

Community Involvement Plan
for the
North Alcoa Superfund
Alternative Site
East St. Louis, Illinois

October 2014



(Top) Gypsum cut-berm reduction facing northeast, (second row) Third rail project looking north, (bottom) Northeast area aerial view of the North Alcoa site.



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Section 1: Introduction



Aerial photo of North Alcoa site.

To stay informed about the site, visit:
www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/northalcoa and
www.eaststlouisredevelopment.com.

Section 1: *Introduction*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prepared this **community involvement plan** (CIP) to meaningfully engage and collaborate with all who are interested in, or affected by, the environmental investigation and cleanup activities at the North Alcoa **Superfund Alternative site** (North Alcoa site) in St. Clair County, Illinois.

This CIP reflects community concerns, questions and information needs as expressed during interviews conducted in May 2014. It also describes EPA's plan for addressing the community's concerns and keeping residents informed and involved in decisions about the cleanup and reuse of the site. This CIP is not intended to be a static document – that is, it will be updated as necessary as community needs or concerns evolve throughout the cleanup process.

1.1 Purpose of this CIP

EPA has conducted community outreach at the North Alcoa site in the past and involved community members and groups through meetings. This CIP is designed to mutually benefit communities surrounding the North Alcoa site and EPA. It promotes and identifies steps that local residents, elected officials and businesses can take to participate in the remaining decisions regarding the cleanup and reuse of the North

Alcoa site. In addition, EPA intends to use this CIP to guide its efforts to engage and collaborate with residents, businesses and local officials in the East St. Louis area throughout the cleanup and reuse of the site.

As part of EPA's overall community involvement strategy, the Agency is making this CIP available to the community for review and input. Members of the community who would like to discuss or ask questions about the CIP are encouraged to contact Janet Pope, EPA **Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC)**, at pope.janet@epa.gov, 312-353-0628 or 800-621-8431, ext. 30628. The CIC is the primary point of contact assigned by EPA to oversee and guide site-specific community involvement efforts.

Questions about any of the technical site-specific information contained in this CIP should be

addressed to Dion Novak, the EPA **Remedial Project Manager (RPM)** for the site, at novak.dion@epa.gov, 312-886-4737 or 800-621-8431, ext. 64737. The RPM is the primary point of contact assigned by EPA to oversee and guide the investigation and cleanup efforts.

1.2 Overview of the CIP

This CIP is organized in sections to allow readers the flexibility to either read the entire document or go directly to the parts of greatest interest. Words in **bold** are defined in the glossary in Appendix D. In addition to the Introduction, the CIP contains six additional sections described below.

- **Section 2, Community Involvement and the Superfund Process** — provides general information about EPA’s approach to engaging and collaborating with communities during environmental investigation, cleanup and reuse of Superfund sites. It also explains what the Superfund process is and how it works. The North Alcoa site is a **Superfund Alternative site**. A Superfund Alternative site follows the same investigation and cleanup procedure as a traditional Superfund site without being listed on the **National Priorities List (NPL)**. The NPL is the list of the nation’s top priority hazardous waste sites that are eligible for investigation and cleanup under the Superfund program.
- **Section 3, Site Background** — describes the North Alcoa site and provides an overview of the planned and ongoing environmental investigation and cleanup efforts.
- **Section 4, Community Background** — presents a demographic profile of the city of East St. Louis and an overview of historic community involvement regarding the North Alcoa site.
- **Section 5, Summary of Community Input** — summarizes community input provided to EPA by East St. Louis area residents who were interviewed in May 2014.
- **Section 6, Community Questions and Concerns** — describes the main questions and concerns raised during the community interviews, which EPA will address as part of its ongoing efforts to implement this CIP.
- **Section 7, EPA’s Community Involvement Goals** — highlights the Agency’s main goals for engaging and collaborating with community members surrounding the North Alcoa site throughout the environmental investigation, cleanup and reuse efforts. It also presents specific activities that will be conducted.

The following Appendices are included:

- Appendix A, List of Community Interview Questions.
- Appendix B, List of Contacts and Interested Groups.
- Appendix C, Possible Public Meeting and Information Repository Locations.
- Appendix D, Glossary of Terms.
- Appendix E, Abbreviations and Acronyms.

Section 2: Community Involvement And The Superfund Process



Site worker conducts a field investigation in the southeastern part of the site.

To stay informed about the site, visit:
www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/northalcoa and
www.eaststlouisredevelopment.com.

Section 2: Community Involvement And The Superfund Process

The **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)** of 1980 created a regulatory program that established a federal funding source referred to as “Superfund,” which can be used to clean up the nation’s most serious uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. CERCLA authorized EPA to identify parties responsible for contamination and compel those parties to clean up the sites.

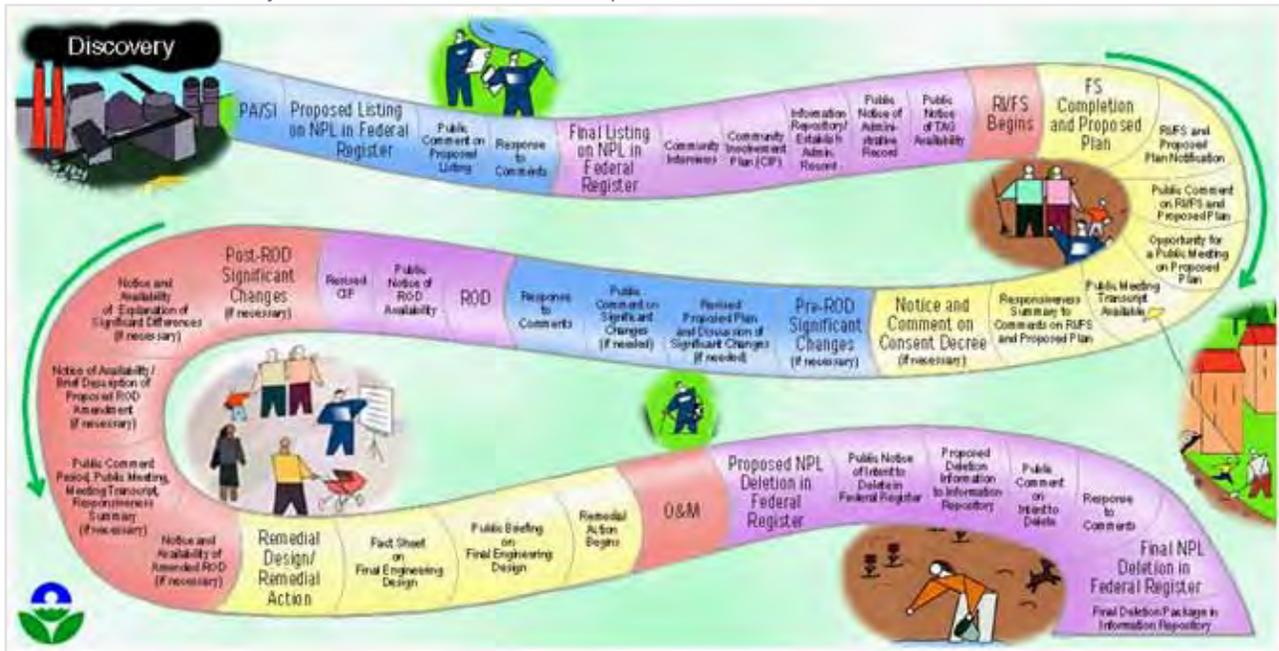
Funds appropriated by Congress may be used to pay for cleanups when the responsible parties are not available or capable of performing the cleanup. Once a site has been discovered, EPA follows a step-by-step process to determine the exact nature and extent of contamination and any associated risks, the best way to clean it up and protect human health and the environment, and the best site reuse options.

Opportunities exist for communities to be involved in each step of the cleanup process. Community involvement activities are not only a critical way to make cleanups effective, they also are required by law. Community members can help to identify the locations of hazardous waste sites, parties responsible for contamination, how people may be exposed to the contamination and how the land may be used after the site is cleaned up. Community members also may contribute to the long-term effectiveness of the cleanup by reporting trespassing, flooding, odors or other

unusual conditions after the initial cleanup. EPA encourages communities to assist in identifying the environmental issues in the surrounding area that may have contributed to the contamination, provide input on how the cleanup is conducted, and understand how the site cleanup may affect future plans, goals and reuse of the area. To learn more about community involvement opportunities through EPA’s Community Engagement Initiative, visit www.epa.gov/oswer/engagementinitiative/.

The Superfund cleanup process and opportunities for community involvement at each step are illustrated in Exhibit 2-1 and described in the next sections of this CIP. To learn more about EPA’s Superfund program, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/community/resources.htm and look for *Community 101: An Overview of the Superfund Program* in the section on community training.

Exhibit 2-1: Community Involvement Activities at Superfund Sites.



Source: EPA Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation.

Some of the steps may have run concurrently in the past or will in the future to complete the cleanup process as efficiently and effectively as possible. There are several community involvement opportunities that apply to each step of the cleanup process, including:

- Contact the EPA CIC, Ms. Pope, to ask questions or request additional information. Community members do not need to wait for public meetings or formal settings. The EPA CIC serves as a liaison with the EPA RPM and other site team members and should be seen as a resource for all community members.
- Create a weekly or monthly reminder to visit the EPA website established specifically for the North Alcoa Superfund Alternative site at www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/northalcoa. Also visit Alcoa Inc.’s website at www.eaststlouisredevelopment.com for up-to-date construction schedules and site photos.
- Call EPA to request a tour of the site to view the cleanup in process.

Throughout each step of the cleanup process, EPA strives to make Superfund cleanups “greener.” The cleanup of a hazardous waste site uses energy, water and other resources that can leave an “environmental footprint.” During the cleanup process, EPA seeks to conserve natural resources, minimize waste generation, and reduce energy demands at sites while ensuring the protection of human health and the environment. To learn more about EPA’s Greener Cleanup Initiative, visit www.epa.gov/oswer/greenercleanups/.

2.1 Step 1: Discovery

Although the North Alcoa site is a Superfund Alternative site, it follows the same steps and community involvement processes as Superfund and NPL sites. Superfund sites are “discovered” when the presence of hazardous waste is reported to EPA. EPA is notified about such sites in a number of ways from local residents, local or state government agencies, tribes, other federal agencies and businesses. Site investigations took place in the late 1970s and early 1980s, when the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

(Illinois EPA), working in cooperation with EPA on a **CERCLA redevelopment assessment**, took soil and water samples on the site and found elevated levels of **lead, cadmium, arsenic, cyanide** and **chromium**.

2.2 Step 2: Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection

The **preliminary assessment (PA)** involves gathering information about site conditions to evaluate whether the site poses a threat to human health and the environment, and whether further investigation is needed. During the **site inspection (SI)**, air, water and soil at the site are tested to determine what hazardous substances are present, whether they are being released into the environment and whether they pose a threat to human health or the environment. In 1996, Illinois EPA conducted a CERCLA redevelopment assessment, which is similar to a PA, and provides the environmental condition of the property to potential buyers, lenders, developers and current owners.

For more information about the PA/SI process, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/pasi.htm.

Opportunities for community involvement during this step:

- Provide any information you have about the site to EPA. For example, any knowledge you may have about how the site was used in the past, who owned or worked at the site and suspicious odors or activity at the site may all be helpful in efforts to identify **potentially responsible parties (PRP)** and site ownership history.
- Recommend that your local officials and community leaders meet with EPA to learn



about the Agency's findings and what may be the next steps in the cleanup process.

