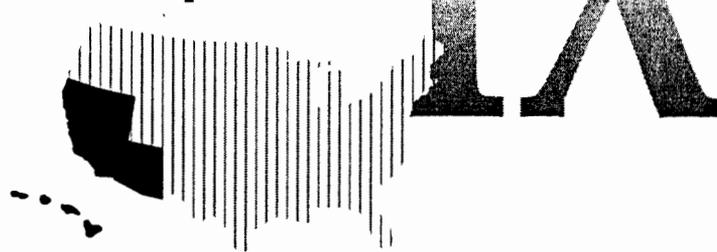


Response Action Contract



COOPER DRUM COMPANY
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

Final



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Contract No. 68-W-98-225

CH2M HILL, Inc.

and Team Subcontractors:

URS Greiner Woodward Clyde Federal Services, Inc.

E2 Consulting Engineers, Inc.

**COOPER DRUM COMPANY
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN**

Final

Prepared for:

**Contract No. 68-W-98-225/WA No. 017-RICO-091N
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105**

Prepared by:

**URS Corporation
2870 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95841**

March 2002

TRANSMITTAL

To: US EPA
75 Hawthorne St.
San Francisco, CA 94105

From: Tom Lae
Site Manager
CH2M Hill
2485 Natomas Park Drive, Suite 600
Sacramento, CA 95833-2937

Attn: Eric Yunker SFD-73

Date: March 7, 2002

Re: RAC IX Contract 68-W-98-225
Work Assignment No. 047-RICO-091N
Cooper Drum - Remedial Investigation/
Feasibility Study

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Remarks

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ACRONYMS

AQMD	Air Quality Management District
bgs	below ground surface
CBE	Communities for a Better Environment
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CIP	Community Involvement Plan
DCE	dichloroethylene
EE/CA	Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis
EPA	(United States) Environmental Protection Agency
ESD	Explanation of Significant Differences
FS	Feasibility Study
LADHS	Los Angeles Department of Health Services
LAUSD	Los Angeles Unified School District
NPL	National Priorities List
PCBs	polychlorinated biphenyls
PCE	tetrachloroethylene
RI	Remedial Investigation
RI/FS	Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
ROD	Record of Decision
SARA	Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act
SVOC	semivolatile organic compound
TCE	trichloroethylene
VOC	volatile organic compound

1.0 INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN (CIP)

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for conducting environmental studies, cleanup actions, and community involvement activities at the Cooper Drum site, an industrial drum recycling facility located in South Gate, California. This Community Involvement Plan (CIP) has been prepared to describe EPA's community involvement program for the Cooper Drum Superfund site. The CIP provides an overview of the community involvement activities planned at the Cooper Drum site, summarizes community concerns and opinions gathered through community interviews, and presents EPA's program for addressing the community's concerns and for ensuring that the community has the opportunity to become involved in the Superfund process. The goal of this CIP is that through the activities listed in this plan, the community will be able to learn about the Cooper Drum site and participate in the cleanup decision-making process.

EPA is taking remedial actions at the Cooper Drum site in accordance with the Federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA, more commonly known as Superfund) of 1980 and the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986. The purpose of CERCLA is to identify sites that require environmental cleanup, guide the way investigations and cleanup actions take place at these sites, and designate the parties responsible for funding the cleanup actions.

The National Priorities List (NPL), also known as the Superfund list, is the listing of sites that are subject to CERCLA's requirements. In 1992, EPA first proposed the Cooper Drum site for inclusion on the NPL. The listing was re-proposed in January 2001, and the site was listed in June 2001. As required under CERCLA, EPA will be responsible for community involvement activities related to the environmental studies and cleanup actions at the site.

1.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE CIP

This CIP is based on a review of previously prepared Cooper Drum site investigation documents and on information gathered during a series of interviews conducted with concerned residents, agency representatives, elected officials, and other members of the community during March and April 2001. The CIP takes into account the concerns and needs of the community as expressed in these interviews, and recommends activities that will help meet the community's future needs for information and involvement.

Activities proposed in the CIP are designed to ensure two-way communication between the affected and interested community and EPA, and to keep the community informed of cleanup actions at the site. The plan also specifies the community involvement activities that EPA expects to take during the remedial response. Specifically, this CIP proposes outreach activities that will:

- Provide a context for community members so that they understand the Cooper Drum site's relationship to other environmental issues in the city; and

- 1 • Create meaningful participation by providing the community with opportunities to become
2 involved in the decision-making process.

3 **1.2 ORGANIZATION OF THE CIP**

4 The CIP is organized as follows:

5 Section 1, Introduction to the Community Involvement Plan (CIP), introduces the CIP and the Cooper Drum
6 project, explains the regulatory context for the CIP, and discusses its purpose.

7 Section 2, Site Description, provides background information on the Cooper Drum site and on the
8 environmental studies that have been undertaken to date.

9 Section 3, Community Background, describes the community of South Gate and provides a history of
10 community involvement activities at the site.

11 Section 4, Community Concerns, summarizes community concerns identified during interviews conducted
12 with representative members of the community. These interviews provide the basis for the CIP.

13 Section 5, Highlights of the Community Involvement Program, details the activities that will be undertaken
14 to implement the CIP.

15 Section 6, Community Involvement Activities at the Cooper Drum Site, ties community involvement activities
16 to the Cooper Drum site's environmental program milestones.

17 The following appendices are also provided.

- 18 • Appendix A summarizes the CERCLA process.
- 19 • Appendix B illustrates opportunities for community involvement.
- 20 • Appendix C recommends locations for future public meetings.
- 21 • Appendix D provides the location of the Cooper Drum site Information Repository (a collection
22 of significant environmental documents developed as part of the Cooper Drum project).
- 23 • Appendix E illustrates the relationship between community involvement activities and the
24 Superfund technical process.
- 25 • Appendix F lists the community contacts (please note that the names of individual community
26 members are not published in this list).
- 27 • Appendix G provides a glossary of terms commonly used in environmental cleanup projects.

1 **1.3 RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CIP, AND EPA CONTACTS**

2 EPA is the lead agency responsible for implementing CERCLA-mandated environmental activities at the
3 Cooper Drum site. These activities include the remedial, compliance, and community involvement programs.
4 EPA's Remedial Management and Community Involvement offices share responsibility for implementing
5 community involvement activities concerning environmental issues at the site.

6 In order to provide the community with access to information about the Cooper Drum site, EPA has
7 designated the following individuals as community contacts:

8 Community Involvement

9 Alheli Baños
10 Community Involvement Coordinator
11 EPA, Region 9
12 75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)
13 San Francisco, CA 94105
14 Phone: (415) 972-3245
15 Fax: (415) 947-3528
16 Toll-free Message Line: (800) 231-3075
17 E-mail: banos.alheli@epa.gov

18 Technical and Regulatory Issues

19 Eric Yunker
20 Remedial Project Manager
21 EPA, Region 9
22 75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-7-3)
23 San Francisco, CA 94105
24 Phone: (415) 972-3159
25 Fax: (415) 947-3526
26 Toll-free Message Line: (800) 231-3075
27 E-mail: yunker.eric@epa.gov

2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The Cooper Drum site, located at 9316 South Atlantic Avenue in South Gate, is a 3.8-acre site in a mixed commercial, industrial, and residential area. Rayo Avenue borders the site to the east, and the former Tweedy Elementary School property is located directly to the south. The Los Angeles River lies approximately 1,600 feet east of the site.

Figure 2-1 shows the location of the Cooper Drum site, and Figure 2-2 provides additional site details.

2.1 SITE HISTORY

Since at least 1948, several different operators have used the site to recondition and recycle empty steel drums that had contained a variety of industrial chemicals. Cooper Drum Company operated the facility from 1971 until 1992, when the drum reconditioning business was sold to Waymire Drum Company. Consolidated Drum Company purchased the facility in 1996 and is the current drum reconditioning operator at the site.

When Cooper Drum Company was in business, the reconditioning process essentially consisted of flushing and stripping the drums in preparation for painting and resale. In cases where industrial residues could not be removed through the normal drum cleaning process, heavy duty cleaning ("hard washing") was performed. This hard washing process used chains to loosen the residues; it is believed that certain cleaning solvents were also used during the hard washing process.

