



Coeur d'Alene Basin and Bunker Hill Box Community Involvement Plan 2005

August 2005

This is EPA's plan for involving community members in the cleanup of the Coeur d'Alene Basin and Bunker Hill Box.

Ideas from residents, community groups, and local organizations helped shape this plan. This plan lays out EPA's overall approach to providing information and working with local communities. It is not designed to address specific, individual issues. It is designed to be flexible. We welcome your input and ideas for improving this plan and our involvement with the community at any time.

Lead contamination from over a century of mining poses a risk to people in the area, especially children. The Superfund cleanup program is helping to reduce this risk. As part of the cleanup, EPA provides a community involvement program that offers opportunities for local people to be informed and involved while EPA is working in the area. Some people have been frustrated with the community involvement program, the cleanup process, and the way decisions have been made. During conversations with local citizens, EPA heard from some residents who want EPA to get the cleanup done and go. Others expressed support for

EPA's cleanup efforts. EPA plans to get the cleanup done as quickly and efficiently as we can, and leave the area a cleaner, safer place.

EPA is committed to working in a positive way with local communities and residents. We heard that there were places where we could do a better job on community involvement. We have taken those comments into account while revising this plan. Also, hearing some citizens' frustrations about past EPA decisions and actions helps us focus on better ways to do things in the future. EPA also will continue to work cooperatively with other organizations and agencies in our efforts to protect public health and the environment. This document lays out how we plan to accomplish those goals.

In This Plan

- **Community Involvement Goals2**
- **How We Created this Plan2**
- **Getting the Job Done2**
- **Citizens Speak3**
- **Informing and Involving the Community .4**
- **Working with the Basin Commission7**
- **Contacts for More Information8**
- **Appendix:9**
Comments Received During Community Involvement Conversations and From Citizen Letters and E-mails

EPA Invites Your Input

If you have suggestions for EPA's community involvement program, or would like more information about the cleanup project, contact:
Community Involvement Coordinators

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Or, toll-free
800-424-4372

Community Involvement Goals

EPA is committed to a meaningful community involvement program for this project. Our goals are to:

- Give community members useful and timely information on site activities and progress.
- Foster open communication, responding to questions and concerns as they arise.
- Be clear about where the public can influence cleanup decisions.
- Provide opportunities for public participation and comment.
- Listen to and consider local input.
- Evaluate how well community involvement activities work, and make changes as needed.

How We Created This Plan

This Community Involvement Plan was created to align our public involvement program with the current needs of the community. To tailor this plan, EPA took the “pulse” of the region, learning more about current views on the cleanup and how people want to be involved. In early 2005, EPA asked for comments and ideas from local groups and citizens using mail, e-mail, and newspaper. In response, EPA received 10 letters and e-mails. We also met with more than 30 people. We listened to their suggestions, and used what we heard in those meeting and in the written comments to develop this plan. We thank everyone who took the time to share their suggestions and comments with us.

Plan Development Timeline

- January 26, 2005:** EPA gave a presentation to the Citizens' Coordinating Council.
- February 15, 2005:** ... EPA briefed the Basin Commission.
- February 24, 2005:** ... Ads appeared in four local papers soliciting input.
- February 25, 2005:** ... EPA mailed postcards to solicit input.
- February 28, 2005:** ... EPA sent an e-mail to the Basin Bulletin list to solicit input.
- Early March, 2005:** .. A couple newspaper articles ran locally on EPA's plan revision.
- March 22-24, 2005:** .. EPA staff met with individuals and groups in the Box and Basin.
- April, May:** EPA followed up on specific individual issues, and drafted the plan.

June: EPA provided citizen comments (about the Basin Commission, the Citizens' Coordinating Council, and the Technical Leadership Group) to the Basin Commission.

July: Draft plan underwent internal review.

August: EPA releases final Community Involvement Plan.

Which Areas are Covered by this Plan?

This Superfund Site is divided into three work areas. These areas are called operable units, or OUs. This plan covers all three of those operable units, which are commonly referred to as:

- OU 1** - Bunker Hill “Box” populated areas
- OU 2** - Bunker Hill “Box” non-populated areas
- OU 3** - Coeur d'Alene Basin

Getting the Job Done

One common message from the community members who spoke with EPA was for EPA to get the cleanup job done and move on. The public recognizes that this is a long-term, complicated cleanup, likely to take decades. Still, EPA is working to get the work done as quickly as possible and leave the area a cleaner, safer place. Important work is already getting done and more is in progress. Here are just some examples:

- Blood-lead levels in children are down.
- Sampling and cleanup of residential properties in the Box should be complete this summer.
- Trees, grasses, and shrubs are flourishing, and wildlife has returned to the areas of the Hillside Revegetation Project.
- Cleanup of properties in the Basin is well underway. Properties are being sampled and results are provided to property owners and to those interested in real estate transactions.
- Local workers are being hired to do yard cleanup work.
- EPA has transferred about 1,800 acres of property to the State of Idaho to facilitate economic development.
- The 72 mile Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes is now open. This project returned land to productive use, providing a safe recreational trail for local residents and tourists.

Citizens Speak

EPA met with and listened to more than 30 individuals as part of developing this plan. We also received 10 letters and e-mails.

Although this is a small percentage of the population, it represents a wide spectrum of experiences. Of course, not everyone held the same views, but some themes emerged. Below is a summary of the major themes EPA heard from many of the individuals. More detailed notes are in the appendix.



- Some concern was expressed about the yard cleanup program, including dust, lawn quality, and recontamination issues.
- Some people are happy with their new lawns.

