

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

COMMUNITY LAUNDROMAT SUPERFUND SITE
AVA, MISSOURI

DECEMBER 2007



U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 7



THE U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S (EPA)
SUPERFUND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM IS COMMITTED
TO PROMOTING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CITIZENS AND THE AGENCY.

ACTIVE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IS CRUCIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF ANY PUBLIC PROJECT.

EPA'S COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES AT THE
COMMUNITY LANDROMAT SUPERFUND SITE
ARE DESIGNED TO

INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE NATURE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SITE,

INVOLVE THE PUBLIC IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL AFFECT THEM,

INVOLVE THE PUBLIC IN THE RESPONSES UNDER CONSIDERATION TO REMEDY THESE ISSUES, AND

INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE PROGRESS BEING MADE TO IMPLEMENT THE REMEDIES.

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Section 1.0

Overview of the Community Involvement Plan

The EPA developed this Community Involvement Plan to facilitate two-way communication between the community surrounding the Community Laundromat Superfund Site (site) and EPA and to encourage community involvement in site activities. The EPA will utilize the community involvement activities outlined in this plan to ensure that residents are continuously informed and provided opportunities to be involved.

This Community Involvement Plan addresses the site's relationship to the community and EPA (Section 2.0), provides a background of the community (Section 3.0), presents EPA's community involvement program (Section 4.0), and provides a listing of resources available (Appendices). EPA drew upon several information sources to develop this plan, including community interactions and site files.

Section 2.0

Capsule Site Description

2.1 Site History, Investigations and Cleanup Plan

The Community Laundromat Site was discovered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in 2000 during an investigation at the nearby Sentinel Wood Treating Site. The laundromat site is located at 306 Northwest 12th Avenue in Ava, Missouri. A coin-operated public laundry and dry cleaning business operated at this location until 1995. The laundry used tetrachloroethylene or PCE for dry cleaning.

An EPA contractor conducted a site screening investigation at the site in July 2001. Soil and ground water samples were collected. PCE was found in some soil samples above soil screening levels established by EPA and MDNR. PCE was found in some ground water samples above safe drinking water standards. The owner of the former laundromat reported two PCE spills that occurred in the 1980s that could explain the PCE in the soil and ground water at the site.

In early 2002, MDNR conducted a removal assessment investigation at the site. PCE levels were found in soil above benchmarks set by EPA and MDNR. The main concern is to protect public drinking water supply wells from PCE contamination in soil and ground water. Since February 2001, Ava's public drinking supply wells have been monitored on a quarterly basis. PCE has not been found in any of the wells through these sampling activities. EPA has determined that the PCE contamination will need to be addressed and the Agency is currently evaluating options for implementing the cleanup.

2.2 Site Description/Location

The Community Laundromat Site is located at 306 Northwest 12th Avenue in Ava, Missouri. Ava is approximately 60 miles southeast of Springfield. This is a mixed industrial, commercial, agricultural and residential area.

Section 3.0 Community Background

3.1 Community Profile

Ava is the county seat for Douglas County, Missouri. The area population includes 3,021 residents in the town of Ava and 13,084 residents in the county.

The business community is diverse with many locally owned and operated businesses as well as big name retailers. Copeland Corporation is a major employer in the area.

The community is the home of the Fox Trotting Horse Breed Association, which hosts two annual festivals that draws thousands to the town.

3.2 History of Community Involvement

A mailing list composed of local residents, businesses, media representatives and relevant public officials was developed in 2000. This mailing list is used for all three Superfund sites located in Ava (12th Avenue Solvents, Sentinel Wood Treating and Community Laundromat Sites). A fact sheet was mailed in April 2002 to invite local residents to form a Community Advisory Group (CAG). EPA convened a meeting on April 29, 2002 at the Ava Middle School to describe the functions of the proposed CAG. Following this meeting, a CAG was formed. The CAG met on a regular basis from 2002 until it was discontinued in 2005. Tylene Coonts served as the chairperson of the CAG. The CAG chairperson was kept informed about site activities during meetings scheduled at the Lions Club facility during the past several years and through frequent telephone calls from EPA and MDNR.

