Final Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2008

The Unified Community Advisory Board
Meeting started at 6:06 p.m.

The following list of attendees is annotated to indicate the affiliations of people other than Unified Community Advisory Board (UCAB) members.

Ignacio Gomez
Jerry Clevinger
Yolanda Herrera
Rich Kessler
Gerald Korte
Marti Lindsey
Ann Montaño
Alex Richards
Henry Vega
David Barrazza, City of Tucson
Fred Brinker, Tucson International Airport
Susan Hess, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)
Matthew Jefferson, Environmnental Protection Agency (EPA)
George Warner, ASC
Christine Aguirre, ERM
Chris Badyon, HGI
Mark Berge, 162 FW/EM
Donna Creech, Shaw Environmental
Stephen Dean, Tucson Water
Bill DiGuiseppi, Earth Tech
Don Ficklen, AFCEE
José Garcia, US EPA
Glenn Hoeger, Malcolm Pirnie
Estella K. Holmes, ASC
Tom Maertens, Earth Tech
George Maseeh, Malcolm Pirnie
Pamela Matthews, ERM
Geofrey Moss, ERM
Monica Ramirez, UA, SBRP
Kelly Reis, Earth Tech
Krissy Russell-Hedstrom, E^2 Inc.
Daniel Samorano, Raytheon
Beth Seppala, Earth Tech
John Scheatze, Brush Wellman
Fred Tillman, U.S. Geological Survey
Bill Wittman, Earth Tech

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Ignacio Gomez opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and thanking them for coming. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

MINUTES FROM JANUARY 2008 MEETING

Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes for the January 2008 meeting were approved by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

NEW BUSINESS

EPA 1,4-dioxane Update by Matthew Jefferson

Mr. Jefferson said EPA has been working with the Air Force on the advanced oxidation system at Air Force Plant 44 (AFP 44), which was part of the EPA Administrative Order, and the remedial investigation for the Tucson Airport Remediation Project (TARP) area for 1,4-dioxane.

Mr. Jefferson discussed a release of trichloroethene (TCE) into the drinking water in Scottsdale and Paradise Valley, explaining that the Indian Bend Wash Superfund Site is similar to the Tucson International Airport Authority Superfund Site, with two treatment facilities pumping TCE-contaminated groundwater and treating the water to be used as drinking water. A blower at the Miller Road treatment plant failed immediately after the operator left the plant, leaving a span of approximately 16 hours where TCE-contaminated water was introduced into the distribution service area.

He noted that typically these treatment systems have alarms that trigger automatic shut down of the treatment plant when pieces of equipment go down. In this case, the alarms did not trigger a shut down. The incident has raised EPA awareness to emergency response procedures, and EPA is now looking at the two treatment centers in Scottsdale (Miller Road Treatment Facility and the Central Groundwater Treatment Facility), as well as the TARP treatment facility here in Tucson. Discussions will be held with Tucson Water to review current protocol to prevent something similar happening in Tucson. Mr. Jefferson said that in the 5 years he has been here and in the 14 years TARP has been running, there has never been an incident.

George Maseeh added that the treatment facilities in Scottsdale are owned and operated by the Arizona American Water Company, a private water company, and serve a very small percentage of the City of Scottsdale. Mr. Jefferson discussed the differences in design between the Scottsdale treatment systems and the TARP plant, noting the water at the Tucson facility is treated and goes into a reservoir where it is blended and, therefore, is diluted before being released as drinking water.

Question: Henry Vega asked how the water from the Scottsdale facility mixed with the drinking water, and what precautions Tucson Water has in place to preclude this from happening.

Mr. Jefferson explained that when the blower failed, it stopped removing TCE from the groundwater but because the pump continued to run, contaminated water flowed directly into the drinking water supply. There are five alarms that should alert the system to equipment failure and shut down the treatment facility, but none of the alarms triggered. When the operator came in the next day and noticed the blower not running, he manually shut down the treatment plant. Mr. Jefferson noted that in

Tucson, when other problems have occurred, such as lightening strikes in the well field, the TARP plant has always shut down.

Fred Brinker suggested making calculations for the TARP plant to determine a worst-case scenario end-result concentration of TCE, saying that, because of the blending process, the concentration would still be under the drinking water standards.