Thoughts on the Basin Commission:

- Many people are wondering about the future of the Basin Commission, hoping for its success. Some felt the commission is not working to represent the community or consider citizen input. However, some pointed out that the commission, with local elected officials, is the best chance for citizen representation.
- Some questioned the true influence of the Basin Commission, since it has no direct funding or ability to change the Record of Decision.
- A couple of people suggested that some commission meetings be held in Washington, which is also part of the Basin.
- Some individuals felt that the Citizens Coordinating Council does not represent the community, and is not a good forum to talk about basic citizens' issues.

Local values:

- People have a strong sense of community and care deeply about the area.
- People want a strong local economy, with opportunities for development and jobs.
- People want environmentally safe and healthy neighborhoods.
- People want good fishing, recreation, and tourism.

Thoughts on the cleanup generally:

- People want EPA to get the cleanup done and leave.
- People thanked EPA for working to clean up contamination and improve the area.
- People are vocal and passionate about their views, but many are tired of attending meetings, sending in comments, or participating in citizen groups.
- People believe their voices have not been heard or acted upon.
- People are concerned about how EPA has made decisions.
- People have a perception of “agency versus community.”
- People want to maintain awareness of downstream impacts from contamination in Washington State.

As one would expect, EPA heard issues ranging from very specific to very general. EPA is doing follow-up work with individuals, as needed, to address specific issues raised during conversations in March 2005. Follow-up work has included researching yard cleanup issues, providing information on stormwater funding sources, conveying Tribal decision-making criteria for placement of trail restrooms, providing information about grant opportunities, providing information on the Page Pond disposal area, supplying materials to support an Earth Day fair, giving referrals to regional and national subject-matter experts, and more.

Thoughts on blood-lead issues and yard cleanups:

- There is still disagreement and confusion about lead health risks. Some citizens pointed out a need for more education on this topic.
- Some believe the EPA is not doing enough to address blood-lead issues. They would like to see a house dust program, a health program, or more testing, for example.
- Others believe that the problem is overblown.
- People noted that blood-lead levels in the Box are down, the real estate market is up, and many yards have been cleaned.

Thoughts on ways to run an effective community involvement program:

- Few people are looking for more community involvement opportunities.
- People want to know that their comments and suggestions are truly considered, respected, and used by EPA.
- People want their questions answered in a timely way.
- There seemed to be general agreement that formal public meetings are commonly viewed as “lecture and listen” activities. Other formats work better, including talking with people directly, going door to door, working through others, attending meetings

held by others, and hosting small, localized meetings.

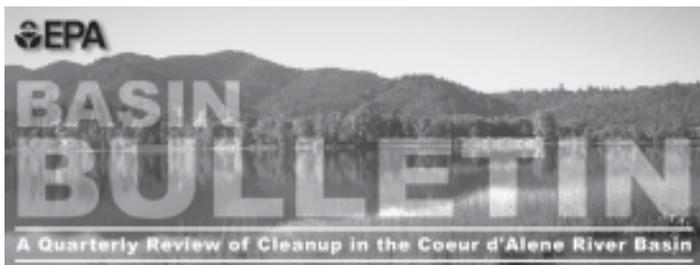
- Citizens encouraged EPA not to spend too much time on the vocal “minority fringe,” while still acknowledging the range of opinions.
- Some citizens believe EPA needs to improve its customer service and better honor its own national public involvement policies.
- Some people encouraged EPA not to overlook the environmental justice concerns of tribes and others.

- Some people urged EPA to do a better job of marketing its successes, talking about how the cleanup has benefited the community, and correcting misinformation and bad press.
- People use the EPA web site and want it to be working and up-to-date.
- Several people said that using the newspaper, particularly the Spokesman Review, is a good way to get out information.

Informing and Involving the Community

EPA will use many tools to keep residents informed and involved. Many people made it clear that there is “burn out” on public involvement. So, EPA is not proposing any new citizen groups or activities at this time. Instead, we will focus on the following.

Basin Bulletin



EPA will continue to publish the Basin Bulletin every quarter. The Basin Bulletin publicizes site activities, involvement opportunities, personnel changes, and more. Some people noted that this newsletter is useful. However, some people feel it looks too “governmental.” Some find it hard to read, while others believe its information is incomplete or out-of-date. Someone suggested we invite submissions from people with different views.

Based on these comments, we are working to improve the Bulletin. We have added color and graphics, and will continue to find ways to make it more friendly and readable. Upcoming issues will address some of the questions and issues raised during conversations with local citizens. To be added to the mailing list, or removed, contact Andrea Lindsay as noted on page 1.

Fact Sheets

EPA expects to produce about five fact sheets per year. Facts Sheets are about one to three pages and give more detailed information about a site activity. The fact sheets will be mailed to everyone on EPA’s mailing list for the site. To be added to the mailing list, or removed, contact Andrea Lindsay as noted on page 1.

Community Meetings

EPA will host community meetings at key points. Because many people noted that citizens are tired of the “lecture and listen” format, EPA generally will offer less formal open houses, availability sessions, or small-scale community sessions. EPA will announce meetings in local papers, by fact sheet or postcard, and by e-mail notice.

Locally Hosted Meetings

As suggested, EPA project managers will attend local meetings hosted by others, when possible and appropriate. These meetings would be a chance to discuss issues of concern, a site activity, or general site updates. To invite EPA to one of your meetings, contact a project representative listed on page 8.

Public Review of Documents

EPA will invite the public to comment on certain documents where public input could influence decisions. One example of a decision document that would be made available for public comment is a proposed plan for cleanup activities.

Partnerships

EPA will support the efforts of community partners to share project information where appropriate. Community partners might include local, state, tribal, or other federal agencies, local citizen or non-profit organizations, and others. Here are some examples of partnering to share information:

- EPA has been invited to publish notices in a utility bill insert of one local community and has provided text to do so.
- EPA works with the Panhandle Health District to share information about human health; EPA helps publicize blood-lead testing opportunities for the district.
- EPA recently partnered with a citizen group to provide EPA information at an exhibit booth.

