



EPA conducting sampling

Omni Polymers COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

Introduction

The goal of this Community Involvement Plan (CIP) is to encourage and facilitate community engagement throughout the cleanup at the Omni Polymers Time-Critical Removal Superfund site.

This CIP describes how EPA involves the community and addresses local needs during the Superfund process. EPA and the community will work together by using the tools described in this plan.

Community involvement activities at the site are designed to inform the public of cleanup activities and include the community in the decision-making process. EPA defines the “community” as those people and entities who have an interest in or are affected by the site. EPA also recognizes that other stakeholders, including local, state and federal agencies, may have an interest in the site. This CIP is based on a series of community interviews conducted in May and June 2026 with the affected community and stakeholders in accordance with EPA’s Superfund community involvement and cleanup guidance. The CIP is the culmination of a planning process as well as a “living document,” meaning that it can be updated or revised over the course of site cleanup to reflect long-term changes in the community.

Site Background

The site, located at 1925 Nebraska Ave, Toledo, OH 43607, was operated from 2022 to 2024 by the Omni Polymers International Corp. as a bulk plastic waste grinding and container reconditioning facility. The building was barred from operation in May 2024 after an inspection by the Toledo Fire Prevention Bureau and Environmental Services revealed improper chemical storage, a non-operational fire suppression system, and evidence of ground-up plastics washing into Swan Creek. After the city requested assistance, EPA formally began cleanup operations in September 2025. The site had been categorized as a Time Critical Removal Site under the Superfund Program.

EPA assessment of the site revealed around 2,370 containers, some potentially contaminated with elevated levels of cyanide, sulfide, arsenic, cadmium and chromium. They found an estimated total waste volume of 234,123 gallons.



Images depicting containers and totes at the Omni Polymers Site

The work performed by EPA included

- Identification of the chemicals stored on site,
- Consolidation, packaging, and removal of all hazardous materials for off-site disposal,
- And active air monitoring throughout all cleanup activities to ensure worker and public safety.

Time-critical removal operations were completed on July 7, 2026. The site's future status is to be determined.



Post-removal image of the Omni Polymers Site

THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTION PLAN

Active and participatory community involvement is an important part of the cleanup process. It is also regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as Superfund. This CIP follows community involvement requirements in CERCLA Section 117, 42 U.S.C. section 9617, and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 CFR section 300.430. EPA's Community Involvement Program is designed to facilitate participation of community members throughout the cleanup process, including the investigation phase and the remedy selection phase.

About the Community

Lucas County is in the northwest corner of Ohio, right on the border with Michigan. It is bordered by Lake Erie to the east and the Maumee River to the southeast. The county is governed by an elected board of commissioners. The city of Toledo is governed by an elected city council. The site is in Toledo District 1 under Councilman John Hobbs III.

Elected Officials

The elected officials for the site as of July 2026 are below. Web links to the most up-to-date information are also included to account for potential changes.

- City District 1 Councilwoman: John Hobbs III, hobbs.john@toledo.oh.gov, Visit <https://toledo.oh.gov/government/city-council/council-members>
- U.S. House of Representatives 9th Congressional District of Ohio: Marcy Kaptur, (574) 204-2645. Visit <https://www.house.gov/representatives>
- U.S. Senate Statewide: Bernie Moreno, (216) 522-7272, and Jon Husted, (567) 304-3777. Visit www.senate.gov/senators.
- State Representative District 43: Michele Grim, (614) 644-6017, Visit <https://ohiohouse.gov/members/directory>
- State Senate District 11: Paula Hicks-Hudson, (614) 466-5204. Visit <https://ohiosenate.gov/members/district-map>

Obtaining Community Input

EPA reached out to local community group, Junction Coalition, and conducted anonymous community interviews in May and June 2026 with eight community members and local stakeholders to inform this CIP.

Summary of What We Heard: Community Issues and Concerns

This section summarizes the feedback provided to EPA during anonymous community interviews for the CIP. Interviewees had limited awareness of the Omni Polymers Time-Critical Removal Superfund Site, with most unaware until recent EPA activity or community word of mouth. Most interviewees knew “something was wrong” at the site but lacked specifics on contaminants, container counts, timelines, and cleanup status.

Several said most residents likely did not know EPA was on site until recent outreach. A few thought the site was already a brownfield or mixed it up with nearby petrochemical incidents (e.g., prior styrene release, other facilities).

Concerns about the site covered safety and notification, cleanup transparency, accountability and oversight, communication approach, quality of life, and clarity of next steps.

Still, many community members welcomed EPA involvement. Many were satisfied with the visible progress of the cleanup. Community members were especially satisfied with the off-site disposal of the contaminants at the site. Community members were satisfied with the EPA's willingness to engage with local organizations and concerns.

Overall, residents were most satisfied when they saw concrete actions (containment, air monitoring, off-site disposal) and direct, two-way communication through trusted community channels.

Contaminants of Concern

Contaminants of concern are chemicals that have been identified for evaluation because they may pose a potential threat to human health or the environment. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) has a series of fact sheets summarizing hazardous substances, their health effects, and exposure risks called ToxFAQs.

You can find ToxFAQs at <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/TSP/index.aspx> For more information on contaminants at Superfund sites, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/contaminants-superfund-sites>. The chemicals below are the main contaminants of concern at the Omni Polymers Site.