Question: Don Ficklin asked what the Miller Road facility is doing to ensure this does not happen again.

Mr. Jefferson said they are still in the process of running a system diagnostic to figure out what went wrong, noting that this is the second equipment failure in six months.

TAG Grant Update by Krissy Russell-Headstrom

Mr. Gomez introduced Krissy Russell-Headstrom, who will be putting the 1,4-dioxane community service technical assistance process into operation. Ms. Russell-Headstrom said she is a contractor for EPA working under a "Technical Assistance Service for Communities" contract. She explained that EPA was contacted by Mr. Gomez to bring information from experts in 1,4-dioxane to the UCAB in a way that can be more easily understood. She said she needs to know 1) what topics people are interested in so she can prepare appropriate materials and 2) in what format these materials should be presented.

Mr. Gomez nominated a committee to work with Ms. Russell-Headstrom, and to set up a forum/town hall meeting to inform the community about the 1,4-dioxane problem and the process by which they hope to clean it up. He said he would approach the City of Tucson to provide a building in which to hold this forum. The members of the committee are Yolanda Herrera, Marti Lindsey, David Barraza, José Garcia, Denise Moreno, Monica Ramirez, Rich Kessler, Ann Montaño, and Ignacio Gomez. A report on the upcoming forum will be made at the next UCAB meeting.

Question: Mr. Barraza asked what timeline is being considered for this forum, so he can follow up regarding facility reservations.

Ms. Herrera said they were considering holding this forum in September, and that it should be city-wide because the contamination does not affect just the south side.

Ms. Russell-Headstrom distributed a hand-out describing the community assistance program.

Question: Ms. Montaño asked whether this is part of the TAG discussed at previous UCAB meetings.

Mr. Gomez explained that a TAG takes much more time and effort to put together; this program does the same thing as a TAG but makes it much easier for the community. Mr. Garcia clarified that this program is not a grant but a contract, and agreed that this process is much shorter without additional paperwork on the community side.

Question: Ms. Lindsey asked whether this required a non-profit organization, as does the TAG.

No non-profit organization involvement is necessary.

EPA West Cap, Texas Instruments Update by Matthew Jefferson

Mr. Jefferson said EPA has been working with the ADEQ to look into other possibilities for treatment of groundwater other than pump and treat for West Cap. Potassium permanganate and other options are being explored.

Mr. Gomez noted that the last time Martin Zeleznik attended UCAB, there were questions concerning what will happen when Texas Instruments (TI) manufacturing moves out, such as if this water will be pumped back into the aquifer when it is cleaned up. Mr. Jefferson explained that those questions are presently being researched.

Question: Ms. Lindsey asked for clarification of the magnitude of the problem.

Mr. Jefferson explained that the amount of water involved is very small, approximately 80 gallons per minute (gpm). He reminded the Board that the TI treatment system was used to treat the plume from West Cap, and since TI will not be receiving the water, another way to deal with it needs to be found. He pointed out that West Cap is a localized area and does not affect TARP or AFP 44.

Question: Mr. Vega said that, in the past, Burr Brown had experienced a point of depression as they inherited West Cap, and asked whether there were again larger concentration readings.

Mr. Jefferson said two wells were initially installed to lower the concentrations of TCE in the source area. Plans to extract this water to reduce the concentrations at the source area are now being discussed with ADEQ and EPA researchers in Ada, Oklahoma.

Question: Ms. Herrera asked if more specific information could be provided at the next meeting.

Mr. Jefferson said that as EPA gets a firm grasp of a strategy/plan going forward, it will be presented to the UCAB in detail. Ms. Herrera suggested that, since this problem has been in the news media, the city-wide town hall would be a good forum to let the public know that the problem is being remedied. Mr. Gomez added that this is part of West Plume B, and that the concentrations of TCE in that area have been pretty high.

Mr. Jefferson said that because there are currently two treatment plants (the TI plant and the Tucson ANG plant), a portion of the plume has been contained.