The local community was invited to a meeting on January 4, 2005, to obtain updates about the 12th Avenue Solvents, the Sentinel Wood Treating and Community Laundromat Sites. A fact sheet was mailed in December 2004 to invite the public to the meeting. A display ad was placed in the December 23, 2004 and December 30, 2004 editions of *The Douglas County Herald* as another way to invite the public to the January 4, 2005 meeting.

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) completed a site health assessment in March 2005. The MDHSS mailed a fact sheet in January 2005 with findings from the health assessment.

3.3 Analysis of Key Community Issues and Concerns

EPA conducted 15 community interviews on March 13-14, 2007, with a cross section of community residents, municipal and county officials and business leaders. Questions used during the interviews are in Appendix D of this plan. The following subsections summarize the major issues and concerns that EPA heard during the interviews.

Public Awareness about the Site – All of the interviewees were aware of at least one of the Superfund sites in Ava. The 12th Avenue Solvents and Sentinel Wood Treating Sites were the most recognized due to ongoing removal activities that are visible to local residents. Fewer interviewees were aware that the former laundromat is now a Superfund site.

Several of the interviewees had attended previous public meetings and had received fact sheets about the sites. All of the people interviewed agreed that the junior high school is a good location for EPA's public meetings on the three sites.

For the most part, the interviewees stated that they no longer hear much concern about the Ava Superfund sites from area residents. Local residents understand that progress is being made on these sites. Many interviewees stated that they are currently more concerned about other environmental issues such as trash and debris removal from rural areas and the city sewage system.

Community Information Needs – EPA has relied on a variety of methods to inform the local community about the site. These methods include mailing fact sheets, hosting public meetings, and establishing and maintaining the site repository at the local library. In addition to the mailings, EPA published display ads in *The Douglas County Herald* to announce public meetings and comment periods. Interviewees agreed that fact sheets and public meetings were appropriate methods to inform them about progress at the sites. Interviewees said Thursday evenings were good nights for meetings and the junior high was identified as a good location. One interviewee recommended that EPA ask the local AM radio station (KKOZ 1430) to include announcements about future site meetings. Almost all of the interviewees were aware that site documents are maintained at the Douglas County Public Library, but few had traveled to the library to review these materials.

Cleanup Schedule – Several of the interviewees inquired about the timeline for cleaning up the Ava sites. All were hopeful that cleanup work could be accomplished as soon as possible. EPA explained that great progress had been made at the 12th Avenue Solvents and Sentinel Wood Treating Sites. However, cleanup work will continue for many years at these two sites. Thus far, only investigative work has been initiated at the Community Laundromat Site. However, EPA anticipates that removal work will begin in the near future at this site.

Health Concerns – Two interviewees expressed some concern that the contaminants from the Ava Superfund sites may have contributed to cancer occurrences in the area. EPA responded that

the Douglas County Health Department had completed a study several years ago and determined that there was no evidence of a cancer cluster in this area.

Section 4.0

EPA's Community Involvement Program

4.1 Goals

This community involvement program is designed to keep the public informed of site progress, establish two-way communication, and provide opportunities for public input during site activities. A primary goal is to involve the community in site cleanup decisions as required under Superfund law.

4.2 Objectives

EPA will strive to achieve the following community involvement objectives:

1. Share site information with the community on a timely basis.
2. Encourage and publicize opportunities for community input regarding site activities and proposed cleanup plans.
3. Notify local officials and businesses in the site area before field work or other site actions take place.
4. Maintain site information in the community and make it easily available to all interested residents, public officials and business representatives.
5. Increase the level of awareness and understanding of the Superfund investigation and cleanup process.

4.3 Key Messages

EPA will use the following key messages for community involvement activities related to the Community Laundromat Superfund Site:

1. EPA is addressing the site using the Superfund process and will comply with Superfund requirements and EPA technical criteria.
2. Throughout site activities, EPA will share information about the site and include community members in cleanup decisions.

4.4 Target Audiences

The Community Laundromat Site community involvement program will focus on the following audiences:

- Residents and businesses located near the site location.

- Elected and administrative officials of local, state and federal agencies serving the site community.
- Area news media as a vehicle for informing the general public.