Cyanide is a toxic chemical that can interfere with the body's ability to use oxygen. It may be present as a gas or as a solid that can dissolve in water. Cyanide is used in some industrial processes and may be released during fires or combustion events. Small amounts can also occur naturally in some foods and in smoke, but typical background levels are generally low.

Sulfides are sulfur-containing compounds that can occur as gases or solids. The form most noticed by people is hydrogen sulfide, a gas with a rotten-egg odor. Low levels may irritate the eyes, nose, or throat, and may cause headaches, while higher levels can be dangerous. Sulfides can occur naturally in low-oxygen environments such as wetlands, sewers, and some groundwater, and they are also used in certain industrial processes.

Arsenic is a natural element found in rocks and soil that can enter groundwater, surface water, air, and food. It cannot be seen, smelled, or tasted in water. Inorganic arsenic is more harmful

than other forms. Low levels over many years can cause skin changes, stomach problems, numbness or tingling, and raise the risk of certain cancers, including skin, bladder, or lung cancer. Higher dosages can cause nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, and can be very dangerous. Arsenic may occur naturally in some private wells and is used in some industrial processes, older pesticides and pressure-treated wood.

Cadmium is a soft metal found naturally in rocks and soil. It is used in some products, like nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cd) batteries, metal plating, and certain paints and plastics. Cadmium cannot be seen, smelled, or tasted in dust, soil, or water. The biggest everyday source is cigarette smoke, with smaller amounts also present in food. Cadmium can also be released to air and soil from industrial activities such as metal processing, welding, and smelting.

Chromium is a hard, shiny metal that occurs naturally in rocks and soil. It is used in the production of stainless steel and “chrome” finishes, and may also be found in some dyes, pigments, and wood preservatives.

Community Involvement Objectives

EPA’s community involvement objectives are to inform the community about work and answer questions.

Community Involvement Tools and Activities.

EPA has identified and developed tools and activities to better engage with and involve the community.

Community Meetings

EPA staff attended meetings held by community groups, local government, and other organizations upon request to share information about the Site and to address community questions, concerns, and comments. EPA coordinated with the community to identify appropriate opportunities and venues to deliver information about the Site.

EPA presented on June 15, 2026, at Junction Coalition’s monthly meeting on site cleanup progress and other Superfund sites in the area.

Webpage and Online Information Repository

EPA keeps site project information and reference materials online. For updates, visit: https://response.epa.gov/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=16479.

Briefings with Local Officials

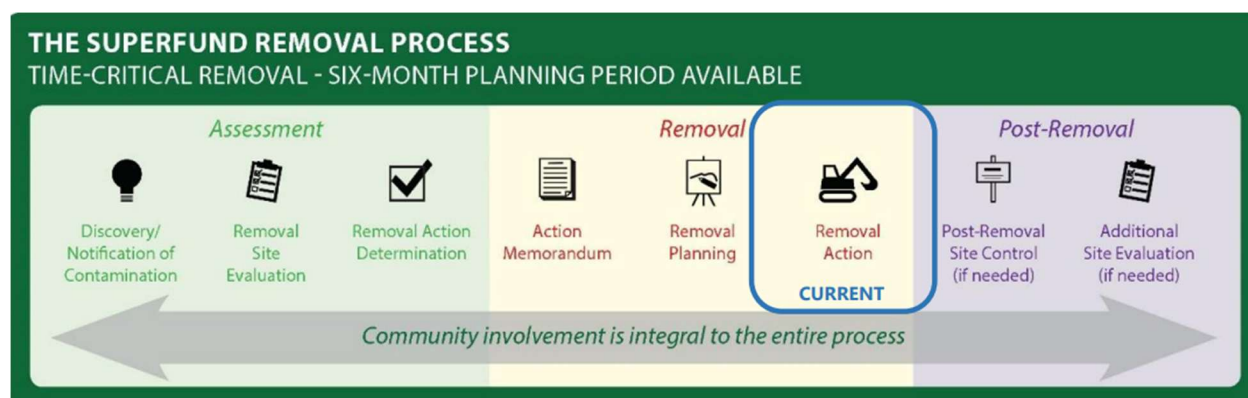
EPA staff briefed local, state, and federal government officials upon request, or through the course of necessary correspondence to convey relevant site information.

Superfund Removal Process

Removal responses are common at Superfund sites when the contamination poses an immediate threat to human health and the environment. Removal actions tend to be swift responses to immediate threats from hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants to eliminate dangers to the public. Removals are classified as either emergency, time-critical or non-time-critical, depending on the extent and type of contamination.

Superfund Removal Process –Time-Critical Removal

Time-critical removals are situations where EPA determines that a removal is appropriate and on-site removal activities must begin within six months. Examples include removal of drums or small volumes of contaminated soil and stabilization of lagoons. The following section describes the general steps in a time-critical removal.



Assessment

After the contamination is discovered, EPA evaluates if the site poses a threat to people and the environment and whether hazards need to be addressed immediately or additional site information will be collected.

Removal

The Action Memorandum describes the cleanup method chosen for the site and the reasons for the selection. Removal planning is the phase during which the plans for removal are designed, and then removal action begins.

Post-Removal

After the removal action, site controls are implemented to protect human health and the environment if needed. Additional site evaluation may take place to determine whether further action is needed.

EPA Contact Information

Natalia Smerage
On-Scene Coordinator
Smerage.Natalia@epa.gov
(734) 214-4997

Lina Wu
Community Involvement Coordinator
Wu.Lina@epa.gov
(312) 353-2886

Appendix A: map showing site location.

