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### Vapor Intrusion and Community Involvement

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## **Overview**

- USEPA Community Involvement Guidance
- Preparation
- Initial Community Outreach
- Maintaining Community Interest
- Distribution of Results





## **USEPA Guidance**

The USEPA supplies guidance for community involvement regarding Superfund sites which is very helpful regarding Vapor Intrusion studies as well. In a 2001 memo, a draft policy emphasizes that Agency programs should follow these six actions:

- Plan and budget for public involvement
- Identify interested parties
- Consider technical or financial assistance



- Conduct meaningful involvement activities
- ▲ Assimilate public input and provide good feedback

The ultimate goal of this guidance is to advocate and strengthen **early** and **meaningful** community participation in projects affecting the public.





# Preparation

Pre-planning is key for vapor intrusion studies involving residential communities.

- Define the study area
- Prepare a Community Involvement Plan (CIP)
- Budget for pre-sampling man-hours in the field (door knocking, public meetings, etc.)
- ▲ USEPA Occupied Dwelling Questionnaire, Access Agreements
- Document, document, document







## Preparation

### USEPA Occupied Dwelling Questionnaire

Appendix E: EPA's Occupied Dwelling Questionnaire

Appendix E contains the "Occupied Dwelling Questionnaire" that was originally presented in the EPA's Draft Guidance for Evaluating the Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air Pathway from Groundwater and Soils (Subsurface Vapor Intrusion Guidance; EPA 2002). This information is presented here to provide an example list of questions to ask and issues to be aware of when conducting indoor air samples. Several state health departments also provide indoor air sampling checklists, including Massachusetts (MassDEP, 2002) and California (DTSC 2005). It is recommended that a similar questionnaire be used when collecting indoor air samples at DoD sites.

OCCUPIED DWELLING QUESTIONNAIRE Indoor Air Assessment Survey

Cell Phone

At: Home, Work, Cell?

Work Phone:

6. Type of Home/Structure (check only one): Single Family Home, Duplex,

### Access Agreement

### PROJECT OWNER NAME, PROJECT NAME

RIGHT OF ENTRY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION

(Project, Location or Activity)

Right-of-Entry No.

Tract No., Address or Property I.D.

Name and Address of Owner

The undersigned, herein called the "Owner", in consideration for the mutual benefits of the work described below, hereby grants to the Project Owner Name, hereinafter called the "Owner", a right-of-entry upon the following terms and conditions:

1. The Owner hereby grants to the Owner an irrevocable and assignable right to enter in, on, over and across the land described in Schedule A, for a period not to exceed twenty four (24) months, beginning with the date of the signing of this instrument, and terminating with the earlier completion of the remediation or the filing of a notice of termination in the local land records by the representative of the Consulting Firm in charge of the **Vapor Intrusion Project** for use by the Owner, its representatives, agents, contractors and assigns, as a work area for environmental investigation and mitigation response; including the right to design, install and monitor mitigation systems and other interim measures; perform sub-slab air sampling, including the installation of sampling ports into the slab or basement floor (if applicable); indoor air sampling; outdoor background air sampling on the property (if applicable); assessment and inventory of residential containers and their contents as necessary to determine their potential impact to indoor air, assessment of the residential structure; soil gas sampling near the foundation of the home (if necessary); and installation and sampling of a groundwater

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Name:

Address:

Home Phone:

General Home Description

Basement? Yes. No.

Crawl Space? Yes. No.

of this Home/Structure?

5. How long have you lived at this location?

Condominium, Townhouse, Other.

Home/Structure Description: number of floors

If Yes, under how much of the house's area? %

2. What is the best time to call to speak with you?

3. Are you the Owner, Renter, Other (please specify)

4. Gender and ages of occupants/persons at this location?

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# Preparation

- ▲ Telephone Logs
- ▲ Sampling Status
- ▲ Result Status

Map ID	Status	Sampling Scheduled	Pick Up Scheduled	Sampling Complete	Results Received	Verbal Notification of Results	Packet Sent
Set A							
A-1	Scheduled	10-Jan-15	11-Jan-15				
A-2	Refusal	1-Jan-15					
A-3	Sampled	1-Jan-15	2-Jan-15	1	1		
A-4							
A-5							



Summer 2015 Sampling Event							
	Homes Set A	Homes Set B	Totals				
Total Homes identified for potential study inclusion							
Total Homes of Volunteer Residents							
Homes pending communication							
Homes Refused							
Vacant Homes							
Total Permission Contracts Complete							
Total Homes Scheduled to Date							
Total Homes Sampled to Date							
Number of Homes with Results Back							
Number of Residents Verbally Notified of Results							
Number of Tier I Homes							
Number of Tier II Homes							
Number of Tier III Homes							
Number of Tier IV Homes							
Result Packets Mailed							



# **Community Outreach**

Community Outreach encompasses many different avenues of communication and is vital to getting your project off the ground, and subsequently keeping the participants updated with clear and open lines of communication.

- ▲ Newspaper announcements
- Neighborhood mailers or Fact Sheets
- ▲ Social Media
- ▲ Email
- Hotline Phone
- Door Knocking





### **Maintaining Community Interest**

Once your study has begun and residents and homeowners have consented to indoor sampling of their homes, maintaining their trust with an open line of communication and project transparency is fundamental to continuation and completion of the project.

- ▲ In-home one-on-one meetings
- ▲ Direct phone communication
- Community Meetings
- Neighborhood mailers
- Social Media
- ▲ Direct Emails/Mass Emails





## **Distribution of Results**

Timely distribution of results demonstrates a sense of urgency and care to the participating residents of the study.

- ▲ Verbal notification of result receipt (telephone)
- Individual results provided to each participant (certified mail, or hand deliver)
- Community Meetings to discuss "big picture" results of study as a whole
- Library Repositories





### References

▲ Superfund Community Involvement Handbook, USEPA, April 2005

▲ Early and Meaningful Community Involvement, USEPA, October 12, 2001



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**Community Involvement** 