AFP 44 Update by Bill DiGuiseppi

Mr. DiGuiseppi discussed the EPA Administrative Order issued last year. He first discussed the modification of the existing pump-and-treat plant to enable the treatment of 1,4-dioxane through an advanced oxidation technology.

Hydrogen peroxide and ozone (which is created from liquid oxygen) are mixed to create a very strong oxidizer able to degrade 1,4-dioxane, TCE, dichloroethene, and other break-down products related to the solvents, as well as any other organic contaminants. He presented a diagram of the existing treatment plant and described how the process works. When the new system is online, the current towers will be used as a fully operational back-up system for some unknown, but limited, period of time.

Question: Mr. Vega asked how many gallons are being pumped at the site.

Mr. DiGuiseppi said the plant is currently pumping about 1,450 gpm. When the dioxane was discovered, the plant was pumping 2,200 to 2,300 gpm. Through modeling, the Air Force evaluated the necessary flow rate to ensure as little 1,4-dioxane escapes as possible, and this caused the pumping rate to be reduced. The new system is being designed to handle between 1,600 and 2,400 gpm. If necessary the system can be modified to pump lower or higher for more flexibility.

Question: Ms. Montaño asked what will happen with the carbon filters.

Mr. DiGuiseppi explained the carbon filters, which now capture the vapors from the primary strippers, will no longer be needed. The new system does not collect or transfer the contamination, it destroys the contamination completely.

Question: Ms. Russell-Headstrom asked if there is any residual discharge after the contaminant levels register non detect.

Mr. DiGuiseppi said that the current detection limit for 1,4-dioxane is around 1 to 2 micrograms per liter (µg/L). The Administrative Order requires 3 µg/L as a discharge standard, which is the goal for this system.

Question: Ms. Herrera asked for clarification if the carbon cylinders would still be used for the removal of TCE.

Mr. DiGuiseppi reiterated that the carbon filters will be used for a period of 30 days, during the time the new system is tested and adjusted. At the point the new system is

fully tested and operational, the filters will be by-passed completely because the advanced oxidizer destroys organic contaminants.

Mr. DiGuiseppi then discussed an evaluation through a focused Remedial Investigation (RI) of the 1,4-dioxane north of Los Reales Road. A RI of this area was done 15 to 20 years ago to define the nature and extent of TCE contamination—where it is now, where it is going, and what the remedial options are. This study is strictly about 1,4-dioxane. The RI/feasibility study may show that levels are low enough not to be a problem and the current treatment method is good, or it may show that there will be a problem and the TARP plant will need to institute something like the advanced oxidation system, or there may be other sources identified that need to be specifically addressed. This process will be ongoing over the next three to six months.

Mr. DiGuiseppi said the advanced oxidation system should be up and running in July/August this year, and by the October meeting the Board could be invited to tour the new system and the results of the start up and the effectiveness of it could be demonstrated.

Question: Ms. Herrera asked if that information could be available earlier for the September town hall meeting.

Mr. Warner said that, with the data collection and validation process, an earlier time frame cannot be committed to.

Question: Ms. Russell-Headstrom asked what breakdown products of the 1,4-dioxane will be left from the advanced oxidation process.

Mr. DiGuiseppi said there are several different breakdown paths, with the principal path a break down to ethylene glycols, which is what is in antifreeze. Dioxane has a detection limit of 1 μg/L, while ethylene glycols, which are alcohols, have a very high detection limit (1,000 μg/L). A breakdown of 10 μg/L of 1,4-dioxane will create something less than 10 μg/L of those breakdown products, which cannot be detected for by any existing method. Those breakdown products are much less toxic than the environmental contaminants being treated, so are much less of a concern than the 1,4-dioxane and the TCE.

Airport Property Update by Fred Brinker

Mr. Brinker said the Airport treatment plant is continuing to operate 99 percent of the time, pumping approximately 50 gpm and removing 15 to 20 pounds of TCE per month. The soil vapor extraction system is removing a couple of hundred pounds a month of TCE out of the TI zone. Following six months of operation, a report will be issued to Susan Hess of the ADEQ and Martin Zeleznik of the EPA summarizing the

treatment plant's progress to date. He said that the system needs more time to stabilize and that at the next UCAB meeting he will discuss the results in more depth.