Prior to the late 1980s, fluids generated by the reconditioning and hard washing process were collected, clarified, and reticulated using open concrete sumps and open concrete trenches. These fluids have contaminated the soil and groundwater beneath the site.

In 1986, petroleum hydrocarbons from the Cooper Drum site were observed seeping into site soils at the adjacent Tweedy Elementary School. The contaminated soil was removed. In 1987, a discharge of caustic liquids from the Cooper Drum's process line released chemicals called volatile organic compounds (VOC) into the air near Tweedy Elementary School. As a result of these releases and additional releases from other nearby industrial sites, the school was closed in 1988. Tweedy Elementary School was moved to a new location in South Gate Park, where it is still operating today.

Since Cooper Drum's operations were sold in 1992, closed-top steel tanks have been installed over the sumps, and the trenches have been replaced with steel piping. Consolidated Drum Company continues to use an aboveground enclosed system for containing liquid wastes. Current activities at the site are not considered to be harmful to the environment.

Operations at the site include drum and container processing. Site features include storage areas, an office, a warehouse, and maintenance buildings. All buildings have concrete floors and the entire facility has been paved with asphalt since 1986.

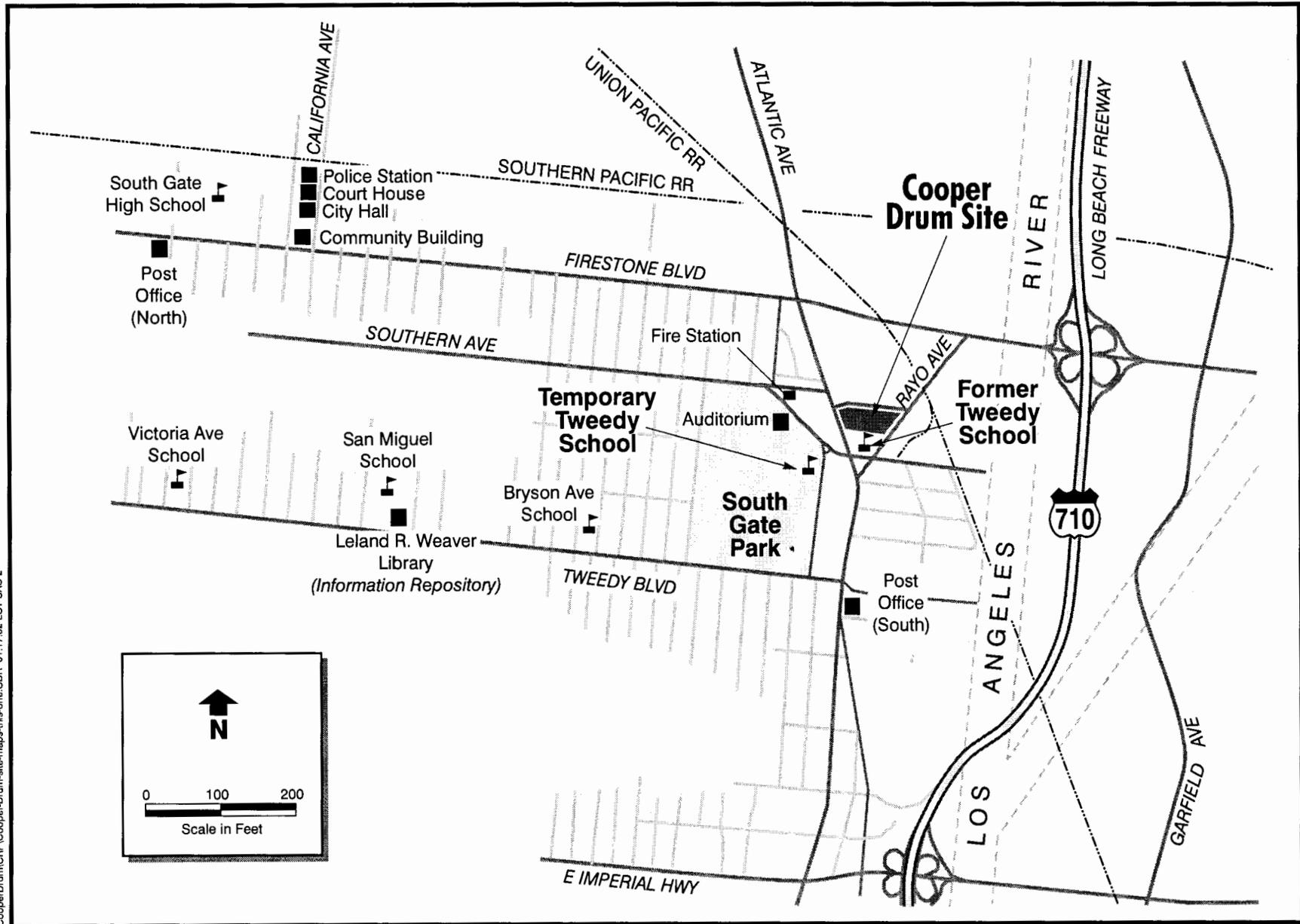
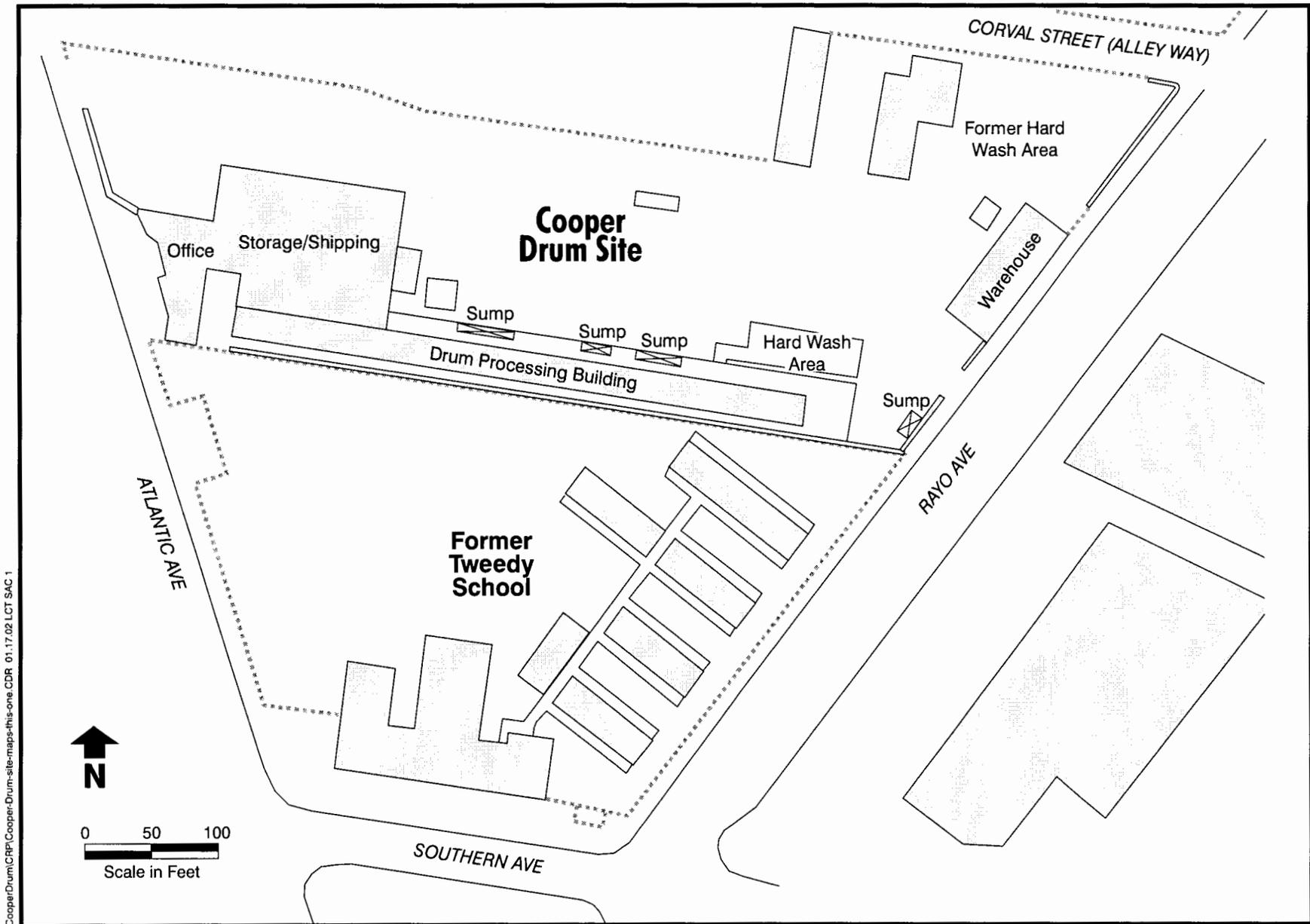


Figure 2-1. Site Location Map



CooperDrum/CPR/CooperDrum-site-maps-this-one.CDR 01.17.02 LCT SAC 1

Figure 2-2. Site Details Map

2.2 DESCRIPTION OF CONTAMINATION

From 1984 to 1989, there were several incidents involving the release or potential release of hazardous substances at the site. This caused the Los Angeles Department of Health Services (LADHS) to begin testing site soils. Since 1984, the LADHS, the State of California Department of Health Services (currently known as the Department of Toxic Substance Control), EPA, and consultants working for Cooper Drum Company have conducted a number of soil and groundwater studies.