Appendix A, Key Contacts, lists government officials, local businesses and news media identified to date. EPA has developed a site mailing list that includes residents and businesses located near the site, local and national elected officials and media officials.

4.5 Community Involvement Activities

Activities outlined in this plan are designed to fulfill Superfund public involvement requirements and address community concerns regarding the Community Laundromat Site. During the interviews, EPA asked community members to identify the most effective methods to provide information, allow for input, and reach the largest number of persons in the target audiences.

Those interviewed suggested EPA share fact sheets with the companies located near the site as the most appropriate vehicle for informing the local community about site activities. In addition, most interviewees stated that *The Douglas County Herald* was the newspaper of choice for the local community and would also serve as a communication outlet for release of site information.

EPA will continue the following community involvement activities during cleanup activities for the Community Laundromat Site:

- Publicize a point of contact for site information.
- Maintain the site information repository and administrative record file.
- Update the site mailing list.
- Prepare and distribute fact sheets/updates about site activities.
- Provide informal briefings for interested public officials or business representatives when deemed appropriate.
- Hold public meetings or availability sessions about site activities, as required by Superfund or community interest.

4.5.1 EPA, MDNR and ATSDR Points of Contact

Eric Nold
 On-Scene Coordinator
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 901 North 5th Street
 Kansas City, KS 66101
 Tel: 913-551-7488
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Community Involvement Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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Sue Casteel
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Registry (ATSDR)
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casteel.sue@epa.gov

Wane Roberts
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
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wane.roberts@dnr.mo.gov

Lorena Locke
Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services
Bureau of Environmental Epidemiology
P.O. Box 570, 930 Wildwood
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Tel: 573-526-6946
lorena.locke@dhss.mo.gov

4.5.2 Administrative Record

EPA has established an Administrative Record repository for the 12th Avenue Solvents Site and the Sentinel Wood Treating Site at the Douglas County Public Library, 301 S.W. 3rd Street in Ava. The repository includes site work plans, sampling results, technical reports, fact sheets and other site updates and this Community Involvement Plan. When EPA has determined the best approach for responding to the Community Laundromat Site, the Agency will create an Administrative Record for the site at the Douglas County Library. Administrative record files are also housed at the EPA Region 7 offices in Kansas City, Kansas. Appendix C includes specific location information for site repositories.

4.5.3 Site Mailing List

EPA has developed and will maintain a mailing list for the Community Laundromat Site. The list includes residents that live near the site, local, state and federal officials representing the site community, businesses located near the site, and local news media contacts. EPA will update the list before each mailing.

4.5.4 Fact Sheets or Site Updates

EPA will provide fact sheets or site updates at key stages of the site cleanup process to summarize findings or other important information. EPA will make every effort to use clear, easily understood language. All written materials will include site contact names and phone numbers, repository location, and opportunities for community involvement.

4.5.5 Public Notices

Should the site ever require an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis proposed cleanup plan, EPA will place a public notice in the local newspaper when the plan is released to the community. The ad will include a brief summary of cleanup options considered for the site; EPA's recommended alternative; the date for the public comment period; and sources of contact for additional information.

4.5.6 Public Comment Period

A 30-day public comment period would be initiated if an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis proposed cleanup plan is ever produced for this site. Comment periods provide interested community members with an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed cleanup plans for sites.

4.5.7 Other Sources of Information

The Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response maintains a national website with general information about CERCLA/Superfund and related programs at <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/>. Site-specific questions should be directed to the EPA Community Involvement Coordinator Dianna Whitaker (contact information is available in Section 4.5.1 and in Appendix A).

4.6 Evaluation of Community Involvement Program

EPA will monitor community needs and input regarding the usefulness of the communication activities undertaken in this program. EPA will make every effort to address citizen concerns about the site using channels and formats suggested by the local community. EPA will evaluate and adjust the program as needed to address evolving issues and incorporate new approaches to improve the effectiveness of communication activities during the course of site cleanup.