Working with the Media

EPA will announce its meetings and comment periods in several local newspapers. The Spokesman Review was most often mentioned as an important way to reach people. EPA announcements (display ads) will appear in the Spokesman Review (North Idaho and Spokane editions), as well as the St. Maries Gazette, the Coeur d'Alene Press, and the Shoshone News Press.

A few people emphasized that the media is a particularly important way to share information in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. Of course, EPA doesn't have any control over what news the media publishes. However, EPA will continue its efforts to share news with the media in hopes that information is made available as widely as possible. EPA will issue press releases to local media whenever there is important news to share. EPA also will work to maintain relationships with local reporters. When there is likely to be broad, general media interest, EPA will host press availability sessions. These sessions give many reporters the chance to hear directly from project representatives and ask questions to develop their stories.

Over the upcoming months EPA will be engaging the media on several important issues. Examples of possible topics where EPA will seek media coverage include: yard cleanup progress, waste repository locations, and other cleanup activities.

Door to Door Information

Many people told EPA that going door-to-door, in person, is a particularly good way to communicate in the Basin and Box. There will be some cases where it makes sense to go "door to door," to provide information to residents who are directly affected by our work in a small area. For example, as EPA and others work to locate new waste repositories in the Basin, some door-to-door visits have taken place. In another example, some door-to-door work has been done as part of the yard cleanups in the Box and Basin. Also, EPA recently gave materials for the Washington Department of Ecology to take with them on door-to-door visits to inform neighbors about a cleanup along the Spokane River. EPA will continue to do door-to-door communication.

EPA Staff in the Community

EPA is investing in the community by basing employees in the Basin. To give local people one more way to have easy access to EPA on Superfund issues, Ed Moreen is located in Coeur d'Alene, serving as a local resource for citizens. He can answer questions, provide information, or help address issues related to the Superfund project. Ed's contact information can be found on page 8.

Informal Communication

EPA project managers and community involvement staff are available to talk with you about the site at any time. Feel free to contact us to share information, discuss concerns, or ask questions. Contact information is listed on page 8.

Information Repositories

EPA has collections of documents called information repositories throughout the Box and the Basin. These repositories hold documents about the site for the public to view. Each location may have a slightly different collection.

EPA recently worked with each location to make sure that the document collections are orderly and accessible. If there is a document you cannot find, contact one of the project representatives listed on page 8.

Basin Information Repositories

North Idaho College Library
1000 Garden Avenue
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
208-769-3355

Harrison City Hall
100 Frederick Avenue
Harrison, ID 83833
208-689-3212

Wallace Public Library
415 River Street
Wallace, ID 83873
208-752-4571

Spokane Public Library
906 West Main Avenue
Spokane, WA 98201-0976
509-444-5336

Coeur d'Alene Field Office, EPA
1910 NW Boulevard,
Suite 208
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
208-664-4588

EPA Seattle Office
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
206-553-4494

Box Information Repositories

EPA Seattle Office
(see earlier listing)

Pinehurst Kingston Library
107 Main Avenue
Pinehurst, ID 83850
208-682-3483

Kellogg Public Library
16 West Market Avenue
Kellogg, ID 83827
208-786-7231

Websites

Information about the project can be found on EPA websites. Some people have reported trouble accessing information, and encouraged EPA to keep the sites up-to-date. EPA plans to do so. If you have any suggestions for the website, call one of the people listed on page 8.

Coeur d'Alene Basin: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/cda>

Bunker Hill Box: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/bh>



Working with the Basin Commission

EPA continues to support the Basin Environmental Improvement Project Commission. The Commission was created by the Idaho legislature in 2001. While EPA is in charge of implementing the cleanup, the Basin Commission is a “coordinating body.” The Commission is in charge of determining current year and five-year work plans, prioritizing work, sharing accurate information about the cleanup, and coordinating work with local projects and priorities. It serves the important role of involving organizations in the cleanup and giving technical advice to the public and to federal and state governments. EPA believes the Basin Commission is an excellent opportunity for collaboration and local involvement in the cleanup. About once per quarter, the Commission meets in sessions that are open to the public. Each of these sessions includes public comment opportunities.



EPA's Regional Administrator serves as a commissioner representing federal agencies. In addition, EPA provides a core staff person for the Commission and supports the Citizens' Coordinating Council (CCC) and Technical Leadership Group (TLG) as noted below. EPA also has provided funding for the first year of the Commission's Executive Director position. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality has committed to providing ongoing funding for this position.

Local citizens shared many comments on the Basin Commission, the CCC, and the TLG. Those comments have been compiled and forwarded to the Basin Commission for their consideration.

The Citizens' Coordinating Council (CCC)

EPA remains committed to the Citizens' Coordinating Council, or CCC. The CCC is a group of citizens providing local input to the Basin Commission board. Meetings are held every couple of months and are open to anyone interested. To learn more about the CCC, contact John Snider, Chair, at 208-664-9773.

For the past three years, EPA has provided start-up funding for a professional facilitator who helps coordinate the CCC. EPA recently secured money to support CCC facilitation through 2005. To date, EPA has provided about \$150,000 for this effort. EPA expects to continue to give financial support to the CCC through 2006, at a reduced rate. EPA would like to work with other agencies to identify additional sources of funding for CCC facilitation, if needed.

The Technical Leadership Group (TLG)

EPA also remains committed to the Commission's Technical Leadership Group, or TLG.

The TLG serves in an advisory capacity on technical matters to the Basin Commission. It consists of federal, state, local, and tribal representatives. The TLG will consider citizen input provided through public hearings, meetings, workshops, comment periods, or the Board. To learn more about the TLG, contact Phil Cernera, Chair, at 208-667-5772.