The studies have identified the following hazardous substances in soils at or near the site:

- VOCs, including:
 - Tetrachloroethylene (PCE, a cleaning solvent)
 - Trichloroethylene (TCE, a cleaning solvent)
 - Dichloroethylene (DCE, a by-product of TCE)
- Petroleum hydrocarbons (usually associated with fuels and oils)
- Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs, also used in electrical transformers)
- Several metals

Some of these hazardous compounds—principally the VOCs known as TCE and PCE—have also been found in groundwater beneath the site.

2.3 AGENCY AND TECHNICAL ACTIVITY

LADHS initiated site investigations at the Cooper Drum site in 1984. Soil sampling conducted by a Cooper Drum Company consultant indicated that site soils were contaminated.

In April 1987, the Los Angeles County Health Emergency Response Team responded to a reported discharge of sodium hydroxide wash water from Cooper Drum's process line onto the Tweedy Elementary School property. Under LADHS direction, contaminated soil on the school property was removed and transported to a disposal facility. Additional subsurface explorations followed.

Also in 1987, the City of South Gate closed four of its municipal water wells when they were found to be contaminated with PCE. These wells are located approximately 1,000 feet southwest of the Cooper Drum site; the City listed the site as a possible source of the well contamination. However, more recent investigations have shown that it is highly unlikely that the groundwater contaminants beneath the Cooper Drum site could have impacted the City's municipal wells because groundwater beneath the Cooper Drum site moves in a southeasterly direction, away from the City's wells. Also, the contaminants beneath the Cooper Drum site are found not lower than approximately 120 feet below the ground surface (bgs), while the municipal wells draw from an aquifer 600 feet bgs.

1 In 1989, the State of California Department of Health Services collected soil samples from the Cooper Drum
2 site and found further evidence of contamination. Consultants retained by Cooper Drum Company conducted
3 several additional soil and subsurface investigations over the next several years.

4 In 1996, EPA conducted a soil gas survey and initiated a Phase 1 Remedial Investigation (RI) at the site. The
5 Phase 1 RI was designed to further investigate the potential presence and extent of VOCs, semivolatile
6 organic compounds (SVOCs), and metals in soil and groundwater beneath the Cooper Drum and Tweedy
7 Elementary School properties. EPA then conducted a Phase 2 RI to define the vertical and horizontal extent
8 of groundwater contamination, identify the extent of interconnection between the groundwater aquifers
9 beneath the site, and determine which aquifers had been impacted. The Phase 2 RI report was published in
10 November 1999.

11 EPA is conducting its studies in accordance with the study process required by CERCLA. The Phase 1 and
12 Phase 2 RIs conducted at the Cooper Drum site are similar to the Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection
13 Studies described in Appendix A, The CERCLA (i.e., Superfund) Process.

14 EPA began work on a full Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) in 2000; the RI/FS report is
15 expected to be finalized in March 2002. The RI will provide the most comprehensive study yet of
16 groundwater and soil contamination issues at the Cooper Drum site. The Feasibility Study (FS) will provide
17 details and comparisons of various cleanup alternatives that could be undertaken at the site.

3.0 COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

This section describes the South Gate community and summarizes community involvement activities and community concerns regarding the Cooper Drum site.

3.1 COMMUNITY PROFILE

The city of South Gate is a 7.5-square-mile community located 12 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles in Los Angeles County, California. The city was incorporated in 1923 on land that had once been part of the vast Rancho San Antonio land grant. The name "South Gate" refers to the area at the south gate of this original ranch property.

First used for cattle raising and then for agriculture, the land that was to become the City of South Gate began to take shape as a community in 1917, when subdivided parcels were promoted throughout the county as "Southgate Gardens – Gateway to the Sea."

The new city boomed following incorporation. Early industries included the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, which was built in 1928 on the site of a former bean field. A General Motors plant went into production in 1936. Purex Corporation opened a plant near the Cooper Drum site in 1950. These three businesses are no longer operating in the city, but the industrial base in South Gate remains strong. South Gate calls itself "The City of Opportunity." In 1990, the National Civic League awarded South Gate its "All-America City" designation.

The statistics that follow provide a recent snapshot of the City of South Gate. Please note that as of the date of this document's publication, the U.S. Census Bureau had not yet released all of its 2000 census data; however, some new population, race, and housing data have been released, and some additional data are available for estimating purposes. Future updates to this CIP will incorporate 2000 census data as they are released.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2000 census, South Gate is the 35th largest city in California, and has a population of 96,375.

Approximately one-third of the property in South Gate is now used for industrial and commercial purposes. The manufacturing industry dominates, providing employment for an estimated 30 to 35 percent of the city's workers. South Gate's proximity to Los Angeles International Airport, the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, major rail lines, and major highways has attracted a number of transportation, trucking, and distribution businesses to the city. Retail and wholesale trade also contributes to the local employment base.

The 2000 median annual household income in South Gate is estimated to be under \$30,000. Housing values have continued to rise, surpassing the 1990 median for owner-occupied dwellings, \$162,500. In 2000, renters

1 outnumbered homeowners by a small margin. In 1990, 41 percent of the population over age 25 reported
2 attaining a high school degree or higher; education data from the 2000 census has not yet been released.

3 Community demographics have evolved since the earlier part of the century, when Mid-western immigrants
4 escaping the Dust Bowl and the Depression found new homes in the area. The 1990 census reported that
5 83.4 percent of city residents were Hispanic ancestry. According to the 2000 census, this number has risen
6 to 92 percent. An estimated one-third of the Hispanic population over age 5 reports that they "do not speak
7 English very well." South Gate's city government and schools have made a concerted effort to incorporate
8 Spanish-speaking residents into civic affairs. Many city meetings and activities are conducted in both English
9 and Spanish. The City's community news magazine, *Progress*, is a bilingual publication.

10 The median age in the city has continued to drop, from 33 in the 1970 census to 26 in 2000. According to
11 current estimates, at least 30 percent of the city's total population is now under 15 years of age. School
12 construction in South Gate has not kept pace with the growing juvenile population, and school over-crowding
13 remains a key concern in the city. The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is currently proposing
14 to build a new elementary school and a new high school in South Gate. The sites under consideration will be
15 subject to environmental review under the oversight of the State of California's Department of Toxic
16 Substances Control.

17 South Gate is home to seven parks. The 96-acre South Gate Park receives heavy use at all times of the day.
18 This park houses the Municipal Auditorium, a Girls' Clubhouse, a Sports Center, a Senior Citizen Building,
19 a 3-par golf course, an Olympic-size indoor swimming pool, six tennis courts, six indoor basketball courts, 10
20 outdoor basketball courts, and 10 baseball fields. Tweedy Elementary School, which was relocated in 1988
21 due to environmental concerns, temporarily occupies a portion of South Gate Park.