Mr. Brinker also discussed the soil being dug up at the corner of Park and Teton. He said there are 200 tons of TOSCA-level dirt, which means polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) concentrations in excess of 50 ppb. This dirt is being shipped to Kettleman Hills in California. Another 900 tons of PCB-contaminated soil with concentrations below 50 ppb is being shipped to the Butterfield Landfill, a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Class C landfill regulated by EPA. In total, about 1,100 tons of PCB-contaminated soil has been removed so far. He said there is a transformer power pole in the middle of the 50 ppb soil. Additional excavation is required and the pole must be stabilized in order to remove the remaining contaminated soil.

Clean up remains to be done at the drains in Hangar 1, the eastern-most hangar, and the old Canale drain system south of the facility. The landfill closure is still being discussed with ADEQ regarding the design of the landfill cap and how to ensure it is sufficiently impervious.

Tucson Water 1,4-dioxane Management Update by Stephen Dean

Mr. Dean said Tucson Water continues to manage and mitigate 1,4-dioxane entering the TARP treatment plant and at the point of entry to the water supply by blending strategies. Since June 2003, over 229 sampling rounds (687 total samples) have been collected at the TARP treatment plant. The average concentration of 1,4-dioxane coming into the plant is 1.50 ppb, the effluent is 1.58 ppb, and at the point of entry is 1.11 ppb.

Mr. Gomez expressed concern that the water is being blended with the Avra Valley water and distributed to northeast Tucson. He said it seems the concentrations have been slowly creeping up. Mr. Dean said the numbers vary slightly, with a difference of perhaps a tenth of a part per billion. He said the concentrations are constantly being monitored with a mass balance calculations based on every-Tuesday samples. Mr. Gomez acknowledged the maximum limits set by EPA for Arizona and California are 3 to 6 ppb, and that Tucson Water is within that parameter. Mr. Dean said the high alarm is set at 1.75 ppb and the high-high is 2.0 ppb, in order to ensure levels remain below the maximum allowable levels.

Question: Ms. Lindsey asked why the Tucson Water Annual Report does not report 1,4-dioxane.

Mr. Dean explained that Tucson Water is required to report volatile organic compounds; 1,4-dioxane is not an EPA- or ADEQ-regulated contaminant and therefore is not included in the report. Mr. Warner added that 1,4-dioxane is included on

Contaminant Candidate List 3, and will probably have a maximum reportable limit in 10 years.

Ms. Herrera asked Monica Ramirez to ask questions elicited at the Board's earlier luncheon meeting with Ms. Russell-Headstrom. Ms. Ramirez asked where exactly the TARP water is going (i.e., zip codes), so they could identify mailings to the specific communities and populations getting that water.

Mr. Dean said the water is dispersed to a large area of population in north Tucson, northwest Tucson, and to a degree, north and east. Mr. Dean reiterated that testing is done every Tuesday, along with TCE at influent/effluent and 1,4-dioxane influent/effluent and at the point of entry at the distribution system. Ms. Moreno asked for clarification that testing is being done but that the concentrations do not have to be reported to the public; Mr. Dean said that without regulatory requirements from EPA and ADEQ, the sampling is discretionary for internal purposes.

Mr. Brinker explained that when 1,4-dioxane first was discovered, Tucson Water did an extensive outreach to all the people in their service, including mailers in the bills and articles in the newspaper, covering the issues with dioxane and what levels could be expected. The level of 3 μg/L is an EPA drinking water advisory level and, if Tucson Water does not exceed 3 μg/L, there is no obligation or need to report it. Ms. Ramirez said they were just trying to identify the communities that would benefit most in attending the educational meetings the subcommittee designs. Mr. Brinker said that because of the nature of the type of water system in Tucson, which is a distributed system, it is not possible to determine exact boundaries.

Ms. Herrera added, as a resident who has lived here 50+ years, she wanted to make sure the same mistakes made with TCE are not made again with 1,4-dioxane. Mr. Brinker and Mr. Jefferson both stated that is the reason for their updates to UCAB, and noted that the most conservative actions are being. Ms. Ramirez expressed concern that if these questions keep coming up, it is a reflection that EPA and ADEQ are not making the information transparent. Mr. Gomez added that while the technology on 1,4-dioxane has not been as advanced as TCE, he felt the city knew about the harmful effects of TCE way back when it was first discovered. He asked that the UCAB continue to work together to keep solving the problems in an orderly fashion.