EPA provides funding to support the TLG's Chair and also provides staff to serve as members of this group. In 2005, EPA provided \$30,000 to support the chairman position for one year. Since the Commission started, EPA has provided more than \$300,000 to fund the participation of several agencies in the TLG process. EPA has informed the TLG that this funding is to serve as “seed” money and should be used to leverage other resources.

Technical Assistance Grant

A Technical Assistance Grant, or TAG, is a federal grant of up to \$50,000 to help affected communities understand and comment on site-related information. To be eligible, a group must be nonprofit, incorporated, able to meet administrative and management requirements, and broadly represent groups and individuals affected by the site. A TAG is not in place for this site at this time. In a past TAG effort, a group did not form in the Basin that fully met eligibility criteria. EPA can still accept and consider letters of intent from representative groups who wish to apply for a TAG. EPA plans to focus on continuing to support the Basin Commission and the Citizens' Coordinating Council.

Contacts for More Information

Reach any Seattle EPA Staff at 800-424-4372 (toll free)

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Seattle, 206-553-6511
chung.angela@epa.gov

Visit the Internet at:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/cda>
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/bh>

This document can be made available in other languages by request.

Alternative formats are available. For reasonable accommodation, please contact Andrea Lindsay. TTY users, please call the Federal Relay System at 800-877-8339.

Appendix: Comments Received During Community Involvement Conversations and From Citizen Letters and E-mails

Following are summary notes from EPA's conversations with and letters from local citizens and organizations. These notes are meant to highlight key points from the communications. Commenters are not identified to protect privacy.

In-Person Conversation with One Individual

- gets information from Spokesman Review; does not watch local TV
- community and individuals provide comments, but don't feel heard and no action taken
- concerns about yard cleanup (dust, dirt stockpiling, property infringement, cribbing damage, improper sampling, disregarded reports of medical waste, contractors not using the port-a-potty, general issues of respect and courtesy)

In-Person Conversation with Two Individuals

- EPA needs to correct misconceptions and wrong perceptions
- be clear that there is a lead problem, there are health effects, and this is not a conspiracy
- let people know that work is getting done, report successes
- be clear on the meaning of the National Academy of Sciences report
- explain the need for the remedy and the benefits (improved health, jobs, economic and aesthetic improvements for the community)
- be clear about future plans for the project
- target middle-of-the-road people; don't spend too much time on vocal minority fringe
- keep web site updated
- acknowledge wide range of opinions
- #1 goal is to get the work done
- use Spokesman Review, TV, and door-to-door communication; talk with people directly
- keep a customer service ethic; be accountable and responsive
- if mistakes were made, bring them up and address them; identify problems early
- give out good, timely information; don't patronize; avoid jargon
- be sensitive to local culture and history

In-Person Conversation with Two Individuals (plus related e-mail correspondence)

- want EPA involved, not state or Tribe; have never asked EPA to leave the Basin; want higher standards enforced; not enough cleanup; inappropriate remedy, not adequately implemented
- EPA should compel Union Pacific Railroad to do proper NEPA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), including ecological risk assessment, human health studies, and appropriate range of alternatives
- EPA should bring the right-of-way (ROW) back into the Basin RI/FS and ROD process
- Basin Commission should bring the ROW under its umbrella

- in 1990's railroad wanted to convert to trail and a commitment was made that everyone would be kept informed; but they had comments and were kept out of the loop
- negotiations done in secret between railroad, Tribe; EPA and state entered late
- 1999 Administrative Record – 85% of it kept confidential
- little data and wrong assumptions/no retracting of wrong information
- never received adequate response to comments; specific questions remain unanswered
- misrepresented and kept out of the loop; have had to fight to get stuff
- all new information provided has been ignored
- only 2 alternatives have been given: trail or nothing
- decisions made in secret; state denied there was contamination; Tribe wanted Casino, railroad wanted easy way out; maps changed and signs were posted—it became all Tribal land; pseudo jurisdiction given to Tribe; Tribe is speaking for landowners; EPA caved in and gave Tribe jurisdiction; their rights were violated
- 1990-92: turning point, casino; they hired lawyer, petitioned for EIS, lost; Court of Appeals, their group's legal help was overwhelmed
- EPA CERCLA response, EPA shirked responsibility when adopted the EECA; did not include citizens, double-speaking, no written record
- restroom has been placed in front of their house by the Tribe; not equally spaced even though that was a placement criteria; see this as retaliation; Tribe and trail managers have not been responsive
- community involvement meeting talked about decisions that had already been made
- agency hypocrisy: staff say they want to talk to landowners but they can't help them
- in a response to comments, there was only an 8 page summary, none of their comments were included; minds had been made up before comment period; in May 99 response to comments there was a mere few pages of generalized responses; why did not EPA reply individually to comments on UPRR Superfund?
- took 9 months to get answers to April 2000 questions; answers came when it was too late for meaningful input
- the process for questions to be submitted then responses sent back after a month or more delay is cumbersome; process is exclusive
- Congress drafted railbanking law, not to cover contamination, give Tribe jurisdiction over non-Tribal land that had not had tribal presence for 100 years; EPA circumvented landowners and gave Tribe exceptional, race-based preference to speak for us