22 South Gate holds an Azalea Festival each spring, and had its first annual Cesar Chavez Festival on March
23 31, 2001.

24 **3.2 HISTORY OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AT THE SITE**

25 South Gate residents interviewed for this CIP report that there is a high level of community involvement in
26 both civic and school-related activities. A number of community organizations meet regularly to discuss and
27 act on issues of concern. These organizations include Community-in-Action groups sponsored by the City
28 of South Gate Police Department; the Padres Unidos group of concerned school parents, which meets under
29 the auspices of Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard; Parents Advisory Councils at various schools; Churches in
30 Action; the Chamber of Commerce's Beautification Committee; and a variety of service clubs.

31 Community involvement with Cooper Drum site issues is largely related to:

- 32 • The relocation of Tweedy Elementary School and related school siting issues; and
- 33 • Industrial pollution and degraded air quality throughout the city and the region.

1 Contamination at the Cooper Drum site itself has not generated much concern in recent years. One City
2 Council member reported receiving complaints that water vapors from the site were impacting adjacent
3 properties; the Council member discussed these complaints with the regional Air Quality Management District
4 (AQMD) and was told that current Cooper Drum operations were in compliance with AQMD standards.

5 The Cooper Drum site has received the most attention from an organization known in California as
6 Communities for a Better Environment (CBE). CBE is very involved in issues related to the environment and
7 environmental justice. The group is committed to preventing future developments that could negatively impact
8 local and regional air quality and public health.

9 CBE includes the Cooper Drum site on its "Toxic Tour" of contaminated sites in the "Alameda Corridor" (the
10 Alameda Corridor is the highly industrialized transportation corridor linking the City of Los Angeles to the
11 Long Beach and Los Angeles ports). CBE's interest in the Cooper Drum site is related to the Tweedy
12 Elementary School closure and to the site's relationship to regional environmental concerns.

13
14 In early 2001, CBE helped organize opposition to a power plant project (known as Nuevo Azalea) proposed
15 for development on the site of an existing trucking operation in South Gate. In March 2001, voters approved
16 a city referendum opposing the Nuevo Azalea power plant by a two-to-one margin, and plans to build the plant
17 were put on hold. Reportedly, this public debate over the proposed power plant served to increase the
18 community's awareness of other environmental issues in South Gate.

4.0 COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Issues of concern to the South Gate community were identified through interviews conducted by EPA in March and April 2001 with 17 community leaders, local officials, and agency representatives. At these interviews, EPA also presented an informal briefing on the history of site activities and the results of site investigations to date.

Most of the interviewees have lived and/or worked in the South Gate area for many years. All of the interviewees were at least generally familiar with environmental issues at the Cooper Drum site, and city representatives often had extensive knowledge of the site. Awareness of environmental issues at the Cooper Drum site most often dated from the time of the releases preceding the Tweedy Elementary School relocation.

4.1 SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT ISSUES AND CONCERNS

The major issues of concern expressed by stakeholders during the community interviews are listed below:

- Past site activities that contributed to the 1988 closure of an elementary school adjacent to the site, and the relationship of the school site closure to on-going school siting issues;
- The extent to which site contamination could potentially migrate off site and impact drinking water sources;
- The length of time it has taken to initiate cleanup actions at the site;
- The need to avoid any cleanup actions, such as incineration, that could further impact air quality in the region; and
- The site's contribution and relationship to general industrial contamination throughout South Gate and nearby communities in light of a recent proposal to build a power plant in the area.

South Gate and nearby communities have become highly industrialized during the past half century, and many locations in the city and the region are known or suspected to be contaminated. Within this context, the Cooper Drum site is not currently considered to be a highly visible site. However, the Cooper Drum site can be expected to remain in the public eye due to its relationship to school siting issues (a continuing local concern) and to concerns about the overall impacts of contamination in the city.

4.2 SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS

The following discussions summarize information gathered and issues of concern identified during the community interview process.

1 **Past site activities that contributed to the 1988 closure of Tweedy Elementary School, and the**
2 **relationship of the school closure to on-going school siting issues.**

3 Overcrowding in South Gate schools was cited by many people interviewed as a predominant civic concern
4 within the community, second to the temporarily-resolved Nuevo Azalea power plant siting issue. The
5 Principal at Bryson Elementary School was cited by many people interviewed reported that her school has
6 an enrollment of 1,300, and that South Gate Middle School's 4,000 students represent the highest enrollment
7 at any middle school in the country.

8 New school siting is complicated by contamination issues in the city. Although the LAUSD has long promised
9 to build new schools in South Gate, the School District has had difficulty identifying potential school sites that
10 meet all public health standards. The community's awareness of the relationship between schools and health
11 increased when it was widely rumored that the site of the very costly Belmont High School in downtown Los
12 Angeles was contaminated.

13 Because there has been so much industrial activity in South Gate, the LAUSD eventually turned to residential
14 areas as potential locations for new schools, believing that these areas would be less likely to contain
15 unacceptable levels of chemicals. Two interviewees became actively involved in school siting and
16 contamination issues when eminent domain proceedings were initiated against their residential parcel and
17 adjacent neighborhood properties. These interviewees believe that many residential properties in South Gate
18 have been impacted by contamination. They reported incidents in their neighborhood such as intermittent gas
19 odors and the clandestine dumping of industrial-type substances into city storm drains.

20 The community connects the Cooper Drum site to these issues because of the site's contributing role in the
21 closure of Tweedy Elementary School. A Council member explained that although a release from the Purex
22 plant was the ultimate cause of the school's closure, Cooper Drum's past impacts on the school were well
23 known throughout the community. Several interviewees reported their disagreement with the City's decision
24 to close the school rather than the industrial facilities.

25 When the school was closed in 1988, it was relocated to a site within South Gate Park. After more than 12
26 years, Tweedy Elementary School remains in the park location. Because the school has not been rebuilt
27 elsewhere and because the school's students cannot be absorbed in other over-crowded local schools, an act
28 of Congress was required to extend the school's "taking" of the park property, which is federally designated
29 for park use. Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard sponsored legislation enabling the school to remain on the park site
30 for a final four years. According to an interview with her Field Deputy, the Congresswoman closely follows
31 school issues throughout her district. She sponsors South Gate's Padres Unidos group of parents, who come
32 together monthly in support of their local schools.

33 At the time of the interviews, the City and the LAUSD were completing an agreement to begin construction
34 of a new elementary school near South Gate Park. Several residences and businesses will be displaced to
35 accommodate the new school. When built, this school will serve as the replacement for Tweedy Elementary
36 School.

1 The sensitivity of the school siting issue and its relationship to the Cooper Drum site can be illustrated by the
2 reaction of some members of the Padres Unidos group to the news that EPA would be addressing
3 contamination issues at the site. Some of the parents in attendance at an April 2001 Padres Unidos meeting
4 were upset when they mistakenly concluded that the LAUSD would use the Cooper Drum contamination
5 issue to once again postpone construction of the new school. Because the EPA had provided an advance
6 briefing to official representatives at the meeting, these representatives were able to clarify the situation and
7 calm concerns. However, it was recommended that any future communications to the community should
8 include a clear note specifically disassociating the Cooper Drum site from the school siting issue.

9 **The extent to which site contamination could potentially migrate off site and impact drinking water**
10 **sources.**

11 Off-site contamination issues were of concern to all of the interviewees. City representatives in particular
12 were interested in EPA's briefing on the results of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 RI studies.

13 In 1987, the City closed four municipal wells that had been found to contain some chemical contaminants.
14 Because these wells were within 1,000 feet of the Cooper Drum site, it had been assumed that the Cooper
15 Drum site was the source of the contamination. During the interviews, the EPA explained that this is not the
16 case. Information discovered during the recent site investigation process indicates that it is highly unlikely
17 that contamination from the Cooper Drum site could have reached these wells. The EPA further explained
18 that the groundwater contamination plume from the Cooper Drum site appears to be limited in range, both
19 vertically and horizontally. The plume has not traveled far from the site, it is traveling in a direction away
20 from the municipal wells, and it appears to be constrained by a low-permeability soil layer that is preventing
21 the plume from reaching the deeper groundwater aquifers from which the City draws its drinking water
22 supply.

23 One City official expressed the belief that the community will be "happy to hear that the situation at Cooper
24 isn't as bad as they believed."

