

PPC 9505.1986(01)

FIELD ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN FOR
THE OCCIDENTAL INCINERATOR

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

September 18, 1986

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Field Assessment and Public Involvement Plan
for the Occidental Incinerator

FROM: Vanessa Musgrave, HQ

TO: Drew Lehman and Larry Ennist, Region II

It occurred to me that there are several points you may want to communicate to EPA Regional and State staff who have not been involved with the planning for the Occidental incinerator facility's public involvement plan to date. In particular, you need to be sure that these staff clearly understand the purpose and likely outcome of the field assessment and public involvement plan. Otherwise, I think, they may have unrealistic expectations about how much the plan can accomplish and what is involved in its preparation. Specifically, they should understand that:

The purpose of the field assessment is to research community concerns, not to provide new information to the community. We will mostly be listening in our interviews with citizens and officials in the Niagara Falls area.

The findings from this research effort will be used to prepare the public involvement plan.

The public involvement plan is only the first step in the overall public involvement program for the permitting process for the Occidental facility. The plan will describe the findings of the field assessment and describe activities to be undertaken by the State and Region during the permitting process to provide information to the public and provide opportunities for public input.

The plan will be consistent with the facility management plan. In addition, the plan will include public participation activities required under State and Federal law or regulations and will explain how to tailor those and other activities to the specific needs of the potentially affected public near the Occidental facility.

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One important reason for developing this plan is to have a model for public involvement plans to be developed by other Regions or States. In particular, because many facilities involve both RCRA and CERCLA activities, this plan can begin to address the coordination of these activities.

It is important that all staff involved with the Occidental incinerator understand that limits on the amount a public involvement plan can accomplish before the field assessment is conducted. A plan can help coordinate public involvement activities and prevent unnecessary friction with the community caused by haphazard or insufficient efforts. However, no one should expect the plan to identify activities that will resolve all the public's concerns and prevent any local opposition to Federal or State government actions.

If you have any questions or want to discuss these topics further, please give me a call at 202/332-4751.

cc: Susan Katz
Paul Counterman
Jim Dolan