- our private land, which has been in family since 1910 and we love and care for as good stewards, is stolen by abuses of federal law
- wrote EPA repeatedly asking for answers on Treatment as a State and IRMP, projects which excluded them
- trail conversion plan was presented as a done deal at the first meeting in '98; public involvement a sham
- EPA staff have been arrogant, aggressive, rude, condescending, try to tell citizens what is good for them; EPA has been threatening, used tactics to shut us up
- EPA wants to move forward, a buzz phrase that implies the past is reconciled; it is not
- EPA meeting records are wrong
- provided information for National Academy of Sciences (NAS) study
- no enforcement of "no shooting" signs on trail; trail rules not being enforced; trespassing; trail manager not around and does not have authority
- Tribal treatment as a state is an environmental justice and civil rights violation against them, not the Tribe; have not been given their rightful voice in CERCLA decisions; asking for equal treatment
- Lake plan shoved down their throats; excluded from initial planning
- meetings are just lectures, lies; hard to get answers
- railroad needs to test lake where tracks are; causeways and SIPs tested, but did not go out to the edge, did not go deep; asphalt cap, 10 ft still exposed; iron oxide seeps; need to test for heavy metals; sampling under asphalt; EPA has a duty to sample and set up process since Tribe won't do
- demand EIS, ownership rights, testing, private property vs. Tribal, want recourse, want local alternatives to be considered
- March 2005, Surface Transportation Board (STB), EPA just rubberstamped
- seek full accountability and end to political manipulation of EPA/CERCLA/Railbanking
- acknowledge there is Tribal property
- tiny Carney Pole Superfund had 10 alternatives, the UPRR had 2; did not give face to face interviews for UPRR Superfund but did them for the ½ acre Carney Pole
- EPA's public policy actions are based on rhetoric and verbiage but are in practice manipulative, evasive, preferential, lacking substance
- EPA ignoring its policy to answer questions within 10 working days
- EPA must reexamine and live its mission
- revamp rhetoric-filled, non-informational Fact Sheets, replace with substantive reports
- keep personnel in place longer
- guarantee face-to-face interviews rather than holding open houses that are very general
- did not receive answers to letters; a scheduled personal meeting was canceled
- CCC is just another way to manipulate and control information and citizen participation
- CCC did not get off to good start; what has happened to Small Integration Groups (SIGs)? Few attending meetings; information submitted not always disseminated to the group; the different factions with their own agendas controlled the meetings; the CCC is a failure
- EPA, the main project manager for the UPRR response action, fails to protect public from accessing contamination
- extremely disappointed by EPA's apparent disdain for the public and its own policies
- pressing for investigation into entire UPRR Superfund mess, a wholly ineffectual Superfund response
- Why is EPA now offering "\$20,000 to \$30,000 to partially fund a TLG Chairperson, particularly after already funding the Tribe to the amount of \$250,000, when the county appointees did not get anywhere near the same support?
- Where is the accountability for the \$250,000?
- What is going on with the EPA-sponsored IRMP (MANAGEMENT plan)?
- Since the IRMP is presented as a holistic plan involving the Aboriginal area (including the Basin) and the Tribal Natural Resource Department, how does it fit in with the overall Basin cleanup?
- Why did EPA fund (as far back as 1997?) the Tribal Natural Resources Department, yet cannot find funds to fund the county reps?
- Why does EPA give race-based, preferential treatment to the Tribe when non-tribal citizens live on and own in fee, the affected land in the cleanup, and tribal trust lands (current Reservation) are far from the cleanup? These are all fair questions. Will they be answered?
- stop using the "How Can We Move Forward" tactic and rectify the past
- stop the exceptional, preferential, race-based treatment to Tribes that has the effect of abrogating non-tribal citizen rights to inclusion and due process
- end the race-based, non-inclusive, non Congressionally approved Treatment Similar To State process that appears to be used to "funnel" EPA monies and influence via tribes
- revise the current written response system and make it more meaningful and user friendly for the average working, time-constrained citizen; current response process has the effect of overwhelming and frustrating (unnecessarily) folks who want to participate; this is an often-used "tactic" that discourages meaningful participation
- revise the Fact Sheets and Basin Bulletins which often contain cursory, incorrect, or incomplete data, as well as out-dated information; encourage "controversial" submissions as a way to stimulate public interest and right to know all sides
- make sure EPA websites are updated and operational; reports to webmasters do not get acknowledged, nor are sites all accessible
- review all the documentation and show us how our rights have been respected under EPA's definition of Environmental Justice

Telephone Conversation with One Individual

- are we revising the plan just to check a box? wonders if it will do any good.
- little attention is paid to the average citizen
- trust was broken when earlier citizen group was “submerged”; latecomers, politicians, and special interests pushed aside all the work and the common ground that had been built; rational people did not prevail
- Basin Commission has complete control; good ideas can be dumped by them
- extractive industries have a lot of control over politicians in this area
- not interested in or familiar with the CCC
- doesn't want to be involved and waste energy
- try to create an atmosphere of cooperation, with good facilitation
- citizens must have confidence that the decision-makers will give them due consideration
- a wet blanket currently

In-Person Conversation with Six Individuals

- include EPA information in local newsletters
- EPA invited to meet with local council
- EPA is not well-trusted; EPA is a visitor/alien
- locals do not want to attend meetings or talk to EPA unless their yard is being dug up
- keep information simple, not too wordy
- Basin newsletter is too long; many citizens will not read 5 pages
- change bad press; EPA clean-up is associated with poor economy and stigma
- very interested in 5-year review; also want copy of National Academy report when it comes out
- concern that lack of a storm sewer system will lead to recontamination when the rain and snow come down from contaminated hills; storm sewers would help with sustainability
- want to have Smeltonville de-listed; city has been clean for 4-5 years
- a shoulder had to be remediated 5 times (exposed asphalt and no sealant put back on; lose asphalt); EPA could have made an “insurance investment” spending money on curbs, gutters
- EPA has not always been responsive; person asks question and is promised research will be done – no answer; comments/solutions are not regarded; citizens might know a good solution or alternate way; work with them
- perception that promises have been made but not kept
- feel like EPA hides behind CERCLA or does what it wants and doesn't follow rules
- Kellogg received money for street damage; Smeltonville did not; need equity
- concerns about yard cleanups include: quality of yard, pooling of water, limit on complaints after 2 years, hard top soil, sod not able to grow in soil, grass can be pulled up like carpet, no apparent logic in order of cleanups, maybe EPA spent money on some unneeded cleanups.