25 Several sensitive off-site issues remain. The alleyway immediately to the north of the Cooper Drum site is
26 unpaved, yet it seems to be used for numerous industrial-type activities. There is concern that contaminants
27 could potentially co-mingle between this area and the Cooper Drum site. Also, there is an on-going need to
28 identify other potential groundwater contaminant plumes in the area that could impact or be impacted by the
29 Cooper Drum contaminant plume or by remedial activities (such as groundwater pumping) in the area. The
30 EPA has proposed a coordinated, regional approach to this issue.

31 **The length of time it has taken to initiate cleanup actions at the site.**

32 A number of interviewees, including City and political representatives and community members, expressed
33 concern and even frustration that remedial activities at the Cooper Drum site had been delayed for so many
34 years. However, all interviewees were pleased to learn that EPA is now actively involved in site
35 investigations and remediation planning.

1 **The need to avoid any cleanup actions, such as incineration, that could further impact air quality**
2 **in the region.**

3 It is well known throughout the community that the South Gate area, and the Alameda Corridor in general,
4 has been heavily impacted by pollution; nearly all of the interviewees mentioned this issue. Several
5 interviewees reported that local awareness of environmental contamination issues has increased as a result
6 of the active campaign against the proposed Nuevo Azalea power plant project. This campaign also raised
7 awareness of environmental justice issues (i.e., studies showing that low-income and non-white communities
8 have been disproportionately impacted by the excessive siting of polluting industries within their
9 neighborhoods).

10 Despite the power plant sponsors' promises to provide direct and indirect contributions to the local economy
11 and to city programs, the power plant project was defeated in a non-binding referendum. Interviewees
12 believe the project was defeated because community members perceived that the project would increase air
13 pollution and related health problems.

14 One interviewee in particular, the Executive Director of CBE, explicitly stated that his group would actively
15 oppose any plans to incinerate contaminants (such as soil gas vapors) on site. According to this interviewee,
16 "Any incremental increase (in air quality impacts) is significant." Because CBE was so successful in
17 organizing opposition to the power plant project, it can be assumed that the organization's view of on-site
18 incineration would be shared by many members of the community. Any alternative involving on-site
19 incineration may fail to meet the "community acceptance" standard listed in the EPA criteria for evaluating
20 remedial alternatives.

21 **The site's relationship to general industrial contamination throughout South Gate and nearby**
22 **communities.**

23 According to the sponsor of the local Community-in-Action groups, the South Gate community is very
24 interested in "quality of life" issues and in environmental issues in particular. Please refer to the discussion
25 above and to earlier discussions about industrial contamination issues in the South Gate area.

26 **Other information.**

27 Other helpful information that was gathered during the community interview process is provided below.

28 Communicating information:

29 Most interviewees agreed that public meetings and fact sheets are the best vehicles for communicating
30 information to the South Gate community. All interviewees stressed that outreach information should be
31 presented in both English and Spanish, and should use very simple language. It was also suggested by an
32 interviewee that fact sheets should include glossaries explaining technical terms. The City's techniques for
33 conducting bilingual public meetings are discussed in the next sub-section.

1 Interviewees generally agreed that information should be distributed to the community at large only when
2 significant new information has been developed or when milestones have been achieved. City and political
3 representatives requested more regular updates.

4 As this CIP has noted, South Gate appears to have an excellent network of civic-minded groups, and civic
5 leaders seem to be very closely tied to these groups. Interviewees suggested that these groups and their
6 leaders could serve as conduits for information. Groups mentioned most often in this regard include the
7 Padres Unidos, Community-in-Action, and Churches in Action groups. This CIP proposes developing an
8 informal community information network to help distribute information to interested community members (see
9 Section 5).

10 Nearly all of the interviewees who were in a position to do so offered to assist in the distribution of
11 information. The City's Public Information Manager offered to publish relevant information in the City's
12 widely distributed monthly news magazine, the bilingual *Progress*. The South Gate Chamber of Commerce's
13 publication, the *Bridge*, was also offered for this purpose. The Chamber of Commerce, CBE, and the City's
14 Public Works Department representative all offered to share mailing list information with the EPA, as
15 appropriate. School representatives offered to include information, such as notices of upcoming meetings,
16 in their publications.

17 A number of interviewees asked whether site information could be accessed via EPA's web site. EPA
18 intends to update its web site with information about the Cooper Drum project.

19 Some interviewees noted that newspaper readership within the community is low, and suggested that radio
20 and television, particularly the community access cable station, are worthwhile outreach vehicles. The
21 following television stations and newspapers were said to reach the greatest number of local residents.

22 Television:

23 Channel 52 and Channel 34 (Spanish-language stations)
24 Local cable access channel

25 Publications:

26 *The Wave*
27 *The Eastside Sun*
28 *La Ola/The Press* (bilingual newspaper)
29 *La Opinion* (Spanish-language newspaper)

30 Public meetings:

31 Public meetings are a popular forum for information exchange in the city of South Gate. Nearly all
32 interviewees recommended the City's Municipal Auditorium in South Gate Park as the best location for public
33 meetings. The Girls' Clubhouse, also located in the park, was suggested as a good venue for smaller
34 meetings.

1 In South Gate, most public meetings are conducted in both the English and Spanish languages. The City has
2 experimented with a number of translation techniques and has found the simultaneous translation technique
3 to be the most effective. In this technique, meeting attendees wear headphones, and as the speeches or
4 comments are being made, translators broadcast the translations, as necessary. The City has purchased
5 headphones and related audio equipment to be used for this purpose.

6 The director of the City's Community-in-Action program offered to assist the EPA with all public meeting
7 logistics. The City can make reservations at the Municipal Auditorium for meetings, and can provide
8 headphones and other translation-related equipment.

9 Key messages from the community to EPA:

10 At the conclusion of each interview, the interviewees were asked, "What is the most important message you
11 think EPA should hear from the community?" Responses to this question are listed below, along with other
12 relevant comments gathered from the community during the interview process:

- 13 • Avoid on-site incineration of soil gas vapors.
- 14 • Why not just dig up and remove all site soil?
- 15 • EPA is on the right track with early outreach. This will help the project avoid some conflict.
- 16 • Continue these meetings.
- 17 • (South Gate) is a political area.
- 18 • The Chamber of Commerce wants businesses in, but they have to be safe.
- 19 • Work toward a solution as quickly as possible. (multiple responses)
- 20 • Keep information simple. (multiple responses)

5.0 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

EPA has formulated the following objectives for the Cooper Drum site community involvement program:

- Ensure two-way communication between EPA and the interested community;
- Keep the community informed of technical progress at the site; and
- Encourage and facilitate community participation in EPA's cleanup decision-making process.

Communication methods and topics have been developed in response to the information gathered during the community interview process and through additional background research. In general, public meetings and fact sheet mailings will be the primary techniques used to distribute information to the community. Every effort will be made to use simple language when communicating technical information, and all communications will be in both English and Spanish. Existing community groups will be asked to help with information distribution.

Appendix B illustrates the opportunities for community involvement in the Cooper Drum site project.

5.1 ENSURE TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN EPA AND THE INTERESTED COMMUNITY

Identify EPA contacts. EPA has designated Alheli Baños and Eric Yunker as the points of contact responsible for responding to the community's questions regarding Superfund activities at the Cooper Drum site. EPA will include Ms. Baños's and Mr. Yunker's names and contact information, EPA's address, and EPA's toll-free telephone number in all fact sheets, public notices, and other information materials distributed as part of the Superfund community involvement program.

Develop a community information network group. EPA will develop an informal community information network that includes key officials, agency representatives, site neighbors, and community leaders. As appropriate, EPA will provide briefings to members of this group. This network will include City of South Gate officials, the Community-in-Action group, the Padres Unidos group, and CBE. Other interested parties will be added to this network as requested. Briefings will enable this group to more effectively answer questions from the community and to share information about EPA's activities. Briefings will be conducted by telephone or in person, as necessary.

Hold public meetings. Interviewees suggested that public meetings are most beneficial when they focus on milestone events. EPA will hold public meetings on an as-needed basis, should significant findings occur in advance of the release of the Proposed Plan (see Appendix A for information about the CERCLA process and the role of the proposed plan). Advance notification of any public meetings will be made through public notices in local newspapers and through personal contact with members of the community information network group. EPA will provide a Spanish-language interpreter at all public meetings.

1 As required by CERCLA, a public meeting will be held to present the Proposed Plan document and to solicit
2 public comments on this document. The Proposed Plan will be published in Spanish as well as English. Copies
3 of the Proposed Plan will be made available in the Information Repository and as requested.