Mr. Brinker requested Ms. Ramirez send her list of questions to himself and to Mr. Dean.

Mr. Dean then explained the fail-safe controls in place at the treatment plant. There are 12 parameters, any one of which will cause a master-com shut down of the train impacted by it. The system is monitored from the central control room 24 hours per day 7 days per week. There is also a person who checks Monday through Friday to

verify that all these parameters are valid along with the Tuesday samples, which validate that the process is removing TCE to less than detection levels. If a blower fails, that one parameter would shut down the impacted train and no water would go into that train. He said that those 12 parameters were put in place many years ago to cover all the bases.

Mr. Brinker added that, in the 15 years during which the plant has operated, there has never been a TCE result above non detect in the effluent. The plant was designed to be fail-safe because it was designed to make drinking water. In addition, approximately $150,000 was spent last year on a complete upgrade of the control system. Changes were made based on what works and what does not, and then every switch/sensor/interlock was tested to verify everything works as it is supposed to work. Mr. Brinker said this gives him a very high level of confidence in the system. Ms. Herrera said she understands that the Tucson system is monitored daily Monday through Friday, but based on the information about the Scottsdale facility, she expressed concern about monitoring on the weekends and evenings. Mr. Brinker assured her that monitoring in the off-hours was covered by the central control room.

Ms. Montaño said she respects all the work that has been done, but that she is concerned about the latency period of the areas affected by 1,4-dioxane and that the public is not informed as the west side of Tucson was not informed about TCE. Mr. Dean reiterated that 1,4-dioxane is monitored 24/7. Mr. Gomez noted that it is a positive aspect the system has been running without a problem for 15 years.

TCE Curriculum Update by Marti Linsey

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

CALL TO GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

There were no government agency items to be discussed.

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

Mr. Gomez noted that the process for nominating the UCAB co-chair was behind schedule. Mr. Kessler provided written notice to change the by-laws, which will be voted on next meeting. Mr. Gomez selected a committee of Jerry Clevinger, Alex Richards, and Yolanda Herrera to nominate a co-chair to be voted on at the next meeting. Ms. Creech suggested the committee let her know their nomination choice and she would send postcards to the board members for a vote by mail to be completed before the July meeting.

Mr. Gomez announced certificates of appreciation for the students from the Howenstein School for their update at a previous meeting on how clean up 1,4-dioxane. Ms. Creech will mail these certificates to the students.

Mr. Gomez also recommended the Board take another tour. Ms. Herrera suggested touring the Avra Valley well field, to give the Board a better understanding before the town hall meeting. Mr. Barazza will check into scheduling a tour for May or June. Another tour can be planned for August/September at the following meeting.

Mr. Gomez introduced Mr. John Scheatze, with Brush Wellman Ceramics, who he had asked to update UCAB about beryllium contamination. Mr. Scheatze said he had brought information cards and that there is a video explaining the plant operations and some of the control systems. Brush Wellman also puts out a quarterly newsletter reporting on the operations and air monitoring done by the facility. The website is www.brushceramics.com. He emphasized they have never exceeded EPA limits and have been non detect in all aspects. Mr. Gomez said he would like an update on who is doing the monitoring and also would like to check into the readings. Mr. Scheatze said that the information is available at the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (PDEQ) website. Also, PDEQ runs an ambient air monitoring program with money from Brush Wellman Ceramics. Mr. Gomez noted that while UCAB is concerned about TCE and the 1,4-dioxane clean up, he would welcome a discussion about the beryllium problem and how it is being corrected because beryllium concerns the south side. Mr. Scheatze said they have a much smaller version of the UCAB group that also meets quarterly. Mr. Kessler noted Mr. Scheatze has a tour of his plant that is very interesting.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION ITEMS

There were no follow-up action items to be discussed.