- Work with your CIC to consider requesting support through the **Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC)** program. TASC provides training and technical assistance to communities affected by hazardous wastes regulated by the Superfund program. At no cost to the community, TASC provides non-EPA technical experts from private companies and academia that EPA has contracted with to explain hazardous waste issues and help residents to understand EPA's cleanup plans. The technical assistance is available throughout the Superfund process, beginning with the PA/SI step. Assistance also can include neutral, third-party facilitators to help guide community group meetings; help with translating site-specific information for non-English speaking residents attending meetings or receiving written information; and various other forms of support. To learn more about the type of services that the TASC program can provide and how to receive TASC assistance, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tasc/.
- Learn about the **Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI)** offered through the TASC contract. EPA's goal is to help communities develop job opportunities and partnerships that are in place after the site is cleaned up. For more information about SuperJTI, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/community/sfjti/.

2.3 Step 3: Placement on the National Priorities List

The NPL identifies the most serious sites for long-term cleanup and is intended to help EPA determine which sites warrant further

investigation. Information collected during the PA/SI guides EPA in evaluating the risks posed by the site using the **hazard ranking system (HRS)**. Sites with a sufficiently high HRS score are proposed for the NPL. For more information about the HRS and EPA's site assessment process, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/npl_hrs/siteasmt.htm.

Superfund Alternative Sites undergo the same investigation and cleanup process and standards as sites listed on the NPL. EPA decides on a site-by-site basis whether the Superfund alternative approach is appropriate. If a site would be eligible for listing on the NPL and a long-term cleanup is expected, and there is a willing and capable PRP to conduct the cleanup, EPA and the PRP may negotiate and sign an agreement for the PRP to perform the site investigation or cleanup without going through the NPL listing process. For more information, visit www2.epa.gov/enforcement/superfund-alternative-approach.

If the site is added to the NPL, EPA is required under CERCLA to initiate certain community involvement activities such as conducting community interviews, developing a CIP, setting up a site information repository, creating an Administrative Record of the cleanup decision process and informing the community of the availability of technical assistance grants (TAG).

Also, if a site is added to the NPL, EPA attempts to identify the responsible parties to perform and pay for the cleanup. If those parties are capable of performing the cleanup, they will perform all of the steps in the cleanup process under the Agency's oversight. Although the North Alcoa site has not been placed on the NPL, the process is the same. Alcoa Inc., Alton and Southern Railway Company and the city of East

St. Louis are responsible for conducting the site investigation and cleanup, referred to as the PRPs. These PRPs, have hired a contractor to conduct the investigation and cleanup under the oversight of EPA and Illinois EPA. If the site is not added to the NPL, EPA and the states still will pursue the responsible parties to perform the appropriate cleanup at the site under applicable cleanup regulations.

While the North Alcoa site has not been placed on the NPL, as a Superfund Alternative site, it follows the same investigation and cleanup procedure as a traditional Superfund Site without being listed on the NPL. For more information about the NPL process, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/npl.htm.

Opportunities for community involvement during this step:

- Participate in the public comment process and submit written comments if you have concerns about the site listing.
- Consider whether to form a community advisory group (CAG), which is a group of diverse, local residents that act as a sounding board for community concerns. CAGs assist EPA in making better decisions on how to clean up the sites. EPA encourages communities to form CAGs. For more information on CAGs, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/community/cag.
- Consider whether your community group should apply for a TAG. The EPA grant program provides funds for activities that help communities engage more meaningfully in the decision making process at eligible



Superfund sites. An initial grant up to \$50,000 is available to qualified community groups so they can contract with independent technical advisors to interpret and help the community understand technical site information. TAGs are available at Superfund sites that are on EPA's NPL or proposed for listing on the NPL, and for which a response action has begun. EPA, as required by law, must inform the community of their eligibility to apply for and receive a TAG. Please visit www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tag to learn more about TAGs.

- Providing technical assistance to communities impacted by sites is an important part of community involvement. At sites listed or proposed to be listed on the NPL, EPA can provide TAGs to qualified community groups. For Superfund alternative sites (like North Alcoa), EPA makes technical assistance available to communities as part of the legal agreement the Agency negotiates with the PRP. In those cases, the PRP, with EPA oversight, funds a **Technical Assistance Plan (TAP)** that allows qualified community groups to receive funds to hire an independent technical advisor. EPA required the PRPs for the North Alcoa site to provide \$50,000 for a TAP. For more information on TAPs, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/community/pdfs/toolkit/techassist-tap.pdf.

2.4 Step 4: Investigation and Cleanup Decision

After a site is listed on the NPL, or in this case designated as a Superfund Alternative site, further investigation into the problems at the site and the best way to address the problems is required. EPA or the responsible party conducts a **remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS)**. At the North Alcoa site, the RI was used to:

- Collect site samples.
- Characterize site conditions.
- Determine the nature and extent of contamination.
- Assess risks to human health and the environment.

The FS focuses on screening and evaluating the performance and cost of different methods to clean the site. The RI and FS are conducted at the same time. Information collected in the RI influences the development of the different cleanup methods evaluated in the FS. This approach minimizes the collection of unnecessary data and maximizes data quality. The North Alcoa site's RI/FS began in 2003. At that time, EPA held a public meeting to announce the beginning of the investigation. An advertisement was placed in the *East St. Louis Monitor* and the *Belleville News* to announce the meeting.

The results of the RI/FS are included in a report that provides the basis for identifying the potential cleanup method or "cleanup alternatives." The advantages and disadvantages of each cleanup method are described. After all the cleanup alternatives are identified, EPA issues a document, typically called a proposed cleanup plan, to summarize the cleanup alternatives considered and the Agency's preferred cleanup alternative. The proposed plan explains all options considered, criteria used to evaluate the options and reasons for selecting the preferred option. The RI/FS for a large portion of the interior of the site, referred to as **Operable Unit 1 (OU1)** or phase one, was completed in 2012. EPA often divides cleanups into smaller, more manageable units called OUs. A photograph showing the boundaries for OU1 can be found in Section 3.1 of this document.

A second area at the North Alcoa site, referred to as Operable Unit 2 (OU2) or phase two, is undergoing further investigation and data collection. The results will determine if cleanup is warranted. EPA expects to share the findings and solicit public comment on a proposed cleanup plan for OU2 in 2015.

Before a final cleanup decision is made, the Agency provides opportunities for and requests public comment on the proposed plan. Community participation and involvement is very important at this phase. Community input helps EPA to select the best method of cleanup in light of the potential reuse scenarios for the site. After EPA receives public comments and questions about the proposed cleanup, the Agency develops a responsiveness summary that presents the public comments along with the Agency's response to comments. For more information on the RI/FS phase of the cleanup process, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/rifs.htm.

Opportunities for community involvement during this step:

- When EPA proposes a cleanup plan for the site, read the proposed plan. The proposed plan is available at the information repositories.



In 2012, EPA prepared a proposed plan to clean up the portion of the site called OU1. The proposed cleanup plan for OU1 was placed in the site information repositories. The plan is also available at www.epa.gov/region5/sites/northalcoa and www.eaststlouisredevelopment.com. (See information repository locations in Section 2.5.)

- Ask questions, express concerns, and provide comments on the proposed plan at public meetings and other forums. It is critical during the public comment period to inform EPA about ideas or plans for the site's future use because reuse can influence the cleanup method selected. Written comments and concerns about the proposed plan can be sent to EPA if you are unable to provide comments at public meetings. EPA held a public meeting at the East St. Louis City Hall on April 17, 2012 to explain the proposed cleanup plan for OU1. Oral and written comments were accepted at that public meeting. Additionally, an availability session was held on June 7, 2012 at the East St. Louis Public Library to discuss the proposed cleanup in a more informal, one-on-one setting. Both events were advertised in the *East St. Louis Monitor* and the *Belleville News*.
- Review EPA's responses to concerns and questions raised during the public comment period. EPA held a comment period on the proposed cleanup plan for OU1 from April 12, 2012 through June 13, 2012.
- When planning community events, consider asking EPA to participate and attend. Community events can provide opportunities to learn more about the site and the proposed plan.

2.5 Step 5: Record of Decision

Following the RI/FS and carefully considering and responding to public comments received on all alternative methods for cleanup, EPA selects a cleanup method that also takes into account potential reuse options. EPA explains the final cleanup decision in a document called the **Record of Decision (ROD)**.

The ROD becomes the official document of how EPA considered all the cleanup options and explains the Agency's rationale for choosing the selected cleanup method. The ROD also contains the responsiveness summary, which summarizes public comments received and how the comments were considered as part of the final decision. To announce the ROD, EPA is required to publish a notice in a major local newspaper and provide copies at the information repository and as part of the Administrative Record (a file containing all the documents that EPA considered or relied upon while selecting the final cleanup plan).

Comments received during the comment period on the proposed cleanup plan for OU1 were summarized in a responsiveness summary and included in the site ROD. The ROD for the phase of the cleanup of the site was signed on July 26, 2012 and is available at www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/northalcoa. For more information about developing and issuing the ROD, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/rod.htm.

Opportunities for community involvement during this step:

- Visit the information repository or view online to review the ROD and other supporting documents that are relevant to the selection of the final remedy.



Locations of information repositories:

East St. Louis Public Library
5300 State St.
East St. Louis, IL 62203

East St. Louis City Clerk's Office
301 River Park Dr.
East St. Louis, IL 62201

U.S. EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.,
7th Floor Records Center
Chicago, IL 60604

View online at www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/northalcoa.

- Plan to stay informed as EPA prepares for the next step, which is the design and construction of the final remedy.

2.6 Step 6: Cleanup Design and Construction (Remedial Design and Remedial Action)

This step involves developing engineering designs and specifications for the cleanup method outlined in the ROD. This step also is referred to as the **remedial design (RD)**. The RD for North Alcoa OU1 is complete.

Once the cleanup design is made final, on-site construction and associated work to implement the cleanup begins, which also is referred to as the **remedial action (RA)**. The RA for North Alcoa OU1 began in March 2014. The bulk of the cleanup takes place during RA phase. Exhibit 2-2 shows where this step falls in the Superfund process.

Exhibit 2-2: The Superfund Process.



Source: EPA Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation.

Alcoa Inc., Alton and Southern Railway Company and the city of East St. Louis, are conducting the OU1 cleanup under the oversight of EPA and Illinois EPA. EPA expects the cleanup for OU1 to be completed in 2015. The photograph (*Exhibit 3-1 on page 16*) shows the boundaries for OU1.

The RA phase can be compared to a building construction site. During this phase there is potential for dust, noise and heavy truck traffic near the site that can occur for the length of the cleanup. EPA will make available to the affected community information about the type of work to be performed, planned work hours, planned traffic routes for heavy equipment and trucks, health and safety precautions and monitoring efforts to ensure that no further contamination is released.

EPA also keeps the community informed of key milestones for both the RD and RA phases — for example, when the cleanup design is 50 percent and 100 percent complete, when on-

site cleanup work is scheduled to begin, and as progress is made throughout the cleanup. Specific efforts may include distributing fact sheets or information updates, hosting community information sessions or conducting briefings with local officials and media, among others. For more information on EPA’s approach to cleanup design and construction, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/rdra.htm. Also, visit www.eaststlouisredevelopment.com for up-to-date construction schedules and photos.

Opportunities for community involvement during this step:

- Continue to stay informed about the progress of the final cleanup design and what to expect during construction activities by participating in EPA-hosted events or reading information available at the site repository.
- If a CAG has been formed, attend the local CAG meetings to stay informed about CAG activities and contributions to the decision-making process and periodic community meetings.
- Make sure you have signed up to be included on EPA’s mailing list to receive fact sheets and other site updates.
- Observe first-hand the cleanup activities taking place at the site by pre-arranging a visit with the CIC or RPM.