4 See Appendix C for information on recommended locations for public meetings.
5

6 Hold a minimum 30-day comment period on the Proposed Plan. EPA will announce the Proposed Plan public
7 comment period in a public notice and in a fact sheet that briefly summarizes the Proposed Plan. EPA will
8 accept oral and written comments on the Proposed Plan for a period of at least 30 days. EPA will extend
9 the comment period if public requests to do so are received. EPA will consider public comments before
10 selecting a final remedial alternative.

11 Prepare a Responsiveness Summary after the Proposed Plan public comment period. Following the public
12 comment period, EPA will prepare a Responsiveness Summary that briefly describes and responds to all
13 significant comments on the Proposed Plan. The document will specify which provisions of the Proposed
14 Plan, if any, will be changed in the final remedial plan, and will explain the reasons for the changes. The
15 Responsiveness Summary will be sent to each person who submitted written comments on the Proposed Plan
16 or who requests a copy of the document. EPA will place the Responsiveness Summary in the Information
17 Repository.

18 Hold informal meetings with community leaders, if needed. In the effort to ensure that information distributed
19 to the community is understood within its proper context, EPA may decide to hold informal meetings (either
20 in person or by telephone) with community leaders in advance of the release of information to the community
21 at large. For example, these meetings might be used to clarify the relationship between activities at the
22 Cooper Drum site and local school siting activities. EPA will determine if an informal meeting is necessary
23 based on recommendations from community leaders.

24 Re-evaluate community interest and revise the CIP, as necessary. EPA will evaluate the CIP after the
25 Record of Decision (ROD) is signed to determine whether a revision is needed to incorporate new
26 information or to reflect changes in community concerns (see Appendix A for information about ROD
27 documents). If a revision is needed, EPA will adjust community involvement activities to meet these changes.

28 **5.2 KEEP THE COMMUNITY INFORMED OF PROGRESS AT THE SITE**

30 Establish and update the Information Repository. An Information Repository has been established at the
31 Leland R. Weaver Library on Tweedy Blvd. in South Gate. EPA will send copies of appropriate Cooper
32 Drum site project documents to the repository. EPA will update the repository as new information becomes
33 available.

34 See Appendix D for additional information on the Information Repository.

35 Develop a community contacts mailing list. EPA will develop a site mailing list. This list will be reviewed and
36 updated on a continuing basis to incorporate address changes, add new names, and delete outdated listings.

1 The mailing list will include individuals and organizations interested in receiving information about the project,
2 including local, state, and federal agency representatives, elected officials, and residents. Mailing list coupons
3 will be included in mailings so that anyone who wishes to be added to or deleted from the list or who would
4 like to make name and addresses corrections may do so.

5 Produce and distribute fact sheets. EPA will distribute English- and Spanish-language facts sheets to the
6 community contacts mailing list at key points during the Superfund process. One or more short fact sheets
7 will introduce the Cooper Drum site and the Superfund process, and describe the Proposed Plan and public
8 comment period, the final decision on the remedial action (ROD), and the remedial design. Additional copies
9 of the fact sheets will be placed in the Information Repository. In some cases, advance copies of the fact
10 sheets may be distributed via the informal community information network group.

11 Publish public notices and place public service announcements, as needed. EPA will publish a public notice
12 to announce the issuance of the Proposed Plan and the final decision on the remedial cleanup alternative after
13 the ROD has been signed. Public notices will also be used to announce public meetings and the Proposed Plan
14 public comment period. Bilingual notices will be published in the *La Opinion*, *The Wave* and/or other major
15 newspaper(s) of general circulation, and in other civic publications such as the *Progress*. As necessary,
16 public service announcements on the local cable access television station may be used to announce public
17 meetings and the public comment period.

18 5.3 ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

19 As required by Superfund, if new findings or research suggests that a change in the cleanup approach
20 is warranted, EPA will conduct one of the two activities described below, as appropriate.

21 Prepare an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD). If the cleanup approach differs significantly from
22 the remedy selected in the ROD, but does not fundamentally alter the remedy with respect to cost, scope, or
23 performance, EPA will prepare an ESD. EPA will summarize the ESD in a public notice published in *La*
24 *Opinion*, *The Wave* and/or other major newspaper(s) of general circulation, and will make the ESD available
25 in the Information Repository.
26

27 Amend the ROD. If the final selected cleanup approach fundamentally alters the remedy selected in the
28 ROD, EPA will propose an amendment to the ROD. A public comment period on the ROD amendment will
29 be held, along with a public meeting if there is interest. Following the public comment period, EPA will
30 prepare a Responsiveness Summary that provides EPA's responses to comments received during the public
31 comment period. The Responsiveness Summary will be made available to the public.

32 Section 6 lists the community involvement activities proposed for the Cooper Drum site and presents the
33 timeline for these activities as they relate to Superfund process technical milestones.

TABLE 6-1
Community Involvement Activities
for the Cooper Drum Site

Technical Milestones	Community Involvement Activities
Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study	Conduct Community Interviews and Prepare Community Involvement Plan.
	Identify EPA contacts for the site.
	Develop community contacts mailing list.
	Establish Information Repository at the Leland R. Weaver Library.
	Prepare and distribute a bilingual fact sheet introducing the Cooper Drum site and the Superfund process.
	Brief network group prior to the release of the first fact sheet to the public and the first public meeting.
	Hold informal meetings with community members, as needed. ²³ .
Proposed Plan	Make new Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study documents available to the public (place copies in the Information Repository).
	Produce and distribute a bilingual fact sheet describing the Proposed Plan to the community and announcing a public meeting on the Proposed Plan.
	Publish a public notice announcing the issuance of the Proposed Plan, the availability of the document for review and public comment, and the public meeting.
	Hold a public meeting to describe the Proposed Plan. Provide a Spanish-language interpreter.
	Hold informal meetings with community members, as needed.
	Hold a minimum 30-day public comment period on the Proposed Plan.
	Prepare a Responsiveness Summary.

TABLE 6-1
Community Involvement Activities
for the Cooper Drum Site

Technical Milestones	Community Involvement Activities
Record of Decision	Hold briefings with the network group to provide information on the final selection of a cleanup method, if requested.
	Publish a public notice announcing the Record of Decision signing and the final decision on the remedial action.
	Update Information Repository with the Record of Decision.
	Hold informal meetings with community members, if requested.
	Re-evaluate community interest and revise Community Involvement Plan, if needed, if requested.
Remedial Design/ Remedial Action	If Record of Decision changes significantly, perform the community involvement activities detailed in Section 5.3, Additional Activities.
	Develop and distribute a bilingual fact sheet that describes upcoming site activities, if needed.
	Hold informal meetings with community members, if requested.

APPENDIX A

The CERCLA (i.e., Superfund) Process

APPENDIX A

The CERCLA (i.e., Superfund) Process

In 1980, Congress enacted Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) to require investigation and cleanup of inactive or abandoned sites where hazardous substances, released or spilled, may endanger public health and welfare or the environment. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been authorized to oversee the implementation of this law.

In 1986, Congress amended CERCLA through the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA). SARA established the National Priorities List (NPL), commonly known as the Superfund list. The NPL ranks the most contaminated sites in the nation by severity.

The CERCLA, or Superfund, process involves a series of investigations, evaluations, and decisions that seek to determine the best way(s) to remediate a contaminated site. These investigations, evaluations, and decisions lead to the remedial action itself.

Step 1-Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (PA/SI)

The PA/SI is the process of collecting and evaluating available information about a known or suspected waste site or release. The process includes reviewing documents and interviewing former and current employees to obtain information about possible disposal areas or sites where chemicals were previously used or stored. The goal of this step is to discover potential hazardous waste sites.

Community involvement, especially from past or retired site employees, is relied upon during the PA/SI to help develop information on past waste disposal activities that employees may have witnessed or taken part in.

Step 2-Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS)

The RI/FS process involves two steps. The RI, a comprehensive field sampling and analytical investigation, is conducted first to determine what type and how much contamination is present and where it originated.

Risks to public health are calculated during this step through a human Health Risk Assessment (HRA). The human HRA is sometimes called a Baseline Risk Assessment. Risks to the environment are calculated in an Ecological Risk Assessment. Potential negative impacts to groundwater or surface water are also determined.