- Central Impoundment Area is biggest polluter; dirt leaching down river
- trucks are not decontaminated correctly; contamination numbers can be bigger coming out of decontamination than going in; just getting wet doesn't do it
- economy improving; some who moved out are coming back to retire; poor people still live here; Eagle Crest has helped; properties are being purchased
- use common sense; why was some cleanup started downstream instead of upstream first?
- contaminated dirt is being dumped in a wetland area with no shield; why?
- will everything be recontaminated if there is a flood?
- concerned that blood lead targets keep moving
- feel like they are on a wagon train and EPA is all around them in multiple arenas
- lead is a naturally occurring metal; lead in gasoline was cleaned up without EPA; lead pipes, lead sulfate base; bioavailability
- provide people information about indemnity and how it works

In-Person Conversation with Three Individuals

- involve affected citizens in plans for cleanup
- remove the main sources of pollution; clean up lead dust in homes; give training and jobs to locals; help establish a lead health project
- address inaccurate statements by special interests
- help the community get technical support to help EPA do their work
- Technical Assistance Grant would give common people access to studies to find out truth
- partner with others to get information out; combine forces and resources
- good ways to communicate: Basin Bulletin, website, public meetings, newspaper ads, EPA person located in the community; Spokesman Review; door-to-door
- the community knows what it wants
- EPA deserves credit for denial of Hecla's proposed variance
- some believe that some segments of the community are listened to more, like mining, commerce, press, those with money, etc.
- do not like rails to trails project
- many more children need to be tested
- why is the US spending billions to clean up Iraq and restore their wetlands; is this more important than Idaho children?
- Basin Commission a waste of money and time; could be precedent setting; need to listen to everyone and be involved
- real estate is not disclosing about lead
- N Idaho has greatest population in the US of people who don't read newspapers
- doctors want to help but can't
- lead exposure is the best kept secret in the largest Superfund site
- NAS study is needed

In-Person Conversation with Two Individuals

- people want to give EPA experience and ideas, not just be an audience, not good puppets
- see no logic with responses; need to explain the “how” and rationale on decisions made, who makes decisions
- citizens are made to feel like they don't know anything; disregarded
- if the Basin Commission and CCC would only listen we should all work together, find a way; all care and have passion
- get several people together to brainstorm, need the right group with citizens at every level involved to come up with suggestions and ideas
- Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was a broad group of people, thought could make a difference, with representatives of many groups; then funding was pulled
- CCC was less diverse, folks want the intent and agenda to be followed right, attendance dwindling, CCC should be revised
- Commission does not listen, citizens give opinions, CCC does not represent people
- TLG, agency folks still involved, tribe in charge, groups take over
- asked people how to implement the ROD better and faster; answer was grants to do more study; want to fix and not just test all the time; restrictions on Clean Water Act money
- TLG report, listened to scientific advisories, but not acting
- EPA did good job on boat launch
- have worked with and talked to many EPA representatives but could never find someone who could make a change; EPA has a certain structure internally, a hierarchy
- yard removals still going on; only help some kids, need to look at all kids; don't just do a blanket of yards; look at kids with high levels, look at habits and diet; some yards don't qualify; time to move on and take total blood level samples
- push on with Record of Decision (ROD)
- Basin Commission, need more dialogue on what should be done next; check kids
- County Commissioners don't stand up for the people and not representing the community; act buffaloed
- no citizens on Basin Commission; should someone with guts and used to being yelled at and someone who doesn't buckle; should know background of everything
- how can people feel they are contributing, burnout going to meetings; need reasons to go
- ROD not to address river stabilization for years
- dredging, wanted to be involved with this, instead it was a government paid project, EPA said no to their involvement, ironic
- awaiting NAS, will accept the findings
- heavy hand of EPA and Tribe and cronies; EPA/State/ Tribe act and vote the same; people bulldozed; EPA comes in and tells them how to do it; citizens are not country bumpkins; Tribe has money and lawyers and imposing jurisdiction
- all are tired

In-Person Conversation with Two Individuals

- some Basin Commission meetings should be held in Washington; maybe 1 in 7 held in Spokane
- implement ROD
- EPA needs to be proactive in WA state outreach; need citizens involved in activities upstream; keep WA informed on the cleanup
- potential impacts of recreating in Silver Valley
- has had positive responses from EPA on requests for presentations; would like EPA staff to come and do more technical presentations at meetings; talk about cleanup impacts on Spokane River, affects to Lake Roosevelt, lake dredging effects on Spokane River, educational components
- target local groups beyond Washington Citizens Advisory Committee; media, school kids, technical associations, chamber; get help from others to get the word out; EPA needs to be visible; invite yourself to meetings
- citizens are tired; so long an investment
- more consideration of WA residents could effect change
- the more meetings you have, a bigger problem
- EPA could do annual report of accomplishments and challenges; tell about decisions in a timely manner
- outreach for sites, make sure in newspapers
- TLG is losing members; frustrating funding situation
- environmental groups do not necessarily represent the majority of interests in the community; not center of views; very well organized
- Basin Commission needs to pull together on common ground; concerned about conduct of commissioners; funding is an issue; painful process; red herring – veto power
- state put up 10% of funds; commission could be funded in the same way if they led cleanup
- money needs to go where it will do the most good: Idaho