2.7 Step 7: Construction Completion

This step is achieved when any of the following occurs:

- Any necessary physical construction is complete, whether or not final cleanup levels or other requirements have been

achieved. Examples include the construction of structures needed to store, process or treat materials related to the cleanup, or construction of barriers such as fences to prevent access to the site. Reaching these milestones provides an opportunity for the Agency to communicate progress to local residents.

- EPA has determined that the cleanup action should be limited to measures that do not involve construction.
- The site qualifies for removal from the NPL. North Alcoa is not on the NPL so there is no need for removal.

For more information on this step, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/ccl.htm.

2.8 Step 8: Operation and Maintenance and Five-Year Reviews (Post Construction Completion Phase)

The goal of post-construction completion activities is to ensure that the Superfund cleanup actions provide for the long-term protection of human health and the environment. This step involves continued monitoring of the cleanup activities to ensure that the cleanup remains protective over time, and conducting any necessary maintenance or repairs as needed. The Agency also is required to conduct a review of the cleanup every five years. The review may involve examining site data, taking new samples and talking with affected residents.

Before the five-year reviews are conducted, EPA notifies the local community, which is a required by law. This presents an opportunity for affected community members to provide their feedback about current site conditions perceived, problems or other concerns. For more information on EPA's post construction completion activities, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/post.htm.

Opportunities for community involvement during this step:

- Be aware of notices regarding upcoming five-year reviews.
- Provide feedback to EPA during the five-year review process.
- Using funding available through the North Alcoa TAP, qualified community groups can hire an independent technical advisor to review site information when available.
- Invite the EPA CIC to visit the community and discuss results of the five-year reviews or set up a teleconference call with interested residents.
- Host community events to celebrate major milestones in the cleanup of the site.



2.9 Step 9: National Priorities List Deletion

This phase marks the end of a successful cleanup by a determination that the site or a portion of a site requires no further cleanup action and can be deleted from the NPL. Before a site or portion of a site can be deleted, EPA publishes a notice of its intention in the *Federal Register* to notify the community of its opportunity to provide comments. After receiving the comments, EPA develops a responsiveness summary and if, after the formal comment period, the site or portion of the site still qualifies for deletion, EPA publishes a formal deletion notice in the *Federal Register*.

Again, because the North Alcoa site is not listed on the NPL, there will be no need for deletion. Visit www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/npl_hrs/nploff.htm for more information on the NPL deletion process.

Opportunities for community involvement during this step:

If this had been a site on the NPL, the following opportunities for community involvement could take place:



- Continue to follow the cleanup process and review EPA’s proposal to delete the site from the NPL and submit your comments to EPA.
- Review EPA’s responsiveness summary to find out how the Agency is addressing the public comments received.

2.10 Step 10: Reuse

EPA’s goal is to make sure that future uses of a site are fully explored with the local community before the cleanup is implemented. This provides the best chance of making cleanup activities consistent with the likely future use of a site and also gives communities the best opportunity to productively reuse sites. Once sites have been cleaned up, EPA continues to work with communities to return these sites to productive use. These uses may be industrial or commercial, such as warehouses and retail malls, or recreational, such as ballparks and soccer fields.

At the North Alcoa site, future use includes the potential installation of a solar panel farm on a portion of the site. The important message to remember is that regardless of the reuse of the site, the community reclaims a property that is once again productive and has potential economic, social and ecological value. EPA has developed reuse tools, training and resources to help communities. You can find these at www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/recycle/tools/index.html.

To learn more about EPA’s Superfund Redevelopment and Reuse Initiative and how other communities have successfully redeveloped sites, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/recycle.

Opportunities for community involvement during this step:

If this had been a site on the NPL, the following opportunities for community involvement could take place:



- Work with EPA, your local government and other residents to plan the redevelopment and reuse of the site. If a TAG has been awarded, work with the recipient regarding the reuse of the site. If a CAG was formed, find ways to be involved with the CAG regarding the reuse of the site.
- Take advantage of learning opportunities offered the Superfund Redevelopment Initiative webinar series on what other communities have done to reuse sites. Information on past and future webinars is available at www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/recycle/.
- Watch or download videos on the community redevelopment efforts at www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/recycle/info/video.html.

Section 3: Site Background



Workers apply stone, or a cap, over clean soil at the North Alcoa site.

To stay informed about the site, visit:
www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/northalcoa and
www.eaststlouisredevelopment.com.

Section 3: Site Background

This section describes the history and cleanup efforts at the North Alcoa.

3.1 Site Description

The North Alcoa site covers 400 acres in a mixed-use area three miles east of the Mississippi river and due west of Frank Holten State Park in East St. Louis, Illinois. The property is bounded on the north by Lake Drive, on the east by the Alton and Southern railroad, on the south by Missouri Avenue and on the west by 29th Street. The site itself is on Missouri Avenue between 29th and 35th streets, and is known as the North Alcoa Operable Unit 1, or OU1. (See Exhibit 3-1.) EPA often divides complex cleanup sites into smaller,

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EXHIBIT 3-1 Location of the North Alcoa site.



Aerial view shows the North Alcoa site in East St. Louis. The inner boundary solid black line is Operable Unit 1. The three residue disposal ponds are marked with marked dotted lines. The gray areas around the ponds are the gypsum berms, or barriers.

more manageable units called OUs. The former site of Alcoa's operations was located on the south side of Missouri Avenue, and the waste from their operations went on the north side of Missouri Avenue. Fortunately, neither the Mississippi River nor the state park is connected to the site by any surface or underground waterways that could move pollutants.

3.2 Site History

More than 100 years ago, **alumina** and **aluminum fluoride** were produced from **bauxite ore** at the North Alcoa site. The bauxite refining process used hot **sodium hydroxide** to separate material from the bauxite residue known as “red mud.” This red mud was mixed with **limestone** and **soda ash** during World War II, creating a second residue known as “brown mud.” Both the “red mud” and “brown mud” were disposed of north of Missouri Avenue in the area now known as the North Alcoa site.

At the beginning of the 20th century, bauxite residue was disposed of in a place called Pittsburg Lake. Later it was contained within **gypsum** barriers in **residue disposal areas**, called RDAs. Bauxite residue and gypsum are the primary waste products remaining at the site.

Three of these large RDAs exist on the site—each about 40 acres—and are known as Old Pond, Brown Pond and Red Pond. The wall in RDA 1 (Old Pond) was breached sometime in the past and drained to the south. Low-lying areas outside of the RDAs consist of wet spots, while higher ground contains fill material on the surface.

Regional land use in the vicinity of the site is mixed, including residential, industrial and commercial uses, as well as parks. Northeast of the site is mapped as residential or urban land use, and southwest of the site and south of Missouri Avenue is industrial. The actual site land is zoned industrial/commercial by the city of East St. Louis. Currently, the bauxite residue on the site is soft and not suitable as a foundation for building construction or redevelopment without extensive engineering design to reinforce the land.



EXPLANATION

-  Current Location of Harsco Building
-  Current Location of Upchurch Feed Mill
-  Buildings No Longer Present

NORTH ALCOA SITE
EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS



A historical view of the North Alcoa Site as it looked in the late 1940s.

3.2.1 Human Health and Environmental Risks

To evaluate risks and hazards to people from exposure to contaminants in OU1 at the site, experts conducted a baseline **human health risk assessment**. The assessment looked at current and future exposures to site contaminants, and resulting health risks, for the following groups of people:

- Current and future residents.
- Current and future site trespassers.
- Current and future construction workers.
- Current and future industrial workers.
- Future sports players.

Sampling was done on the surface and just below the surface of soil, water and sediment, or mud, and more than a dozen metals were found in various concentrations. Samples of the bauxite residue and gypsum waste also showed **radium** at levels exceeding health standards. Radium is a naturally occurring radioactive metal that was in the bauxite ore that was brought to the site.

The contractors hired by the PRPs, under the oversight of EPA and Illinois EPA, completed a risk assessment for OU1 and found that most of the cancer risks at the site are from exposure to the radium. The contractors also conducted an **ecological risk assessment**, but concluded that wildlife in the area faces no unacceptable health risks.

3.2.2 Site Cleanup

In 2002, a legal agreement called an administrative order on consent was signed between EPA and the PRPs. At this site, there are three PRPs: Alcoa Inc., Alton and Southern Railway Company and the city of East St. Louis taking responsibility for the site. Alcoa Inc. and Alton and Southern Railway Company are funding the investigation and cleanup.

In 2006, Alcoa Inc. removed 16 piles of a hazardous waste distributed across nearly 2 acres. One thousand five hundred tons of this material, called **spent pot liner**, was removed for off-site disposal. Six inches of soil were placed over the area after the removal was completed.

In 2012, EPA held public meetings and extended a public comment period to respond to proposed cleanup plans for the section now known as OU1. The proposed plans involve working with the Illinois EPA to accomplish the following:

- Re-grade the cleanup area to create a slope that will be covered with a soil layer to prevent pollutants from coming in direct contact with humans.
- Cover 200 acres with two feet of soil as a way to prevent exposure to lead and other metals, including radium.
- Manage stormwater within the area using basins designed to contain a 100-year stormwater event.
- Use existing ponds on the site as part of the stormwater design.

Section 4: Community Background



Southwest area aerial view of the North Alcoa site.

To stay informed about the site, visit:
www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/northalcoa and
www.eaststlouisredevelopment.com.

Section 4: Community Background

This section describes the East St. Louis community and its history and summarizes past community involvement efforts associated with the North Alcoa site.

4.1 History of East St. Louis

East St. Louis was officially established in 1783. Captain James Piggot founded the original fort on this land, which served as a way station for those traveling west. Because the area was directly across the Mississippi River from the French trading village of St. Louis, Missouri, Captain Piggot opened a ferry and established Illinois City, later called Illinoistown.¹

During the middle 1800s, Illinoistown was a river village with businesses concentrated along the waterfront. Rail transportation development at Illinoistown created new markets for eastern factories aimed at St. Louis. The Mississippi River, however, presented structural problems, which engineers had not yet solved. Within a decade after the first eastern railroad laid tracks into the area, ten railroads had built terminals at Illinoistown. The village rapidly became the western most end of all eastern roads.

In 1861, Illinoistown combined with nearby towns of St. Clair and East St. Louis and adopted the latter's name. In 1864, East St. Louis approved a city charter and modern East St. Louis

was born.² Due to a combination of flooding and the attachment of a growing sandbar kept East St. Louis' central core about a mile east of the river and just north of downtown St. Louis. While the sandbar removed East St. Louis from the river, this did not prevent the city from growing. East St. Louis had few restrictions on the type of industries that could operate within its boundaries. Due to the city's growing railroad hub, which distributed locally produced chemicals and natural resources such as coal, developers were able to be a part of a regulation-free industrial suburb.³

In 1896, a cyclone demolished buildings, caused fires, sank steamers and destroyed the entire eastern approach to Eads Bridge. Two hundred and fifty-five people were killed.⁴ Despite this natural disaster, industry continued to grow; in 1902, aluminum production operations began at the North Alcoa site, the former the location of Pittsburg Lake, which was filled in by waste and fill associated with the Alcoa production operations.

This growth created opportunity for employment, and in 1916, over a thousand African Americans

¹Encyclopedia of the History of St. Louis, William Hyde and Howard L. Conard, ed., p 658; "East St. Louis Historical Timeline," Illinoistown: A Cultural History of East St. Louis in the Twentieth Century, Web. (www.siu.edu/graduate/iur/history/timeline.shtml)

²Andrew Theising, Made in the USA: East St. Louis, the Rise and Fall of an Industrial River Town, p. 68.