The FS sets the objectives for cleanup and evaluates potential alternatives that can be used to clean up the contamination found during the RI, according to various criteria, such as effectiveness, implementability, and cost.

During the RI/FS, community members are encouraged to visit the Information Repository or the Administrative Record for information about the study program.

Step 3-Proposed Plan

The Proposed Plan summarizes for the public the preferred remedial alternative, the rationale for selecting that preferred alternative, and the other alternatives that were evaluated in the detailed analysis of the RI/FS. The Proposed Plan step provides the community with a key opportunity to review and comment on all alternatives under consideration. The document is made available to the public through mailings and at the Information Repository. Community members are encouraged to submit comments on the Proposed Plan during a 30-day public comment period. Depending on the comments received during the public comment period, the lead agency may change the preferred remedial alternative that was presented in the Proposed Plan.

Step 4-Record of Decision

The next step is the creation of a decision document that explains which cleanup alternative(s) will be used. This document, called a Record of Decision (ROD), is a legal document that outlines the agreed-upon remedial action (RA) and establishes a cleanup schedule. The ROD takes into account the comments received on the Proposed Plan. The ROD includes a Responsiveness Summary, which is a summary of oral and written public comments received during a comment period, along with the lead agency's responses to community concerns expressed in the comments. Any proposed actions that significantly differ from the actions proposed in the Proposed Plan are explained in the ROD. After the ROD is finalized, the community is notified (via a public notice in a local newspaper) that the document is available for review.

In cases where new information of any kind leads to a change in the remedial alternatives proposed in the ROD, additional documentation will be prepared.

If "significant" changes to the ROD are made, an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) will be prepared. The ESD will be placed in the Administrative Record and the Information Repository, and the public will be notified via a public notice in a major local newspaper.

If "fundamental" changes to the ROD are made, a ROD Amendment will be developed, and a revised Proposed Plan highlighting the change(s) will be prepared and made available to the public for review and comment.

Step 5-Remedial Design/Remedial Action (RD/RA)

The remedial design (RD) is an engineering phase that follows the ROD. The RD provides technical drawings and specifications for implementing the remedial action (RA). The RA is the actual construction or implementation of the selected cleanup alternative.

Step 6-Operations and Maintenance

Operations and maintenance activities are the long-term activities conducted at a site to ensure that the remedial actions are effective and that remedial action equipment is maintained and functioning properly.

Other Actions. The following cleanup actions can be initiated at any time in the CERCLA process:

- Emergency Removal Actions. Emergency removal actions are those releases or threats of releases requiring that cleanup activities begin on site within hours of the lead agency's determination that a removal action is appropriate.
- Time-Critical Removal Actions. If an imminent health or environmental threat exists, officials can implement time-critical removal actions without preparing an RI/FS report, Proposed Plan, or a ROD. For example, if people were in danger of being exposed to soil contaminants at hazardous levels, the soils could be removed immediately, before a more lengthy investigation was completed. Time-critical removal actions are further defined as those that can be completed within six months or less. They may or may not be the final cleanup remedy for the site, but they must be consistent with long-term plans.
- Non-Time-Critical Removal Actions. If the contaminants at a site do not pose an immediate threat, but quick action is still necessary (for example, to allow construction of a needed building), a non-time-critical removal action can be undertaken. In this case, officials would prepare an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA). The EE/CA screens and analyzes a small group of removal alternatives. EE/CAs are similar to Feasibility Studies for remedial actions. An action memorandum is then prepared to document why a particular alternative was selected. Action memoranda are similar to RODs for remedial actions.

APPENDIX B

**Opportunities for Community
Involvement in the Cooper Drum Project**



Step 1
Preliminary
Assessment/
Site Inspection
(PA/SI)
(complete)

Former employees are encouraged to provide information on any past waste disposal activities they may have witnessed or taken part in.



Step 2
Remedial
Investigation/
Feasibility Study
(RI/FS)
(in progress)

Visit the local Information Repository for general information on the study.

The Information Repository is located at:
Leland R Weaver Library
4035 Tweedy Blvd
South Gate
(323) 567-8853

Read the Community Involvement Plan. It is available at the Information Repository.

Visit the Administrative Record located at the EPA's headquarters for additional information on the study.



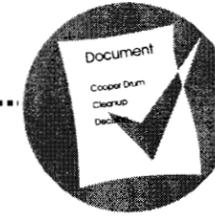
Step 3
Proposed
Plan

Where EPA formally requests input from the community.

Read the Proposed Plan. A public notice will appear in the local newspaper to inform the community of the Proposed Plan's availability.

Attend the public meeting for the Proposed Plan. A public notice will appear in the local newspaper to inform the community of the public meeting.

Provide oral comments during the public meeting or provide written comments during the public comment period.

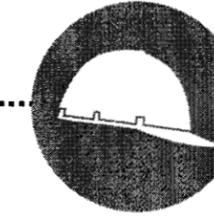


Step 4
Record of
Decision
(ROD)

After the ROD is signed, review the ROD and Responsiveness Summary. A public notice will appear in the local newspaper to inform the community of the ROD's availability.

Review the response to your comments, and all other comments, in the Responsiveness Summary to the ROD.

Read Explanation of Significant Differences (if any).



Step 5
Remedial Design
Remedial Action
(RD/RA)

Read about Remedial Design/Remedial Actions and Operations & Maintenance activities in our fact sheets.

This is not the end of your opportunity to participate. You may keep up-to-date via our fact sheets and, of course, you may call us at (800) 231-3075.



Step 6
Operations
& Maintenance
(O&M)



What you can do any time:

- Get on the mailing list by contacting an EPA representative
- Let EPA know your concerns
- Read our fact sheets

Appendix B
Figure B-1
Opportunities for
Community Involvement
in the Cooper Drum Project

INFO

APPENDIX C

Public Meeting Locations

APPENDIX C

PUBLIC MEETING LOCATIONS

The following locations are recommended for public meetings:

Municipal Auditorium

South Gate Park
South Gate, CA

(323) 563-5443

Capacity: 500
Room Rental: \$62.50/hour; 4-hour minimum
Deposit: \$100 (refundable)

Girls' Clubhouse

South Gate Park
South Gate, CA

(323) 563-5443

Capacity: 150
Room Rental: \$47/hour; 4-hour minimum
Deposit: \$100 (refundable)

APPENDIX D

Information Repository

APPENDIX D

INFORMATION REPSITORY

EPA has established an Information Repository to accommodate requests from the public for information about environmental activities at the Cooper Drum site. Environmental documents can be reviewed at the following locations:

Leland R. Weaver Library

(A County of Los Angeles Public Library)
C/o Eileen M. Tokar, M.S.L.S.
Community Library Manager
4035 Tweedy Blvd.
South Gate, CA 90280
Telephone: (323) 567-8853

Library hours:

Tuesday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Wednesday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday 12 noon – 5 p.m.
Closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays

(Library hours subject to change)

