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Technical Assistance Grants, Technical Outreach Services for Communities, and Raymark site contacts

This fact sheet presents an overview of two EPA programs that can provide community groups with outside technical advice. It also provides a contact list of federal, state and local officials

Introduction

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) believes it is important for communities to be involved in decisions related to nearby Superfund sites. This is why it conducts public involvement activities at every Superfund site. After they learn about a site, local groups often want to be more involved in the technical aspects of site evaluation and cleanup. Congress established the Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program in 1986 to help communities affected by Superfund sites understand and comment on site-related information, and thus participate more effectively in cleanup decisions. In 1994 EPA Headquarters, working through its regional Hazardous Substance Research Centers, established the Technical Outreach Services for Communities (TOSC) program as a somewhat more flexible way to provide communities with technical assistance.

What are Technical Assistance Grants?

EPA's TAG program is open to community groups at National Priorities List (NPL) sites. The TAG program provides grants of up to $50,000 to qualified, incorporated citizen's groups to hire independent technical advisors. The role of the technical advisors is to help citizens understand and comment on site-related information. This helps ensure citizen participation in EPA's cleanup decisions.

How to apply for a TAG

To apply for a TAG, contact Mike McGagh, EPA's TAG Coordinator for Region 1. He can answer any questions you may have about TAGs. To reach him you can call EPA Region 1's toll free number, 1-888-372-7341. You can also call Mike directly at 617-918-1428, or reach him via email: mcgagh.mike@epa.gov

Technical Outreach Services for Communities

Community groups may also receive technical assistance through the EPA's Technical Outreach Services for Communities (TOSC) program. This program provides grants to the national network of Hazardous Substance Research Centers. The Centers then provide independent technical advice to communities. To be eligible for this program a community group must be affected by a hazardous or toxic waste site, and must work out an agreement with the nearest Hazardous Substance Research Center about its specific technical advisory needs.

How to apply for the TOSC program

To learn more about TOSC, contact Jim Murphy at EPA Region 1. He can answer any questions you may have about TOSC. To reach him you can call EPA Region 1's toll free number, 1-888-372-7341. You can also call Jim directly at 617-918-1028, or reach him via email: murphy.jim@epa.gov

Contact these individuals for additional information

These people at US EPA, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, the Connecticut Department of Public Health, and the Town of Stratford are responsible for overseeing the Raymark Superfund Site.

Name, title and contact information	Role in the Raymark Site cleanup
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1 EPA Toll Free (All Staff): 888-372-7341	
Ron Jennings, Project Manager Phone: 617-918-1242. Fax: 617-918-1291 Email: Jennings.Ron@epa.gov	Project manager for entire Raymark cleanup. Oversees all data gathering, technical analysis, risk assessment, and decisionmaking.
Eve Vaudo, Enforcement Counsel Phone: 617-918-1089. Fax: 617-918-1809 Email: Vaudo.Eve@epa.gov	Oversees legal issues at the Raymark Site for EPA.
Rick Leighton, Construction Manager Phone: 617-918-1342. Fax: 617-918-1294 Email: Leighton.Richard@epa.gov	Oversees the design and construction of cleanups at the Raymark site. Manages construction contractors.
Jim Murphy, Community Involvement Coord. Phone: 617-918-1028. Fax: 617-918-1029 Email: Murphy.Jim@epa.gov	Ensures that the public is informed about, and involved in, EPA's decisionmaking process at the Raymark Superfund site. Provides citizens with information about EPA's Technical Outreach Services for Communities (TOSC) program.
Mike McGagh, TAG Coordinator Phone: 617-918-1428. Fax: 617-918-1029 Email: Mcgagh.Mike@epa.gov	Provides citizens with information about EPA's Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program.
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection	
Ron Curran, Project Manager Phone: 860-424-3764. Fax: 860-424-4057 Email: Ronald.Curran@po.state.ct.us	Oversees Raymark cleanup for the State of Connecticut. Ensures that cleanup satisfies Connecticut laws and regulations.
Connecticut Department of Public Health	
Jennifer Kertanis, Epidemiologist Phone 860-509-7742. Fax: 860-509-7785 Email: Jennifer.Kertanis@po.state.ct.us	Assists local health department in evaluating health-related issues for all aspects of the Raymark site cleanups. Responds to public concerns and provides health education on health issues of concern or interest.
Diane Aye, Epidemiologist Phone 860-509-7742, Fax: 860-509-7785 Email: Diane.Aye@po.state.ct.us	Primary investigator on town wide health study investigating cancer incidence and birthweight in relation to exposure to Raymark waste.
Stratford Health Department	
Elaine O'Keefe, Director of Health Phone: 203-385-4090. Fax: 203-381-2048 Email: e-okeefe@earthlink.com	Assesses and responds to Stratford residents' health concerns about the Raymark site. Serves as local contact and clearinghouse for disposal site cleanup information. Makes recommendations to EPA to protect public health during site cleanup.
US Army Corps of Engineers	
Laureen Borochaner, Project Manager Phone 978-318-8802. Fax 978-318-8064. Email: laureen.a.borochaner@usace.army.mil	Provides technical assistance, design support and construction oversight to implement the removal action at the Shore Road Study Area.