³Andrew Theising, Made in the USA: East St. Louis, the Rise and Fall of an Industrial River Town, p. 68.

⁴St. Louis Post Dispatch, "On this date: Great Cyclone of 1896 killed 255." May 27, 2014. Web. (www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/on-this-date-great-cyclone-of-killed/article_9073513d-e81f-505d-a775-b6bf0a91f13e.html)

arrived in East St. Louis from Tuscaloosa, Alabama with the promise of work from industries looking to flood the market with workers willing to accept lower pay. This wage gap created intense friction with white workers and culminated in brutal race riots in July 1917, causing hundreds of African Americans to flee to St. Louis, Missouri and Brooklyn, New York.⁵ Despite racial strife, the city's population swelled to almost 75,000 in 1930.⁶ The stock market crash of 1929 did have a devastating effect on the economy of the city leaving hundreds of office workers unemployed. However, production was revived by 1936, and the city regained its original economic levels.

World War II provided opportunity for industry to meet new production demands, but when competition returned after the war, labor unions and inexpensive labor from the Sun Belt created a wave of industrial departures from the city, and the economy stumbled.⁷ Adding to the problem were chemical corporations that created small, incorporated villages, such as Sauget and Cahokia, protected from city taxing. Without an industrial tax base, middle class residents took flight. Because of this loss of tax revenues, East St. Louis also began to close municipal agencies beginning in the early 1970s. Garbage collection temporarily halted in 1987, city employees were laid off and police and fire departments suffered significant funding shortages.⁸

As one of the more impoverished communities in Illinois, East St. Louis has had a steady decline of industrial activity that has resulted in a shrinking population—less than one-third the number of residents during its peak in 1950—and high unemployment. Today, areas of the city are coming back with new housing developments, shopping areas, the Metro Link train lines, new schools, the East St. Louis Library, the Casino

Queen and the Gateway Geyser (one of the world's tallest fountains), which mimics the St. Louis arch.⁹ Developers are again visiting East St. Louis and taking advantage of tax credits, and historic preservationists are listing a growing number of buildings on the National Register of Historic Places.

4.2 Governance of East St. Louis

East St. Louis is governed by a council-manager form of government. Today's government structure consists of an elected mayor who serves as president of a council of four councilmen at large. During the past decade, there has been a "change of the guard" with local elected officials, replacing many officials who previously held positions.

These Councilmen appoint a city manager who is responsible for the general day-to-day management of city activities, such as advising the councilmen on direction and maintaining the facilities, services and overall operation of the city. In addition to the city manager are 22 elected precinct committeemen, who are elected by the votes of residents of that precinct, or neighborhood. Precinct committeemen are not city employees; rather, they serve as representatives to the city council, bringing to the council's attention specific concerns raised by residents. Additionally, the committeemen conduct outreach to neighborhood residents to keep them updated on policy information. According to the people EPA interviewed in order to develop this plan, these men and women play a role during elections because they are responsible for getting voters to the polls and supporting candidates.

The city government also consists of a city clerk, city treasurer, a board of fire and police

⁵"Early History of East St. Louis." Web. (www.eslarp.uiuc.edu/ibex/archive/guidebook/early_history.htm)

⁶United States Census

⁷"What Happened to East St. Louis?" Web. (www.eslarp.uiuc.edu/ibex/archive/yelvington/what_happened.htm)

⁸"Environmental Justice Case Study: East St. Louis, Illinois." Web. (www.umich.edu/~snre492/Jones/stlouis.htm)

⁹Southwest Indiana News, "Malcolm W. Martin Memorial Park to Fulfill Eero Saarinen's Dream." 2005. Web. (www.swi-news.com/Swi-BizNews061905.htm)

commissioners, a planning commission, a zoning commission, and the East St. Louis Redevelopment Commission, or RDC. The RDC was established by the Illinois State Legislature and the city of East St. Louis and consists of five regular members and two ex-officio members from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Illinois Department of Transportation.

4.3 North Alcoa Location and Community Demographics

The North Alcoa site is located in East St. Louis, Illinois, a city directly across the Mississippi River

from St. Louis, Missouri. East St. Louis is part of St. Clair County. Exhibit 4-1 shows the location of East St. Louis, Illinois.

According to the U.S. Census, the 2010 population of East St. Louis was 27,006, less than a third of the population of neighboring St. Louis. In 2000, the population was 31,542, reflecting a population decline of approximately 14 percent within the last decade. As shown in Exhibit 4-2, the population of the city peaked in 1950s and 60s, but had been in a steady decline until recently when it appears to be leveling off.

Exhibit 4-1: Map showing location of East St. Louis, Illinois.

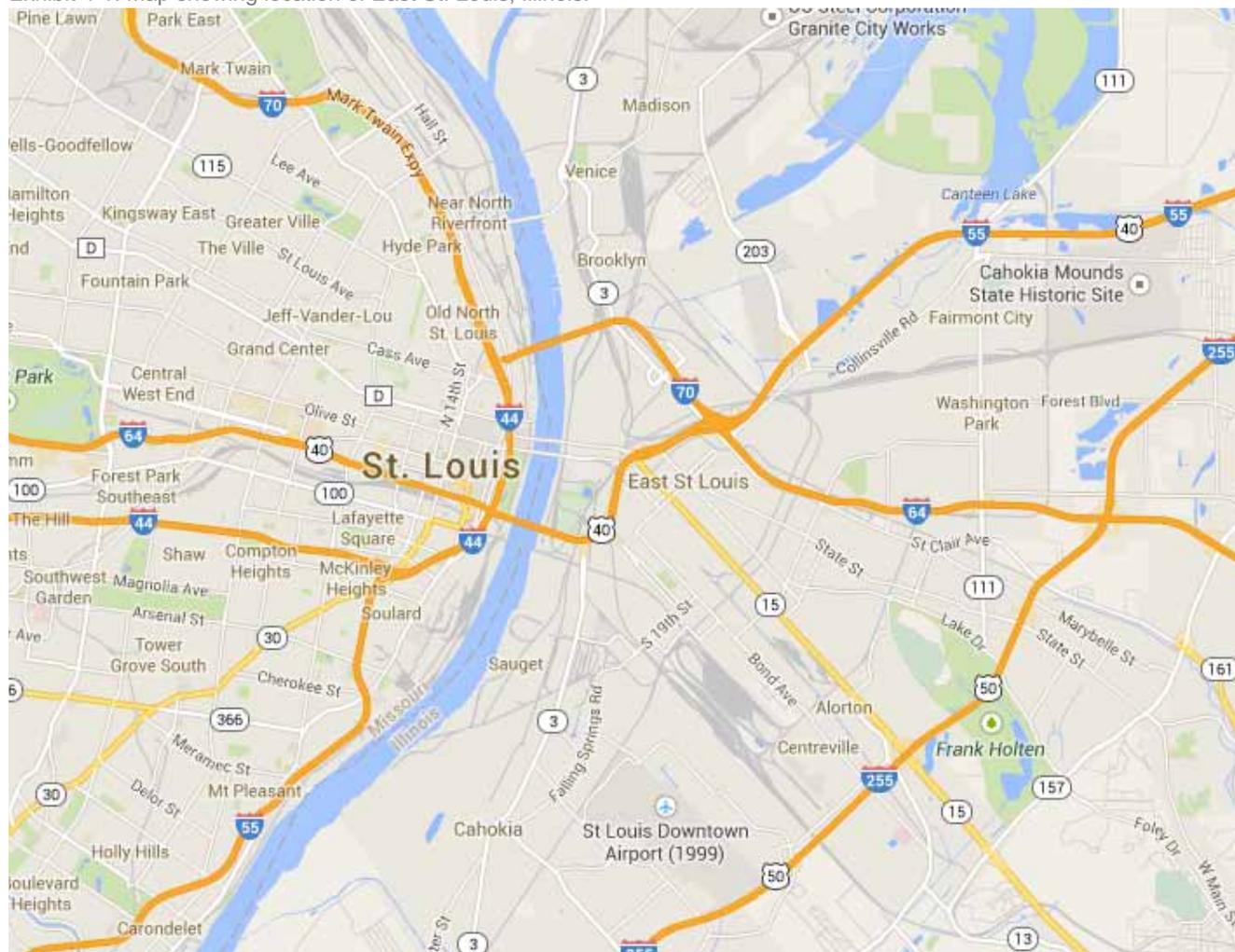
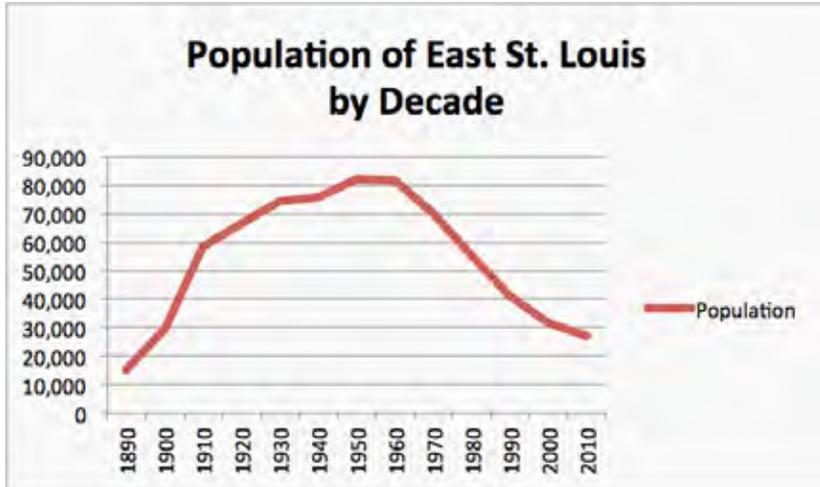


Exhibit 4-2: Population of East St. Louis by decade.



Source: www.census.gov.

The 2010 Census data shows that East St. Louis is almost entirely African American (98.0 percent), followed by 0.9 percent white and a 0.5 percent Latino. A very small number of American Indians/Alaska Natives (0.1 percent) and Asians (0.1 percent) also live in the city. The average household has 2.63 people.

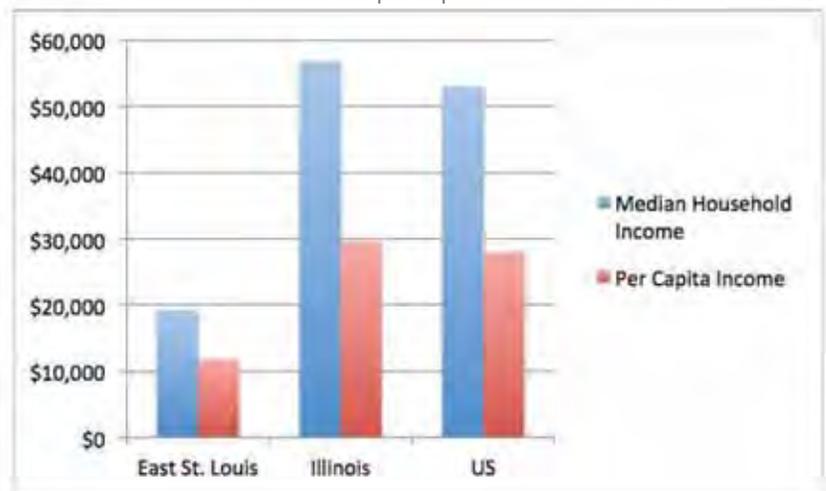
The median age of East St. Louis residents in 2010 was estimated to be 33.6 years. Of the 10,119 households, 2,835 were family households (28 percent) with children under the age of 18. Approximately 29.2 percent of nonfamily households are made up of people age 65 or older.