In-Person Conversation with Three Individuals

- know about Coeur d'Alene but has not been involved; have not been in the loop
- hold EPA accountable for community involvement
- environmental justice concerns: looking at long-term impacts and who is involved in decision-making; how decisions are made; community and stakeholders who are directly affected should be at the decision table
- spoon feeding process
- want to be involved; have input and solutions to offer; want to be viewed as stakeholders
- their group has different viewpoints that are not being brought forward by their representatives; their representatives are not sharing information with them; have been disallowed from meetings
- try not schedule meetings during community or cultural events
- some effects are not seen right away but generation later
- environmental justice resources are draining
- need information on lower basin and Spokane River

- need to listen about concerns about the AVISTA dam
- can see that Silver Valley is beginning to thrive now, trees and bushes, economic recovery, improving lead in kids, good news, EPA doing good job
- look at ROD, Superfund concerns along the Spokane River

Telephone Conversation with One Individual

- has seen one collaboration approach after another fail at this site
- note that it is the vocal minority that has a problem with EPA's community involvement process
- I don't think that EPA doing its community involvement work any differently will make a bit of difference; some people have their minds made up
- EPA has already bent way too far backwards and gone out of its way to create the Basin Commission and other groups (CCC, etc)
- if EPA's findings go against what certain groups believe or what their agenda are, they will call it tainted
- frustrated with lack of cleanup plan for Lake CDA; very important; lake is probably hugest repository of heavy metals in the country; needs to be addressed
- we encourage EPA to address ecological issues in addition to human health
- community involvement plan should take into account the levels of interaction already in place through the Basin Commission, CCC, TGL; it's the state and local answer to getting people involved
- need to focus on where the citizens and commission do have influence, and there are many areas where they do
- develop a package of info on how the cleanup has benefited the community economically (tourism up, unemployment down, land values up, development up, tax base up)
- continue to provide open forums for public discussion, alternative to CCC

In-Person Conversation with One Individual

- citizens have been involved for 20 years; very knowledgeable, some complain a lot, some dropped out, volunteers are burned out
- how to maintain involvement of others; reach citizens at large, dominated by agency people, topics are too large in scope and hard to understand; small stuff turns into big issues
- Basin Commission's Clean Water Act money, TLG wanted CCC opinion on viable projects but are they qualified to be reviewing grant applications?
- TLG says what CCC should do
- CCC attendance down; constant fight over CWA money
- On Basin Commission agendas, decisions have been made before CCC presentations; citizens are allowed to talk after the voting; the Commission has the right to make decisions; they may not always want to act the way the CCC wants
- elections coming up
- 1 year and 5 year review should be done

- okay to have Washington participation; Idaho has primary responsibility and resent WA telling them what to do; local problem = local control; ID water flows to WA
- CCC is a grand experiment
- County Commissioners represent the people; people need to give information to county commissioners and let them know their feelings and let them know to pay attention, so the commissioners bring to the Basin Commission
- do it and get out of town; no to studying to death; not just complainers; cleanups are justified so do them and get out
- limits on use of Clean Water Act funds, restrictions, more study
- Basin Commission has no money; obstacles are frustrating
- Basin Commission may be at crossroads; go reasonably for awhile or go down the tube
- remind citizens to discuss issues with County Commissioners or talk to CCC chair as a resource

Verbal Comments from One Individual

- make sure you are listening to, not just talking to, citizens
- get more information to the newspapers faster; it's the best way to get information out
- keep the county commissioners in all three counties well informed

In-Person Conversation with Two Individuals

- NAS report will need clarification by EPA
- EPA has to be a neutral party
- EPA is getting out information in the right way; not sure if it works for people who really need it
- could do more media, paid advertising, Public Service Announcements, radio spots, door-to-door; try to reach service clubs; work through other groups to provide information; go to doctors and churches; offer free food at meetings
- need to reformat/design the Basin Commission; suggest that one of every 7 Basin Commission meetings be held in Washington since Commission has one WA representative; also maps used should include the entire watershed, not stop at the state line; Commission meetings, agendas, and participation are controlled by Idaho
- Commission design is keeping major players out of the process; outreach is prevented at the meetings; need to consider the entire watershed
- Commission has no money, can't implement, but can influence the 1 and 5 year plans
- CCC attendance is down and the same people attend
- good to have the head of EPA come and talk to the people

In-Person Conversation with One Individual

- hold fewer meetings
- no one was accountable at previous meetings; everyone could say stuff and dominate meetings; cripples government from doing what can be done
- give people access to information so they can ask questions; their input is valuable; going door to door is good
- education is a process not an event; not sure where to go from here to try to reach more people
- cleanup has to get done so there can be commerce again and kids will not be in danger
- “Box” is nearly done; people happy, property values doubled, property selling
- Kathy Johnson led a constructive CAC process; collaboration was good but afterwards the agencies went back to their corners
- there are two ends of the spectrum; some think too much has been done, others think that nothing has been done
- other people are tired, hungry, have kids to take care of; don't have time to go to meetings and hear people yelling at each other
- 80-90 percent of yards done; people are happy; the cleanup is free, can sell home
- if institutional controls plan fails, then the ROD fails
- flood could wipe out lower third of trail
- Basin Commission has been an embarrassment for past 2 years: no control over yard removal, not bad people, mining industry influence, afraid to make decisions, not productive, everyone has veto power, no one accountable, need to work together, executive director could be good and turn Commission around, fight in parking lot after meeting, no majority rule, have floundered 2-3 years, Governor or EPA needs to shape it up or it will continue to be an embarrassment
- CCC—40 agendas
- get yard cleanup done and get on with lives
- if kids have elevated lead levels, then there is no question of bioavailability; it's based on degrees
- computer model confused citizens
- local people should be hired for local jobs
- medical community is involved; they have a lot of others issues to deal with families
- local demographics are changing
- lead issue is going down as lead levels go down and yards cleanups are done