OPEN DISCUSSION/NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Ms. Herrera reminded the UCAB attendees she had requested aluminum cans be saved for SNAP to fund their programs. Ms. Creech said the cans have typically been recycled through a Raytheon program, but that Ms. Herrera could certainly have them.

Upon motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

For more information or to request help, contact the EPA Regional TASC representative in your area (see below) or visit the TASC website. ***http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tasc.***

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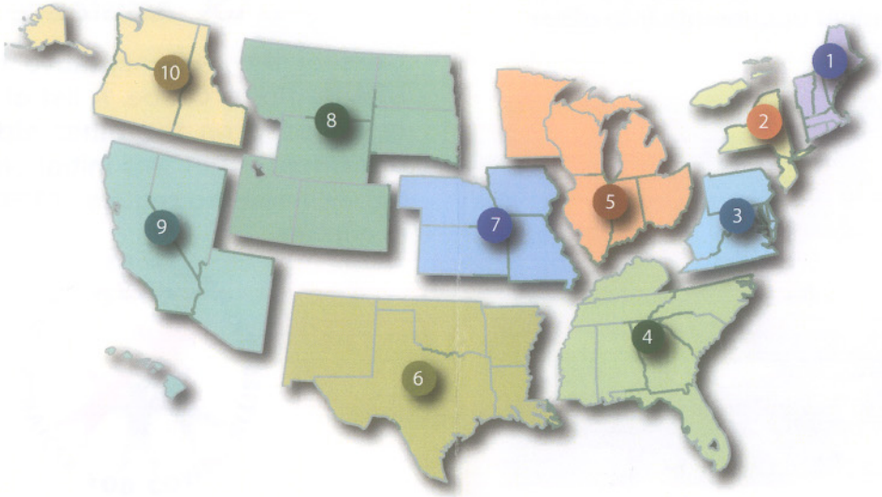

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Technical Assistance Services for Communities

- *Is there a hazardous waste site in your community?*
- *Are you concerned about how the hazardous waste can affect your family's health?*
- *Do you have questions about the risks of the hazardous waste?*
- *Do you need help interpreting technical information about the hazardous waste or the cleanup process?*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's new program, Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) can help your community deal with these questions.

Technical Assistance Services for Communities

What is TASC?

Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) is a new program to provide unbiased educational and technical assistance to communities affected by hazardous waste sites regulated by the Superfund and RCRA programs. This program, developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), can help your community by providing experts to explain hazardous waste problems and EPA's plans to clean up the waste. EPA offers this assistance to help your community understand hazardous waste issues better, so your community can participate in the decision-making process more effectively.

How can TASC help my community?

TASC provides technical assistance to help your community better understand and become involved in the cleanup

process for hazardous waste sites. This assistance is provided by independent, unbiased technical experts, who can:

- Answer questions about exposure to hazardous waste and the potential health effects.
- Educate your community on the scientific, engineering, health, or economic concepts related to the cleanup of hazardous waste.
- Help your community to better understand cleanup technologies and their effectiveness.
- Explain the cleanup process and how to become involved in the process.
- Assist your community in identifying possible land reuse or redevelopment options.
- Provide job training through the Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI).

What type of services does TASC provide?

TASC services are unique for each community. Depending upon the needs of your community, TASC services may include:

- Reviewing, interpreting, and explaining technical materials in an understandable way.
- Preparing training materials for seminars and workshops and teaching these sessions.
- Meeting with your community to answer questions and to listen to your concerns.
- Preparing understandable fact sheets, brochures, technical summaries, maps, diagrams, models, or other visual aids.
- Translating educational, outreach, and technical documents into other languages.

- Planning and holding meetings to help your community determine how to use the land once it is cleaned up.
- Training community leaders on hazardous waste issues so they can explain these issues to your community.

Who are the experts that provide the technical assistance?

The technical experts available through TASC are environmental engineers and scientists from private companies and universities. Often these individuals live in the same city as the community requesting help through TASC. These individuals are part of a network of experts EPA has contracted with to provide technical assistance services.

How can I get TASC assistance?

Contact the representative from your EPA Regional Office. A list of contacts is provided on the other side of this document. After this initial discussion, you will need to request TASC support in a letter.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES FOR COMMUNITIES
TASC