About 25.3 percent of the population has less than a high school education, a significantly higher percentage than the Illinois average of 12.8 percent. 7.1 percent have undergraduate degrees, compared to the state average of 19.3 percent, and 2.7 percent have graduate degrees or higher, which is significantly lower than the 8.4 percent state average.

As shown in Exhibit 4-3, the 2008-2012 median household income was \$19,278 (in 2012 inflation-adjusted dollars), and the 2008-2012 per capita income was \$11,802. During these same years, approximately 43.5 percent of the population was considered below poverty level, which is considerably higher than the state of Illinois percentage of 13.7 below poverty.¹⁰

Industry has changed considerably over the past century and currently, East St. Louis residents are primarily employed as building and grounds cleaning and maintenance workers, laborers and material movers, cooks and food preparation workers, other production occupations including supervisors, driver and sales workers and truck drivers, electrical equipment mechanics and other installation trades, maintenance, and repair occupations including supervisors, and material recording, scheduling, dispatching, and distributing workers. 70.5 percent of the population 16 years and older are in the labor force.

Exhibit 4-3: Median household and per capita income between 2008 and 2012.



Source: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/17/1722255.html>.

¹⁰U.S. Census Quick Facts: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/17/1722255.html>.

4.4 Past Community Involvement at the North Alcoa Site

Exhibit 4-4 summarizes the site-specific community involvement efforts to date. For more information on these activities and to access press releases and the fact sheet created by EPA for the East St. Louis community, visit www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/northalcoa/.

Most recently, EPA conducted 18 interviews with local residents and local officials in May 2014 in preparation for compiling this CIP. The interviews represent EPA's continuing efforts to engage the community. More details on the interviews can be found in sections 5 and 6 and a list of the questions asked can be found in Appendix A of this CIP.

Exhibit 4-4: Past community involvement at the North Alcoa site.

DATE	COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITY
September 3, 2003	Public Meeting: EPA held a public meeting at the East St. Louis City Hall to announce the beginning of the site investigation. EPA placed an announcement in the <i>East St. Louis Monitor</i> and the <i>Belleville News Democrat</i> announcing the meeting.
April 2012	Information Repository: EPA established the site information repository at the East St. Louis Public Library and the city of East St. Louis' clerk's office.
April 11, 2012	Administrative Record: The administrative record was established for the site at the East St. Louis Public Library, the city of East St. Louis' clerk's office and EPA Region 5, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., Seventh Floor Record Center, Chicago, IL.
April 17, 2012	Public Meeting: EPA held a public meeting at the East St. Louis City Hall to explain the proposed cleanup plan for OU1 and to allow attendees an opportunity to provide a comment both orally and in writing. EPA placed an announcement in the <i>East St. Louis Monitor</i> and the <i>Belleville News Democrat</i> announcing the meeting.
April 2012	Fact Sheet: EPA prepared, mailed to residents and posted on the North Alcoa website a fact sheet explaining the proposed cleanup plan for the North Alcoa site.
April 12, 2012 through June 13, 2012	Public Comment Period on Proposed Cleanup Plan: EPA held a comment period on the proposed cleanup plan for OU1. People were given an opportunity to make comments at the public meeting as well as at the availability session, through mail, email and online. EPA extended the public comment period for an additional 30 days through June 13, 2012. The Agency also held an availability session on June 7, 2012 to provide an additional opportunity for the community to submit written comments in person.
May 22, 2012	EPA Letter: EPA prepared and mailed out a letter to area residents to invite them to an availability session at the East St. Louis Public Library regarding the cleanup of OU1.
June 7, 2012	Availability Session: EPA held an availability session to allow community members an opportunity to talk one-on-one with EPA regarding the proposed cleanup plan for OU1.
July 26, 2012	Responsiveness Summary: EPA responded to comments in a responsiveness summary, which is part of the ROD document available in the North Alcoa site information repositories and on the website.
October 2, 2013	Availability Sessions: EPA held two availability sessions at the East St. Louis City Hall to discuss with area residents and officials, one-on-one, the cleanup plan selected for the site.

Section 5: Summary Of Community Input



Installation of gypsum barriers at the North Alcoa site.

To stay informed about the site, visit:
www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/northalcoa and
www.eaststlouisredevelopment.com.

Section 5: Summary Of Community Input

EPA conducted community interviews with 18 residents, local officials and members of local community organizations in May 2014.

Among other questions, EPA asked how community members would prefer to receive information, how they would like to be involved and which information sources they rely on. See Appendix A for a list of specific questions asked during the interviews. The interview responses specifically related to communication methods and information sources are summarized below. Not only were the responses used in developing this CIP, they will also help the Agency determine how best to engage and collaborate with the different sectors of the affected population moving forward.

5.1 Suggested Public Meeting Format

During community interviews, people had very specific suggestions about how the EPA should conduct public meetings. Most said that a presentation followed by a question and answer session was preferred because they would be more likely to have questions after a presentation. People also said that the public meeting format allows community members to benefit from hearing questions asked by other members of the audience.

A few people interviewed said that one-on-one availability sessions can also be helpful for those individuals who have specific questions.

Everyone interviewed said that they would attend a public meeting. With regard to meeting times, most people said that a combination of afternoon and evening meetings should be held to accommodate various work schedules.

People also suggested that public meeting locations should be within walking distance for residents or transportation should be provided. Interviewees said that the local precinct committeemen could be asked to provide the transportation. One individual mentioned that public meetings are very important because “there is a lot of illiteracy in the community.”

For a list of suggested meeting locations, see Appendix C.

5.2 Repositories

Approximately half of the people interviewed said that they were not aware of the information repositories at the East St. Louis Public Library or at the city of East St. Louis Clerk’s office. Most of the people interviewed said that they might use the repository if they were looking for information.

Additional repository locations were suggested. One person suggested setting up an information repository at the Centerville Public Library at

4700 Piggott Ave., Centreville, IL 62207, 618-271-2040. Another person suggested the East St. Louis High School Library at 4901 State St., East St. Louis, IL 62205, 618-646-3700.

5.3 Sources of Information

During community interviews, residents explained how they would most like to receive information regarding the North Alcoa site.

- **Mail and email:** Most people said that they would like to receive information in the mail. They also said they believed most residents would want hard copies of information, which they could refer to later. Many of the people interviewed, however, provided an email address and requested that EPA also send information via email.
- **Newspaper:** Newspapers were another method people suggested for getting information to the residents. Placing an article on the front page of either the *East St. Louis Monitor* or the *Belleville News Democrat* was suggested. Although people said that residents read both papers, they said the *East St. Louis Monitor* was more widely read.
- **Churches and community organizations:** People recommended utilizing the local churches and pastors as a means to keep the community informed. A couple of people said that it would be important to call the pastors and not just rely on mailing information to the churches as EPA had done in the past. People also suggested reaching out to local organizations and community groups and provided EPA with a list of organizations to reach out to. These groups are listed in Appendix B.

- **Television:** Local network television and cable stations are an additional means of disseminating information. People stated that EPA should reach out to Stephanie Miles, a local talk show host, to appear on her SMiles television show. People also suggested contacting Mike Bush of KSDK and Elliott Davis of FOX 2 television in St. Louis as each had shown interest in the ongoing activities in East St. Louis.
- **Flyers:** Another way people suggested to get information out to residents was for EPA to pass out flyers in the commercial district on 25th Street. People said that was how many people distributed information in the community and that it was very effective.
- **Sewer bills:** A couple of city employees said that information could be put in the sewer bills.
- **Website:** Finally, people said to make sure the EPA website was up-to-date because some residents use that as a way of getting information.

With regard to the content of material, most people stated that the material should be made much simpler than what EPA had provided in the past. A couple of people suggested EPA use a 6th grade reading level for all written information, use a larger font for the senior citizens and use color to make the information “stand out.”

Several people said that postcard mailings should not be used because they would likely be mistaken for junk mail.

Section 6: Community Questions And Concerns



Construction activities at the North Alcoa site.

To stay informed about the site, visit:
www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/northalcoa and
www.eaststlouisredevelopment.com.

Section 6: Community Questions And Concerns

A summary of questions and concerns expressed during the May 2014 interviews is presented below, organized by themes. See Appendix A for a full list of the interview questions.

Note to readers: The summary provided in this CIP is intended to accurately present the issues, concerns and questions expressed to EPA by those who were interviewed. The summaries reflect the beliefs, thoughts and feelings as expressed by the members of the community and, therefore, may or may not be based in fact.

6.1 Key Questions Asked During Community Interviews

During interviews EPA conducted with 18 community members, individuals asked many questions to increase their knowledge about the North Alcoa site. Most interviewees asked questions related to contamination at (and around) the site, perceived associated health problems, the site cleanup and potential jobs.

Primary questions that arose during the interviews are briefly listed below.

- Why does nothing live on “red hill”?
- Will the roads be repaired after the cleanup?
- What is the timeframe for the cleanup?
- Are there any training programs for jobs?
- What are the contaminants on the site?
- What toxins will be left behind?

- Is the cleanup stirring up the contamination?
- Is the ground water contaminated?
- Is soil in the neighborhood around the site contaminated?
- Is Whispering Willow Lake contaminated?
- Is the soil around the lake contaminated?
- Are fish in the lake contaminated?
- Can or will a health survey be conducted?

6.2 Key Concerns Expressed During Community Interviews

Overall, the majority of people interviewed were very pleased that EPA has been active at the site and that progress is being made to clean up and reuse the site. Most individuals also expressed their appreciation to EPA for inviting community members to share their concerns about the site. They also thanked EPA for taking time to answer questions during the interviews. Others were

happy to hear that the site cleanup may also solve some of the severe flooding problems in the community. Concerns expressed by people interviewed are grouped by major themes and summarized below.

6.2.1 Lack of communication

Virtually everyone interviewed said that they were not adequately informed about the site and knew very little about site activities. The only individuals that said they were adequately informed were individuals that had direct involvement in site activities such as city workers. People said that they had not seen advertisements in the newspapers and they did not recall ever receiving a mailing. Even among those who had attended a public meeting held on April 17, 2012 at the East St. Louis City Hall, several said that they did not feel that the questions asked at the meeting were answered adequately. One interviewee said that she believed that people were being “brushed off” at the meeting. This individual stated that she knew EPA had not adequately informed people of the public meeting held in 2012, otherwise many more people would have been there. Others expressed frustration saying “You come in, do your work, and leave without telling us anything.” Another individual said that he questioned what was behind “red hill” and a worker at the site informed him that it was illegal for him to be on the property, but was not given any information.

6.2.2 Health concerns

Virtually everyone interviewed expressed concern about the potential impact that contamination at the site has had on the health of community members. People explained that residents were experiencing what they believed were higher than average levels of health issues such as neurological problems, high blood lead levels, multiple sclerosis, fibromyalgia, asthma and cancer. Several people said that they would like to

have a health survey done to officially record and map out the health problems. One individual interviewed questioned if anything could be done for people who show signs of health problems. He asked whether EPA could tell parents what types of health problems to look for in children, to help them prevent damage or address health problems if the damage had already been done. Many people interviewed said they played on the property as children, their children have also played on the property and they are concerned about the impacts of such exposure. One person interviewed who grew up across the street from the site said that she has experienced many health problems since high school, including very high blood lead levels.

