oriented groups. *Example: Most recently, RRD Superfund staff met with the Macomb County Homeland Security Preparedness Committee to present the past history of LDI Superfund site and future site work*
- Information-education materials: Numerous RRD publications are created/distributed for information, education, guidance and compliance purposes, such materials include: statutes (*Part 201, 213, Superfund*), administrative rules, guidance materials (*operational memoranda*), training manuals (*cleanup criteria, statistics & sampling strategies*), site-specific information bulletins (*Kingsford-U.P., Tittabawassee-Midland, Pall Gelman-Ann Arbor, Allied Paper-Kalamazoo, Wash King-Baldwin/U.P.*), technical reports (*technical support documents (TSD) for cleanup criteria*), fact sheets/citizen guides (*BEA, Due Care*), and brochures (*MI Brownfield Renaissance*).
- Innovative software: To complement a new RRD statistics training manual, the RRD customized a new, easy-to-use, web-based statistical software component. Statistical calculations that used to take days to configure are now calculated in minutes; all the statistical methods recommended in the manual can be applied, providing the user with summary printouts of multiple analyses, graphics, and summary statistics. The software was made available not only to staff, but to the regulated community, and anyone who has access to the internet and at no cost.
- RRDCT: The RRD Communications Team (RRDCT) was formed in October 2001 to assist in the proposal of and help facilitate production of RRD publications-web page enhancements and/or communication-outreach endeavors. To date, it has produced an RRD photo library to promote RRD site cleanup successes via the web & in various publications; developed a fact sheet to assist fire, police and other on-scene responders to vehicle-related spills in Michigan, and been involved in the review and production of various other division documents and public outreach endeavors.
- Technical Assistance-Outreach: RRD staff located at DEQ offices statewide are the first line of contact with citizens, the business community, industry, and local units of government for prompt customer service daily about the Part 201, 213, 215 and Superfund programs. Questions about Act 381 (brownfield redevelopment assistance) can also be directed to RRD staff (e.g. brownfield redevelopment authorities, identification of brownfield sites, development of brownfield plans and work plans).

## C) RRD Public participation-community involvement efforts FY2002

The division completed 100% of statutory reporting/requirements; held: 42 public meetings, 35 public comment periods, 2 public hearings, 15 seminars, 14 training events, 1 brownfield bus tour; produced/distributed 13 site-specific information bulletins; participated in: 50 school-related events and more than 200 non-division sponsored events where staff were asked to speak about division programs. This is not a complete list.