In-Person Conversation with Two Individuals

Person #1:

- hold fewer meetings
- EPA is not responding to concerns; citizens not being heard
- has three smart children who did well in college
- has been very active supporting the community and running businesses
- trail signs scare people; need to be explained better; people asking if it's safe to let their kids out of the car
- citizens advisory committee (CAC) was dropped and we now have CCC; CAC had community ownership which

- is not the case now; no public input; people do not attend the meetings
- CCC has been taken over; Ross & Assoc runs it, not just facilitates it
- lower lead numbers are not necessarily due to yard cleanups
- EPA says there are no fish but the river has fish; good fishermen know; scare tactics
- are the right areas being cleaned up? Should test below the confluence of the S. Fork
- wind blowing could recontaminate lawns
- wells used to be fine; since EPA has been there the wells have surface problems
- upset about Kellogg field drainage problem; stood in water
- EPA doesn't listen
- EPA wouldn't grant variance to Lucky Friday but the CIA discharges most pollution every day; not fair
- people have to make a living; some rely on tourism

Person #2:

- people who are knowledgeable are not heard
- if EPA had respected citizen opinion, ROD would not have been issued
- no outcry by the public; tired of spending energy when it does no good; little incentive to say involved when EPA has all the decision-making power
- the programs disregard the community; people want it to end and EPA to go away
- no use fighting big government; let's move on
- some places that really needed it were not cleaned up
- Superfund has not been based on health risk, but driven by money; too much money wasted here; need integrity in spending public funds
- EPA should rely on reputable science; no health risks here; data doesn't exist; don't believe in yard cleanups
- EPA should never have expanded outside the Box
- joined CCC early; all about protocol, committees, but no real community; dealt with big issues that a normal person cannot get engaged in, not real issues for citizens
- CCC is not effective, EPA has all the power
- Basin Commission wants to do something but has to get EPA approval; Commission cannot question the ROD; Commission has no power and is not big on community involvement; not a big step forward in public involvement
- no knowledge of how lead gets into the system
- scare tactics telling people not to step off trail due to lead in soil
- tell what trail signs mean; will I raise my blood levels? Scares people away
- even though an article “EPA is Wrong” signed by many appeared, EPA went on anyway
- the ad “Tell EPA to Get the Lead Out” had only 3 people only remotely connected to the area
- special education needs were related to economics, alcohol, and hygiene, not necessarily lead; don't blame it on lead, blame it on family dysfunction
- happy with information from Ross & Assoc; timely communication

- money should not have been spent on CCC; too broad of scope to be effective; CAC was run by the people and was more grassroots and real
- local problems call for local meetings
- EPA should have halted its cleanup when the NAS study was approved to make sure the work was justified; it did not; it accelerated the cleanup
- a 104 year old woman recently died; she worked as cleaning person at zinc mine for years; even though she worked there she lived until she was 104

Additional E-Mail Correspondence from One Individual (Person #2 above)

- EPA's attitude is crucial
- EPA gives out lots of information and gives citizens input on some small decisions, but on broad important decisions the public has no real input
- NAS study necessary
- put information in local papers
- be open to honest dialogue on real issues; respect local input
- arrange public meeting in the area affected by the cleanup when needed
- continue e-mailing information
- outraged that government could impose the ROD
- EPA and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality not willing to incorporate people's input
- giving information is not meaningful dialogue
- CCC too complicated in its organization and covered too broad an area geographically and philosophically
- high regard for Ross & Assoc; but public has a right to know how much was spent on the CCC
- is the ROD necessary? Are funds being wasted on scientifically unsound practices?

Letter from One Individual

- get the agencies out of decision-making; all are looking for dollars to perpetuate their own agencies; no real concern for the environment from these agencies; they are about money
- local are resentful; project losing some top-notch technical residents
- make the technical group up of people from the public, not the agencies; it's the only way to win back the trust and support lost through the technical group's machinations
- get the Tribe out of it; not spending their own money; bureaucrats
- concentrate solely on the upper basin; remediate upstream and you remediate downstream

E-Mail Correspondence from One Individual

- participated in CCC for a year; lip service
- concerned about nutrient loading to lake
- tried to work unsuccessfully with 12 government agencies; also worked with 6 EPA people with no positive outcome
- frustrated and not confident that anything will actually be done

Letter from One Individual

- please continue to monitor mine-waste cleanup efforts
- EPA hopefully will continue
- EPA has so improved Silver Valley
- we are grateful

Letter from One Individual

- most citizens rely on EPA to protect health and environment
- EPA has best expertise
- EPA under pressure from business community to back off or cover up findings so it won't affect the tourist industry; do not succumb to this pressure
- continue to safeguard area's environment and health
- thank you for your efforts

Letter from One Individual

- concerned about arbitrary selection of boundaries
- many remediated yards have unclean areas next to them
- the areas over time will leach, slide, runoff causing recontamination
- overall pleased with work done
- some testing is questionable as to results
- workers have been conscientious and helpful
- city's appearance has improved, also the health factor

E-Mail Correspondence from One Individual

- enormously frustrating experience with EPA's so-called consensus process in the months before publication of the Record of Decision
- EPA does not listen but instead wishes only either co-opt locals or give an appearance of active public relations work that is sufficient to satisfy regulatory obligations
- EPA comment about whether EPA's "community involvement" plan actually needed revisions was hard to swallow
- how much more evidence of a failed endeavor does EPA need than what it received in its first "community involvement" enterprise?
- e-mail attachments included 2002 article from Shoshone News-Press called "Survey Sheds Light on Basin Views, Attitudes" and a link to a document called "Community Attitudes"



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*COEUR D'ALENE BASIN AND BUNKER HILL BOX
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN
AUGUST 2005*