6.2.3 Contamination “blowing” off site

Many people interviewed expressed concern that contamination from the site has “blown off of the site” and spread to other areas. They expressed concern that the contamination had not only blown off the site in the past, but that the current work at the site is causing air contamination. Several people stated that they are worried that the wind has blown site contamination onto nearby residential yards. A couple of people interviewed questioned whether area yards could be sampled and cleaned up if they were found to be contaminated. Another individual stated that she was concerned about potential contamination at an area farm. She said that the farm sold produce and she wondered if that produce could be contaminated. Similarly, another resident expressed concern about potential contamination in individual gardens

6.2.4 Contaminated water

Many people EPA spoke with also expressed concern about the potential contamination of ground water beneath the surface. They wanted to know whether the water was contaminated. Some individuals specifically expressed concern that

putting a cover of soil over the site would keep the water contaminated. One person questioned whether there was a natural way to clean any contaminated water beneath the surface (for example, using organisms to remove or neutralize the contamination).

6.2.5 Potential contamination of Whispering Willow Lake

Several people interviewed said that they were concerned about potential contamination of Whispering Willow Lake, which is located near the site at the Frank Holten State Park. Specifically, people expressed concern that contaminants may have moved from the site to the lake, the soil around the lake and the fish in it. People were concerned about health risks from exposure to the lake, nearby soil or fish. They explained that people catch and eat fish from the lake. One person stated that he recalled fish in the lake dying and wondered if contamination from the site was the cause.



Whispering Willow Lake, near the North Alcoa site at the Frank Holten State Park.

6.2.6 Runoff from the site when it rains

A couple of nearby residents stated that when it rains, water runs off the site and drains onto their property, “making a mess.” Others expressed

concern about the level of contamination in the runoff. They said that contaminated water from the site was “killing plants,” and it “made them wonder” what other damage it could be causing.

6.2.7 Increased truck traffic on Missouri Avenue

Several people interviewed expressed concern about increased truck traffic as a result of the cleanup. One person said that the trucks were already damaging the roads and questioned whether the roads will be repaired after the cleanup. A couple of people suggested that warning signs should be posted and residents should be notified of increased traffic. Another individual said that the city should also be notified in advance.

6.2.8 Lack of trust

About half of the people interviewed expressed a lack of trust of EPA. One person said “On a scale of one to ten (with one being the lowest), I am struggling to give EPA a one.” Another individual said that he believed there was “more to it than they are being told.” Still another resident said he thought EPA was “too corporate friendly.”

6.2.9 Hiring local workers

Several people asked if local workers would be hired to work on the cleanup. One person asked whether training programs could be provided. After being informed by EPA that the contractors working at the site had hired local union workers, one person interviewed said that the unions “do not include everyone.” Almost everyone interviewed expressed approval and appreciation that local residents were being hired by the cleanup contractors.

6.2.10 Adequacy of the cleanup

A couple of people interviewed expressed concern about the adequacy of the cleanup. One person said that he did not think a two-foot soil cover would be enough.

6.2.11 Real estate values

One person interviewed who had been a resident of East St. Louis most of his life and was a local business owner said that he was concerned about the value of his home once people become aware of the contamination. He said that it would “scare people away.”

6.2.12 Frustration about delayed cleanup

A couple of interviewees expressed frustration that the cleanup is just being done now when the contamination has been there for so long.

6.2.13 Future site use

Virtually everyone interviewed had heard that the site might be used for a solar farm following the cleanup. Most people said that they thought a solar farm was acceptable. One person said “if it provides jobs and a tax base, then ok.” Some

people said they believed that some people in the community were concerned that developing the solar farm would cause their electric bills to increase. One person said that he wanted to be sure union members would be hired to construct the farm. One individual questioned whether any other reuse projects had been proposed. Overall, most people interviewed were happy to hear that the intended reuse will be a solar farm and one person commented, “it will be a big win for the city.”

People had questions about the solar farm including:

- Who will develop it?
- Who will own it?
- Who will sell the electricity?
- Will there be any training programs to teach people how to take care of the solar panels?

Section 7: EPA's Community Involvement Goals



Construction activities continue at the North Alcoa site.

To stay informed about the site, visit:
www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/northalcoa and
www.eaststlouisredevelopment.com.

Section 7: EPA's Community Involvement Goals

EPA is committed to meaningfully engage and collaborate with those who are interested in, or affected by the cleanup and reuse of the North Alcoa site located in East St. Louis.

EPA is developing responses to the concerns raised and questions asked by the residents during the recent community interviews. This CIP was developed based on the input from the community and EPA's extensive experience in working with communities near similar sites. EPA works toward the following goals with all communities near Superfund (and Superfund Alternative) sites:

- Encourage and enable all community members to get involved.
- Listen carefully to what the community is saying.
- Take the time needed to answer questions and address community concerns.
- Change planned actions where community comments or concerns have merit.
- Keep the community well informed of ongoing and planned activities.
- Explain to the community what EPA has done and why.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Contacts for the North Alcoa Site

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7.1 EPA's Community Involvement Approach for the North Alcoa Site

As part of EPA's commitment to meet the individual needs of the community, the Agency's community involvement activities will include various forms of outreach. Although EPA is currently completing the cleanup of a portion of the site, the investigation of another portion of the site is still ongoing. The community has expressed continued interest in remaining an active part of the future decision-making process. In response, EPA will involve the community and establish an appropriate community involvement framework for ongoing outreach activities.

7.2 Community Involvement Activities for East St. Louis, Illinois

Throughout each phase of the Superfund cleanup process, EPA is required by law to conduct community involvement activities. As part of its goal to build and strengthen trusting relationships with local communities, EPA often conducts other activities beyond what is required by law. Through these activities, EPA can achieve its goal to keep the affected community informed, involved and engaged during the cleanup and reuse process. The Agency's planned activities for the North Alcoa site include a combination of required activities and additional activities that are not required but will be conducted to specifically respond to the needs, concerns and questions expressed during the community interviews.

EPA has implemented, or will implement, the activities described below to meaningfully and actively engage the East St. Louis community in decisions about the continued investigation, cleanup and reuse of the Superfund Alternative site.

- **Designate a Point of Contact:** Ms. Janet Pope is the primary liaison between EPA and the community. In her role as the CIC,

Ms. Pope serves as the primary point of contact for the community members and fields general questions about the sites. For technical site issues, Mr. Dion Novak is the contact for the site. Mr. Novak can be reached by email at novak.dion@epa.gov or by telephone at 312-886-4737, or 800-621-8431, ext. 64737, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time.

- **Establish a toll-free number residents to ask questions and receive information:** Ms. Pope can be reached at 800-621-8431, ext. 30628, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The goal is to improve the flow and ease of communication between EPA and the community. Residents can call this number as questions or concerns arise, rather than wait for a public meeting or to receive written information. EPA publishes this toll-free number periodically in the local papers and in all fact sheets. The toll-free number also is available on the EPA website at www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/northalcoa/.
- **Establish a website for site and community information:** EPA established a website for the North Alcoa site at www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/northalcoa/. The site contains updated information about cleanup and community involvement activities planned for the North Alcoa site. EPA will continue to maintain and revise the website throughout the cleanup process. Also, Alcoa Inc. created the website www.eaststlouisredevelopment.com, which contains updated information and photographs documenting the site cleanup.
- **Develop and continue to revise mailing lists for the sites:** EPA has created a mailing list that includes East St. Louis area residences and businesses near the site and other interested parties who have requested to be

kept informed about site activities. To keep it current, the list will be reviewed and revised periodically. If you would like to be added to the site mailing list, call or email Janet Pope at 312-353-0628, or 800-621-8431, ext. 30628, pope.janet@epa.gov.

- **Identify accessible locations to establish information repositories:** EPA is required to establish an information repository for any site where Superfund cleanup activities are conducted. Information repositories typically contain work plans, technical reports, fact sheets, site updates and copies of the laws and rules that apply to the cleanup of the site. The information repositories for the North Alcoa site are located at the East St. Louis Public Library, 5300 State St., East St. Louis, IL 62203 and the East St. Louis City Clerk's Office, 301 River Park Drive, East St. Louis, IL 62201. EPA is open to the community's suggestions for additional repository locations.
- **Write and distribute news releases and public notices:** EPA has released announcements to the local newspapers and local television and radio stations listed in Appendix B, to provide information about events such as public meetings or opportunities for public comment. News releases allow EPA to reach large audiences quickly. Past news releases are posted on EPA's website at www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/northalcoa/. EPA typically publishes news releases and public notices to announce major events such as public comment periods, public meetings and major milestones such as the selection of a cleanup remedy. EPA will continue to issue news releases and public notices as site activities progress.
- **Prepare and distribute fact sheets and site updates:** EPA has produced fact sheets and update reports, written in non-technical language and produced to coincide with site milestones (such as the completion of a feasibility study or a proposed cleanup plan). A fact sheet explaining the cleanup plan was written and mailed out in April 2012. EPA will continue to produce other fact sheets and updates as site cleanup and reuse efforts progress. EPA uses these written mechanisms to provide the community with detailed information in a relatively quick, simple and easy-to-understand manner. In addition to being distributed to individuals on the site mailing list, fact sheets and updates are placed in the information repository and posted on EPA's website at www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/northalcoa/.
- **Set up the Administrative Record:** EPA has created an Administrative Record for the North Alcoa site that essentially provides a paper trail of all documents EPA relied on, or considered, to reach decisions about the site cleanup and reuse. For residents' convenience, the Administrative Record is available in two locations – at the East St. Louis Public Library and the city of East St. Louis' Clerk's office – and will be updated as necessary.
- **Continually update the CIP to be adaptable and flexible to changing site conditions, community interests and concerns:** This CIP outlines EPA's approach to enhance community input and engagement in key decisions about the North Alcoa site. Before the cleanup is complete, EPA may revise the CIP if the community's concerns or information needs change.

- **Conduct public meetings:** Public meetings allow a forum for EPA to share information, and for community members to express their concerns about the site to EPA, state or local government officials in a group setting. Meeting formats can vary from formal to informal or even a listening session arrangement, and all can be effective depending on the objective and the information being shared. Frequency of meetings should be flexible depending on the phase of cleanup and other site activities. EPA held a public meeting on April 17, 2012, to explain the proposed cleanup plan for OU1. As suggested during the community interviews, the Agency will continue to use public meetings as a forum for sharing information, answering questions and addressing concerns.
- **Establish a CAG to address technical and reuse issues for the sites:** In an effort to respond to the community's questions and concerns described in Section 6 of this CIP, EPA supports the development of a CAG for the North Alcoa site. During community interviews, people requested that meetings be held with interested community members, preferably twice a year, to provide an opportunity to participate in cleanup decisions. EPA will provide information on how to form a CAG and choose its members. If local residents decide to form a CAG, all CAG meetings will be open to the public.
- **Inform and educate the community on the availability of technical assistance funds:** As part of their negotiated agreement to clean up the North Alcoa site, the PRPs agreed to provide \$50,000 for local community groups to hire technical advisors to help them interpret technical site information and conduct outreach. EPA will continue to share information about the availability of these funds through public

meetings, availability sessions, online resources and written publications such as fact sheets.

- **Continue to contact and conduct outreach with local officials, community members, and businesses through teleconference calls and in-person visits, where feasible:** By conducting the community interviews in May 2014, EPA has established a connection with the community. At any time, community members also may contact EPA's CIC, Ms. Pope, to obtain information or ask questions. The CIC and the EPA RPM will continue to make occasional visits to East St. Louis to meet with residents and local officials, and will continue to communicate through individual telephone calls, teleconference calls, and in-person visits to keep the community informed about ongoing and planned site activities. Informal conversations provide a forum for EPA to interact one-on-one with individuals or small groups and respond directly to questions and concerns.
- **Solicit input during public comment periods:** EPA holds public comment periods to give community members an opportunity to review and comment on key decisions such as proposed cleanup plans. Following a public comment period, EPA considers all input and responds to the public comments in a document called a responsiveness summary, which is placed in the site information repository and made available on EPA's website at www.epa.gov/Region5/cleanup/northalcoa/. EPA held a 60-day public comment period on its proposed cleanup plan for OU1 from April 12–June 13, 2012. EPA responded to comments and the responsiveness summary is available in the North Alcoa site information repositories and on the website.