**Appendix A
Key Contacts**

A. Federal Elected Officials

The Honorable Christopher Bond

U.S. Senate

Washington, D.C. Office

274 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Tel: 202-224-5721

Springfield Office

300 S. Jefferson, Suite 401

Springfield, MO 65806

Tel: 417-864-8258

The Honorable Claire McCaskill

U.S. Senate

Washington, D.C. Office

493 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

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Springfield Office

324 Park Central West, Suite 101

Springfield, MO 65806

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The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. Office

2440 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Tel: 202-225-2406

Cape Girardeau Office

The Federal Building, 339 Broadway

Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tel: 573-335-0101

B. State Elected Officials

The Honorable Matt Blunt

Governor, Office of the Governor

Missouri Capitol Building, Room 216

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Tel: 573-751-3222

The Honorable Van Kelly

Missouri House of Representatives

District 144

201 West Capitol Avenue, Room 402

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Tel: 573-751-2205

The Honorable Dan Clemens

Missouri State Senate, District 20

State Capitol Building, Room 418

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Tel: 573-751-4008

C. Local Officials

Donald Potter

Presiding Commissioner
Douglas County Commission
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Tel: 417-683-4714

Danny Dry

Associate Commissioner
Douglas County Commission
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Tel: 417-683-4714

Richard Mitchell

Associate Commissioner
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Leon Harris

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Ric Englehardt

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D. Federal Agency Officials

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Dianna Whitaker

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Sue Casteel

Regional Representative
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease
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Kansas City, KS 66101
Tel: 913-551-1312
casteel.sue@epa.gov

E. State Agency Officials

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Hazardous Waste Program
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Jefferson City, MO 65102
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wane.roberts@dnr.mo.gov

Lorena Locke

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Bureau of Environmental Epidemiology
P.O. Box 570, 930 Wildwood
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Tel: 573-526-6946
lorena.locke@dhss.mo.gov

G. Media Contacts

Newspapers

Douglas County Herald

304 East Washington, P.O. Box 577
Ava, MO 65608
Tel: 417-683-4181
Tel: 417-683-4181

Springfield News-Leader

651 Boonville
Springfield, MO 65806
Tel: 417-836-1100

West Plains Daily Quill

P.O. Box 110
West Plains, MO 65775
Tel: 417-256-9191

Television

KOLR (CBS, Television 10)

P.O. Box 1716
Springfield, MO 65801

KOZK (PBS, Television 21)

P.O. Box 21
Springfield, MO 65801

KYTV (NBS, Channel 3)

P.O. Box 3500
Springfield, MO 65808

KSPR (ABC, Television 33)

1359 Saint Louis St.
Springfield, MO 65802

Radio

KKOZ AM/FM

Art Corum
News Director
P.O. Box 386
Ava, MO 65608

**Appendix B
Meeting Location**

Ava Middle School
Brad Blackemeier
Principal
507 NE 3rd Street
Ava, MO 65608
Tel: 417-683-3835

Appendix C
Repository Locations

Douglas County Public Library
301 S.W. 3rd Street
Ava, MO 65608

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 7
Records Center
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101

Appendix D
Community Interview Questionnaire

1. How long have you lived or worked in this community?
2. What do you think is the most important environmental problem facing your community today?
3. What do you know about the Superfund Program?
4. Are you aware that the 12th Street Solvents Site? (Provide background information about the site).
5. Are you aware of the Sentinel Wood Treating Site? (Provide background information).
6. Are you aware of the Community Laundromat Site? (Provide background information).
7. From what you know or have heard of the situation, do you have any major concerns about your own health or safety?
8. Have you heard anyone express other concerns? Have you been hearing any talk about the sites from other residents or business people?
9. Do you want to suggest individuals or groups who should be included on the project *mailing list*?
10. When EPA schedules any public meetings about the site, what day and time would be most convenient for you?
11. What do you think would be the best location for public meetings in your area?
12. How can EPA best provide you with information concerning site activities? How would you like to be informed (mail, newspapers, television, radio)?
13. How often do you want to receive information about the sites?
14. What radio and television stations and newspapers do you listen to/watch or read?
15. An information repository has been established for the site environmental documents at the Douglas County Public Library. Were you aware of this repository and are you likely to visit the library to review these materials?
16. Do you have any other questions or comments that you'd like to express?