- ***Participate in meetings of local community groups:*** EPA may provide speakers to participate in meetings held by local organizations, business clubs and schools as another means of providing information and collaborating with local residents. These meetings can be an effective, convenient way for EPA to interact with the community, convey information and solicit questions and input from targeted groups. Attending previously scheduled community meetings also allows EPA to engage with the community without disrupting people's schedules.
 - ***Plan or participate in community events:*** The EPA CIC or RPM may participate in local fairs and special events to informally discuss the community's concerns related to the cleanup and reuse process for the Superfund sites. For example, the CIC or RPM may organize site tours to allow community members to walk through and learn more about cleanup activities and plans for future site use. They may also participate or have information booths at regularly scheduled community events such as community fairs.
-

7.3 Evaluating the CIP

Throughout the key stages of the Superfund cleanup process, EPA will review and assess the CIP to make sure that the activities and communication methods prescribed in the CIP continue to address the expressed needs of the community. EPA may request feedback from the community on the Agency's community involvement activities. Based on the feedback, EPA may revise the CIP to continually strengthen its communication methods and outreach efforts.

The community engagement process is a two-way effort. EPA encourages local residents to contact the EPA CIC at any time to provide feedback or suggestions to help inform the Agency's efforts to fully engage all interested individuals near the North Alcoa site.

APPENDIX A

Community Interview Questions

(May 2014)

1. Do you live or work on or near the Site? If not, are you affiliated with any organization that has an interest in the site? [What organization]?

2. How long have you been a resident in the area?

3. How long have you been aware of environmental concerns at the site?

4. What do you know about the North Alcoa site history or ongoing EPA work?

5. How have you gotten information about the site in the past?

6. What are the most popular:

Newspapers _____

TV stations _____

Radio stations _____

in the area?

7. How would you like to be informed concerning future site activities (mail, e-mail, telephone, newspapers, television, radio, social media such as Facebook)?

8. Have you had any contact with local, state or federal agencies about the site?

9. When EPA has a public meeting or availability session, would you attend and what day and time would be most convenient for you? Do you have suggestions about locations for future meetings?

10. Do you feel that you have been adequately informed about the site? If no, what other kinds of information would you like?

11. Site information is posted on EPA's website. Have you used the EPA website?

12. Have you used the EPA website to obtain site information? Have you ever seen the information about the site held at the East St. Louis City Clerk's office, or the East St. Louis Public Library?

13. Are there any other people or groups you think we should talk to about the North Alcoa site either because they have unique information or would like to know more from EPA?

14. Do you hold any position – elected, appointed, hired – with any municipal state or federal agency?

15. Do you have any questions/comments pertaining to the North Alcoa site?

16. Are you aware of any redevelopment plans for the site, and how do you feel about their impact on you for the East St. Louis community?

APPENDIX B

List of Contacts and Interested Groups

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Sheila Simon

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Eddie Lee Jackson, Sr.

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Nicholas J. Miller, District 4

Lonnie Mosely, District 5

Roy Mosley, Jr., District 6

Edwin Cockrell, District 7

Ken Easterly, District 8

C. Richard Vernier, District 9

Dixie Seibert, District 10

Jerry Dinges, District 11

Angela Grossmann-Roewe, District 12

Stephen Reeb, District 13

Robert Trentman, District 14

John West, District 15

June Chartrand, District 16

Curtis Jones, District 17

Craig Hubbard, District 18

C. David Tiedemann, District 19

Michael Baker, District 20

Frank Heiligenstein, District 21

Michael O'Donnell, District 22

Dennis Renner, District 23

Marty Crawford, District 24

Curtis McCall, Jr., District 25

Larry Stammer, District 26

Ken Sharkey, District 27

Joseph Kassly, District 28

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Elliott McKinney, Deputy Clerk

Ricky Eastern, Trustee

Edith Moore, Trustee

Troy Mosley, Trustee

Michael Roberts, Trustee

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Senior Bishop Robert Smith

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Rev. Jerome Jackson Sr.

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Gateway Area Bible Fellowship
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618-874-8207

Religious Organizations (continued)

Reverend Herman L. Watson, Sr.

Mount Sinai Baptist
1200 St. Louis Ave.
East St. Louis, IL 62205
618-874-2202

Brown Community Church
5501 State St.
East St. Louis, IL 62203
618-398-0938

St. Luke AME Church
414 N. 14th St.
East St. Louis, IL 62201
618-271-2450
www.stlukeame.com

Pastor Kendall Granger

New Life Community Church
1919 State St.
East St. Louis, IL 62205
618-875-5989
www.newlifeestl.com

Bishop Rex Waddell

Church of the Living God
8901 Pleasant View Dr.
Fairview Heights, IL 62208
618-394-8901
www.cotlgministries.org

Pastor David Crocket

Greater New Hope Baptist Church
2240 Missouri Ave.
East St. Louis, IL 62205
618-274-3599

Pastor Hubbard

Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church
616 N 58th St.
East St. Louis, IL 62203
618-397-9099

Reverend Curtis Levingston

Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church
2406 McCasland Ave.
East St. Louis, IL 62207
618-274-8350

Pastor Rod L. Little

St. Matthews Missionary Baptist Church
2908 Louisiana Blvd.
East St. Louis, IL 62205
618-874-6979
www.stmatthewbc.webs.com

Macedonia Baptist Church
10 South Broadway
East St. Louis, IL 62201
618-274-1373
www.eslmacedoniabaptistchurch.com

Pastor Vincent D. Collins

Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church
1111 Dr. R. B. Lyles Dr.
East St. Louis, IL 62205
618-271-1935
www.mtpisgahmb.org

North End Baptist Church
463 North 88th St.
East St. Louis, IL 62203
618-397-4544

Pastor Gary Gaston

St. Paul Baptist Church
1500 Bond Ave.
East St. Louis, IL 62207
618-874-5850

Reverend Dr. Zachary L. Lee

Mount Paran M. B. Church
1620 Russell Ave.
East St. Louis, IL 62207
618-271-1422

Religious Organizations (continued)

Pastor Rodney J. Howlett

Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
5000 Bond Ave.
East St. Louis, IL 62207
618-337-9330

Pastor Philip D. Washington

Pilgrim Temple CME Church
1800 Trendley Ave.
East St. Louis, IL 62207
618-271-3470

Pastor Randall Wilken

Unity Lutheran Church
4200 Caseyville Ave.
East St. Louis, IL 62204
618-874-6600

Reverend Linda Harris

Trinity United Methodist Church
1411 Missouri Ave.
East St. Louis, IL 62201
618-274-2323
www.trinityeaststlouis.com

Pastor Darryl Garner

New Beginnings Christian Baptist Church
2117 N. 55th St.
East St. Louis IL 62204-1530
618-874-6224

Minister Ethereal Safwat

House of Prayer
P.O. Box 1318
Alorton, IL 62203
618-274-4206
Email: Snack051@charter.net

Minister Ralph Muhammad

Muhammad's Mosque
2216 State St.
East St. Louis, IL 62205
618-271-6890

Pastor Mark Howell

Fairmont Baptist Church
2733 North 44th St.
East St. Louis, IL 62201
618-874-2685
Email: pastor@fairmontbaptist.org
www.churchangel.com/

Pastor Terry Harris

Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
4049 Trendley Ave.
East St. Louis, IL 62207
618-274-2631

Pastor Mark D.Stec
Holy Rosary Church
2720 North 42nd St.
East St. Louis, IL 62201
618-274-1814
www.rchurch.com/Holy-Rosary-Church-230572.html

Pastor Elder Mark W. Ratliff

Saint Mark Church of God In Christ
4108 State St.
East St. Louis, IL 62205
618-271-4736
Email: prmc_dept@gsmcogic.org
www.gsmcogic.org

Media - Television

KTVI FOX 2
2250 Ball Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63146
314-213-2222
www.fox2now.com

KMOV-TV 4
1 S. Memorial Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63102
314-621-4444
www.kmov.com

Media - Television (continued)

KSDK News Channel 5
1000 Market St.
St. Louis, MO 63101
314-421-5055
www.ksdk.com

KETC Channel 9
3655 Olive St.
St. Louis, MO 63108
314-512-9000
www.ketc.org

KPLR-TV WB 11
2250 Ball Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63146
314-367-7216
www.kplr11.com

KDNL 30 ABC
1215 Cole St.
St. Louis, MO 63106
314-436-3030
www.abcstlouis.com

WRBU "My 46"
1408 N. Kingshighway Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63113
314-932-5477
www.my46stl.com

Media – Radio

**Specifically mentioned by a community member during interviews in May 2014.*

Hallelujah AM 1600
1001 Highlands Plaza Dr. West, Suite 200
St. Louis, MO 63110
314-333-8160
Email: katzam@clearchannel.com
www.hallelujah1600.com

*Hot 104.1 FM
9666 Olive Blvd., Suite 610
St. Louis, MO 63132
314-989-9550
www.hot1041stl.com

KDHX FM 88
3504 Magnolia Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63118
314-664-3688
www.kdhx.org

KEZK FM 102.5
3100 Market St.
St. Louis, MO 63103
314-531-0000
www.stlpublicradio.org

KFTK FM 97.1
800 Union Station
The Powerhouse
St. Louis, MO 63103
314-231-9710
www.971talk.com

*KMJM "Majic" 100.3 FM
1001 Highland Plaza Dr. West, Suite 200
St. Louis, MO 63110
314-556-6100
www.kmjm.com

*KMOX News Talk 1120 AM
1 S. Memorial Dr., Suite 300
St. Louis, MO 63102
314-969-1120
www.stlouis.cbslocal.com/station/kmox

KPNT FM 105.7
800 Union Station
The Powerhouse
St. Louis, MO 63103
314-231-1057
www.1057thepoint.com

*KTRS-AM 550 Talk Radio
736 S. Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63102
314-715-0573
www.ktrs.com

Media – Radio (continued)

KWMU 90.7 FM (Public Radio)
3651 Olive St.
St. Louis, MO 63108
314-516-5968
www.news.stlpublicradio.org

*Old School 95.5 FM
9666 Olive Blvd., Suite 610
St. Louis, MO 63132
314-989-9550
www.oldschool955.com

*Wild 104.9 FM
1001 Highlands Plaza Dr. West, Suite 200
St. Louis, MO 63110
314-556-6104
www.wild1049stl.com

*WSIE 88.7 FM Jazz St. Louis
Southern IL University Edwardsville
Campus Box 1773
Edwardsville, IL 62026
618-650-3607
Email: wsie887@siue.edu
www.wsieradio.com

Y-98 FM
3100 Market St.
St. Louis, MO 63103
314-531-0000

Z107-7 FM Studios
1001 Highlands Plaza Dr. W.
St. Louis, MO 63110
314-333-8000
www.z1077.com/main.htm

Media – Newspapers

**Specifically mentioned by a community member during interviews in May 2014.*

*Belleville News Democrat
120 S. Illinois St.
St. Louis, MO 62220
618-234-1000
Contact: Darla Reynolds
Email: dreynolds@bnd.com
www.bnd.com

*East St. Louis Monitor
1501 State St.
East St. Louis, IL 62205
618-271-0468
Contact: Frazier Garner
Email: media@estlmonitor.com

Riverfront Times
6358 Delmar Blvd., Suite 200
St. Louis, MO 63130
314-754-5966
www.riverfronttimes.com

St. Louis Post-Dispatch
900 N. Tucker Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63101
314-340-8000
www.stltoday.com

APPENDIX C

Possible Public Meeting and Information Repository Locations

Possible Public Meeting Locations

East St. Louis City Hall
301 River Park Dr.
East St. Louis, IL 62201
618-482-6600

Clyde C. Jordan Senior Citizen Center
6755 State St.

East St. Louis, IL 62203
618-293-6700

East St. Louis Senior High School Gymnasium
4901 State St.
East St. Louis, IL 62205
618-646-3700

Jackie Joyner-Kersee Center
101 Jackie Joyner Kersee Cir.
East St. Louis, IL 62204
618-274-5437

Lessie Bates Davis Family Development Center
1045 State St.
East Saint Louis, IL 62205
618-875-2211

Mary E. Brown Center
606 S. 15th St.
East St. Louis, IL 62205
618-875-2131

New Beginnings Christian Baptist Church
2117 N. 55th St.
East St. Louis IL 62204-1530
618-874-6224

New Life Community Church
1919 State St.
East St. Louis, IL 62205
618-875-5989

Information Repository Locations

For additional potential repository locations suggested during community interviews, see Section 5.2.

East St. Louis City Clerk's Office
301 River Park Dr.,
East St. Louis, IL 62201
618-482-6812

East St. Louis Public Library
5300 State St.
East St. Louis, IL 62203
618-397-0991



East St. Louis Public Library.

APPENDIX D

Glossary of Terms

Alumina: Alumina is produced from bauxite ore. Alumina is then used to produce aluminum.

Aluminum Fluoride: Aluminum fluoride is an off-white granular material used in the production of aluminum. Inhaling aluminum fluoride can cause respiratory irritation.

Arsenic: Arsenic is a naturally occurring element and is used in copper and lead smelting, wood treatment and in pesticides. Breathing low levels of arsenic for a long period of time can cause skin darkening or irritation. Breathing high levels for a short time can cause a sore throat. Ingesting low levels can cause vomiting, blood and heart problems, and a tingling in the hands and feet. Ingesting very high levels can result in death. Skin contact can cause irritation. EPA has determined that certain types of arsenic are known to cause cancer. For more information on health problems associated with arsenic exposure, refer to the arsenic fact sheet at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts2.pdf.

Bauxite Ore: Bauxite ore is rock that contains aluminum oxides (the elements to produce alumina).

Cadmium: Cadmium is a naturally occurring element that is also used in the production of metals, in this instance, aluminum. Exposure to low levels of cadmium for a long period of time can cause kidney, lung and fragile bone problems. Breathing very high levels can cause severe lung problems. Ingesting very high levels can cause vomiting and diarrhea. EPA has determined that exposure to cadmium can possibly cause cancer. More information of the health effects of cadmium can be found at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts5.pdf.

CERCLA Redevelopment Assessment: This is similar to a preliminary assessment, but geared more toward giving potential buyers, lenders, developers and current owners information

regarding the environmental condition of the property.

Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA): The law authorized EPA to identify parties responsible for contamination and compel those parties to clean up the sites. CERCLA also granted authority for a federal fund to be created (called “Superfund”) to pay for investigating and cleaning up the nation’s most serious uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. Also see “Superfund” below.

Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC): The CIC is the lead EPA staff member responsible for site-specific community involvement and outreach. The CIC works with the on-scene coordinator (OSC) or remedial project manager (who are responsible for technical site activities) to inform the public about testing and cleanup activities and address questions and concerns of local residents.

Community Involvement Plan (CIP): One of many tools that EPA uses to meaningfully engage and collaborate with communities during site assessments, investigations, cleanup and reuse activities. CIPs provide information about the EPA’s past, ongoing, and planned site activities. They also serve as a guide to address community concerns and to keep residents informed and engaged in site-related decisions.

Chromium: Chromium is a naturally occurring element that is also used in making steel, dyes, and in plating, tanning leather and preserving wood. Exposure to high levels of chromium can cause irritation of the nose, breathing problems and asthma. Ingesting chromium can cause stomach ulcers and anemia. EPA has determined that chromium is known to cause cancer. More information on chromium can be found at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts7.pdf.

Cyanide: Cyanide is a chemical often used in the extraction of ore. Exposure to high levels of cyanide for a short period of time can cause brain and heart problems, including coma and death. Inhaling low levels of cyanide over a period of time can cause breathing problems, chest pain, headaches, vomiting, and blood and thyroid changes. EPA has found no evidence that cyanide causes cancer. For more information on cyanide can be found at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts8.pdf.

Ecological Risk Assessment: A study to determine the extent to which site contaminants pose a risk to plants, wildlife and the natural environment.

Gypsum: Gypsum is a calcium rich rock that can be used to reduce aluminum toxicity in soil.

Human Health Risk Assessment: A study to determine the extent to which site contaminants pose a risk to human health.

Hazard Ranking System (HRS): The HRS is a system used by EPA to “score” a site based on a number of factors. EPA uses the HRS score to decide whether a site should be placed on the NPL. HRS scores compare the relative hazards for different sites, taking into account the impact sites have on water, soil and air as well as the number of people potentially affected by the contamination.

Feasibility Study: The feasibility study is an analysis to determine how practical or cost effective a cleanup option or technology is. For more information on the FS phase of the cleanup process, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/rifs.htm.

Lead: Lead is a naturally occurring metal that is used in producing metal products, batteries, paints ceramics and solder. Over-exposure to lead can cause damage to the nervous system, weakness, anemia and reproductive problems. Exposure

to very high levels can cause brain and kidney damage, and even death. More information on lead can be found at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts13.pdf.

Limestone: Limestone is a calcium rich rock that can be used in metal processing to attach to “impurities” and make them easier to remove.

National Priorities List (NPL): The NPL is the list of the nation’s top priority hazardous waste sites that are eligible for investigation and cleanup under the Superfund program.

Operable Unit (OU): EPA sometimes divides a site cleanup into separate, more manageable, units. They can be divided either by location or by type of contamination. At the North Alcoa site, the cleanup has been divided into two operable units.

Preliminary Assessment: The preliminary assessment is the process of gathering information about site conditions to evaluate whether the site poses a threat to a community’s health or the environment, and whether further investigation is needed. For more information about preliminary assessments, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/pasi.htm.

Potentially Responsible Party (PRP): An individual, company or other entity that may be potentially responsible for contributing to contamination at a site. When possible, the EPA through administrative or legal action requires PRPs to clean up the site directly or reimburse the Agency for cleanup costs it incurs.

Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (PA/SI): See “Preliminary Assessment” and “Site Inspection.” For more information on the PA/SI phases of the cleanup process, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/pasi.htm.

Radium: Radium is a naturally occurring radioactive metal that historically was used in luminous paints for clock dials, instrument panels and compasses. The radium at the North Alcoa site was in the bauxite ore. Exposure to radium can cause anemia, cataracts and cancer. More information on radium can be found at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts144.pdf.

Record of Decision (ROD): A record of decision is a publicly available document that describes the site cleanup options and explains the EPA's rationale for making the final cleanup decision. The ROD also contains the Agency's responses to public comments or questions that were considered before the final decision. For more information about RODs, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/rod.htm.

Remedial Action (RA): The term RA refers to the long-term site cleanup construction and associated activities that are performed after engineers have created the designs and specifications needed to implement the cleanup. For more information about the RA process, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/rdra.htm.

Remedial Design (RD): The step prior to the RA in which the EPA develops or oversees the engineering design and specifications of the cleanup. For more information about the RD process, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/rdra.htm.

Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RD/RA): See "Remedial Design" and "Remedial Action." For more information on the RD/RA process, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/rdra.htm.

Remedial Investigation: The remedial investigation is a study designed to gather data needed to determine the nature and extent of site contamination. For more information on the RI/FS

phase of the cleanup process, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/rifs.htm.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study: See "Remedial Investigation" and "Feasibility Study." For more information, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/rifs.htm.

Remedial Project Manager (RPM): The EPA or state person responsible for overseeing on-site cleanups. In some cases involving multiple sites in an area, RPMs may coordinate together and with EPA on-scene coordinators (OSCs) in overseeing or directing the cleanups.

Residue Disposal Area (RDA): Also known as "Residue Drying Areas", these are often termed "mud lakes" and are the large areas where the bauxite residue (red mud) is deposited, dried, and stacked.

Site Inspection (SI): Typically following a preliminary assessment, air, water and soil at the site are tested to determine what hazardous substances are present, whether they are being released into the environment and whether they pose a threat to human health or the environment. These activities are collectively referred to as a "site inspection." For more information, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/cleanup/pasi.htm.

Soda Ash: Soda ash is a white granular material with a high pH. Over exposure to soda ash can cause skin, eye and throat irritation.

Sodium Hydroxide: Sodium hydroxide, more commonly known as lye, is a strong chemical often used in solvents. Direct exposure to sodium hydroxide can cause severe skin burns. Inhaling low levels can cause irritation of the nose and throat. Inhaling high levels can cause swelling and damage to the lungs. Ingesting sodium hydroxide can cause vomiting; abdominal pain; burns in the

mouth, throat, and stomach; hemorrhaging and death. More information on sodium hydroxide can be found at www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts178.pdf.

Spent Pot Liner: Spent pot liner is a waste created in making aluminum. Because the liner absorbs contaminants like cyanide in the process, it is also a hazardous material.

Superfund Alternative Site: A Superfund Alternative site follows the same investigation and cleanup process as a traditional Superfund site without being listed on the NPL.

Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI): SuperJTI provides training and employment opportunities for people living in communities affected by Superfund sites. Many of these areas are historically under-represented minority and low-income neighborhoods and areas burdened with significant environmental challenges. EPA's goal is to help these communities develop job opportunities that remain long after a Superfund site has been cleaned up. For more information on SuperJTI, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/community/sfjti/.

Technical Assistance Plan (TAP): A TAP enables community groups to hire an independent technical advisor to help them understand technical site information and conduct outreach about site decisions. Unlike other forms of community technical assistance, which are funded by EPA or other government entities, TAPs are funded by potentially responsible parties (PRP) as part of their legal agreement to conduct the site investigation and cleanup. For more information on TAPs, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/community/pdfs/toolkit/techassist-tap.pdf.

Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC): The TASC program provides services through a national EPA contract. Under the contract, a contractor provides scientists, engineers and other professionals to review and explain information to communities throughout the United States and U.S. territories. TASC services support community efforts to get more involved and work productively with EPA to address environmental issues. For more information on TASC, visit www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tasc/.

APPENDIX E

Abbreviations and Acronyms

CAG	Community Advisory Group
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980
CIC	Community Involvement Coordinator
CIP	Community Involvement Plan
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FS	Feasibility Study
HRS	Hazard Ranking System
IDOT	Illinois Department of Transportation
ILDCEO	Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Illinois EPA	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
NPL	National Priorities List
NRC	National Response Center
OU	Operable Unit
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator
PA	Preliminary Assessment
PA/SI	Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation
PRP	Potentially Responsible Party
RA	Remedial Action
RD	Remedial Design
RI	Remedial Investigation
RDA	Residue Disposal Areas
RDC	East St. Louis Redevelopment Commission
RD/RA	Remedial Design/Remedial Action
RI/FS	Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
ROD	Record of Decision
RPM	Remedial Project Manager
SI	Site Inspection
SuperJTI	Superfund Job Training Initiative
TAG	Technical Assistance Grant
TASC	Technical Assistance Services for Communities
TAP	Technical Assistance Plan