EPA Superfund Record Center

95 Hawthorne Street, Suite 4035
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901
Telephone: (415) 936-2000

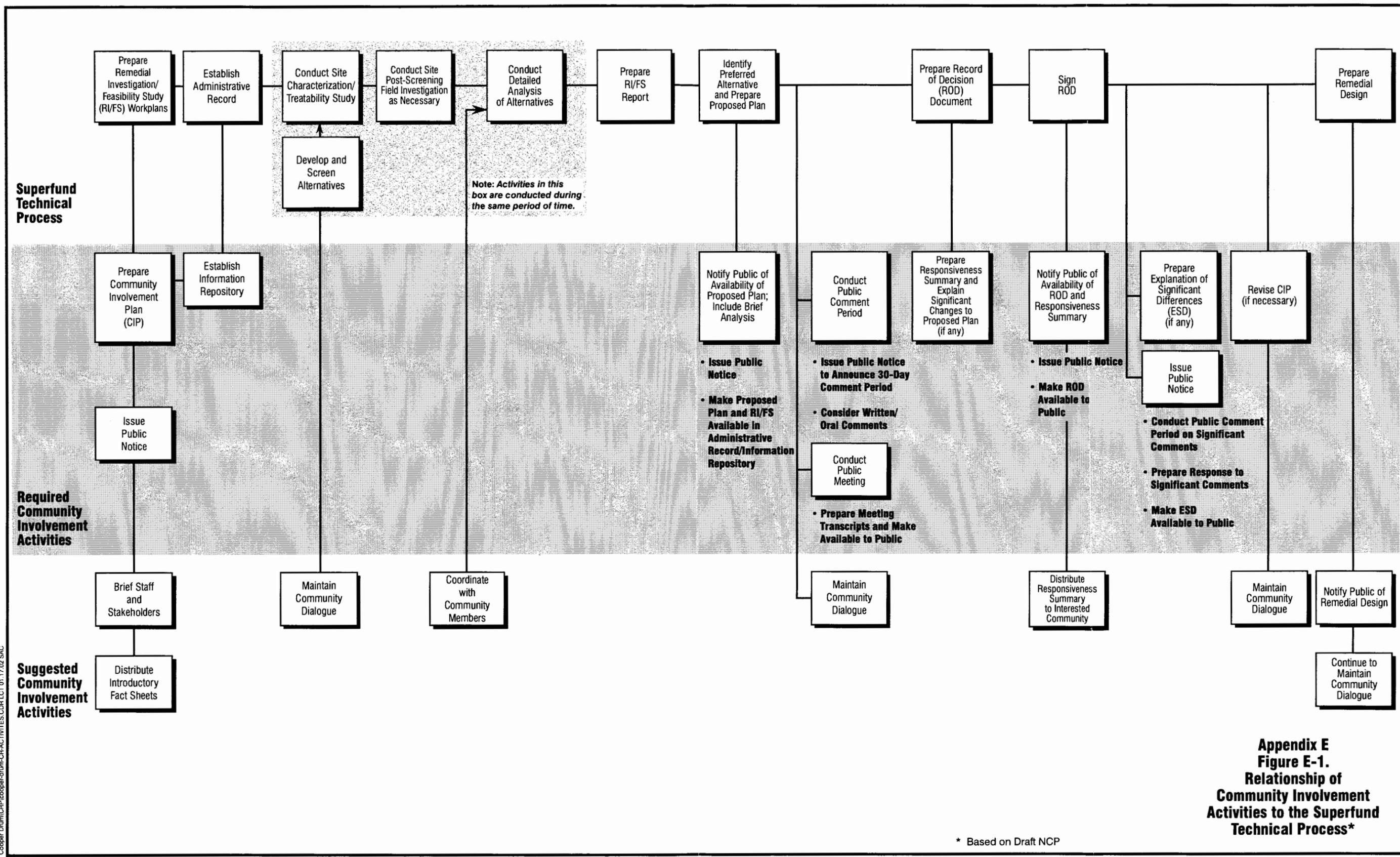
Hours:

Monday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tuesday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wednesday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Closed Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays

APPENDIX E

**Relationship of Community Involvement
Activities to the Superfund
Technical Process**



**Appendix E
Figure E-1.
Relationship of
Community Involvement
Activities to the Superfund
Technical Process***

* Based on Draft NCP

APPENDIX F

Community Contacts

APPENDIX F
 COMMUNITY CONTACTS

TITLE	FIRSTNAME	LASTNAME	JOB TITLE	ORGANIZATION	STREET	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE	FAX/CELL PHONE	E-MAIL	CATEGORY
Mr.	Rory	Angelo		Bell Foundry Company	P.O. Box 1070	South Gate	CA	90280				Business
Ms.	Carmen	Avalos	City Clerk	City of South Gate	8650 California Avenue	South Gate	CA	90280-3075	(323) 563-9510			Agency
Ms.	Karen	Bell	Senior Planner	City of South Gate Community Development Department	8650 California Avenue	South Gate	CA	90280-3075				Agency
Mr.	Jesus	Burciaga	Assistant Fire Chief	County of Los Angeles Fire Dept.	6031 Rickenbacher Road	Commerce	CA	90040	(323) 721-0705	Fax: (323) 726-7241		Agency
Mr.	Richard	Cabo			2551 Wellesley Ave.	Los Angeles	CA	90064				
Mr.	Frederico	Cabo			P.O. Box 10007	Newport Beach	CA	92658				
Mr.	Ted	Chandler	Executive Director	South Gate Chamber of Commerce	3350 Tweedy Blvd.	South Gate	CA	90280	(323) 567-1203			Association
Ms.	Bonnie	Chase	District Supervisor	Certified Unified Program Agency, County of Los Angeles Fire Dept.	7300 Alondra Blvd., Suite 203	Paramount	CA	90723	(562) 790-1814	Fax: (562) 790-8002	www.fire.co.la.ca.us	Agency
Ms.	Rebecca	Chou		California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles	320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200	Los Angeles	CA	90013			rchou@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov	
Mr.	Joseph	Comstock	Director of Field Operations	City of South Gate Public Works Dept.	4244 Santa Ana Street	South Gate	CA	90280-3075	(323) 563-5784	Fax: (323) 582-3106		Agency
Honorable	Hector	De La Torre	Councilman	City of South Gate	8650 California Avenue	South Gate	CA	90280-3075	(323) 563-9502	Fax: (323) 569-2678	HcDELATORRE@ATT.WORLDNET.NET	Elected Official
Mr.	Bill	DeWitt		General Veneer Manufacturing Co.	8652 Otis	South Gate	CA	90280	(323) 564-2661			Business
Honorable	Martha M.	Escutia	State Senator, 30th District		12440 East Imperial Highway, Suite 125	Norwalk	CA	90650	(562) 929-0360	Fax: (562) 929-0366		Elected Official
Honorable	Marco A.	Firebaugh	Assembly Member, 50th District		7501 Atlantic Blvd., Suite D	Cudahy	CA	90201	(323) 562-7880	Fax: (323) 562-2380		Elected Official
Mr.	Jorge	Garcia	Director, Schools Services (Elementary)	Los Angeles Unified School District, District G	611 West 6th Street, 34th Floor	Los Angeles	CA	90017	(213) 599-5700			Agency
Mr.	Leo	Garcia	Principal	Independence Elementary School	8435 Victoria Avenue	South Gate	CA	90280	(323) 249-9559	Fax: (323) 564-9165		Agency
Ms.	Nelly	Garcia	Teachers Assistant/Library	South Gate High School	3351 Firestone Blvd.	South Gate	CA	90280	(323) 567-2333, x420	Fax: (323) 249-0237		Agency
Mr.	Eric	Gonzales	Hazardous Materials Specialist II	Certified Unified Program Agency, County of Los Angeles Fire Dept.	7300 Alondra Blvd., Suite 203	Paramount	CA	90723	(562) 790-1819	Fax: (562) 790-8002	www.fire.co.la.ca.us	Agency
Mr.	Henry	Gonzales	President	South Gate Chamber of Commerce	3205 Independence Avenue	South Gate	CA	90280	(323) 567-9391	Fax: (323) 567-1204		Association
Ms.	Jill	Hill	Friends of the Los Angeles River		570 W. Avenue 26, #250	Los Angeles	CA	90065	(323) 223-0585		www.FoLar.org	Association
Ms.	Merrilee Curry	Holzhauser	Principal	Bryson Elementary School	4470 Missouri Avenue	South Gate	CA	90280	(323) 569-7141	Fax: (323) 567-5386	mholzau@lausd.k12.ca.us	Agency
Ms.	Dion	Jackson	Project Manager, Brownfields	Gateway Cities Partnership, Inc.	7300 Alondra Blvd. #102	Paramount	CA	90723	(562) 817-0822		djackso@earthlink.net	Association
Mr.	Bill	Jones	Chief	Certified Unified Program Agency, County of Los Angeles Fire Dept.	5823 Rickenbacher Road	Commerce	CA	90040	(323) 890-4042			Agency
Captain	Andy	Key	Liaison for Community-in-Action	City of South Gate Police Dept.	8620 California Avenue	South Gate	CA	90280-3073	(323) 563-5454	Cell:(323) 816-6691	sgpd@earthlink.net	Agency
Mr.	Steve	LeFever	Assistant Director	City of South Gate Community Development Department	8650 California Avenue	South Gate	CA	90280-3075	(323) 563-9530			Agency
Ms.	Liz	Lefson	Associate Planner	City of South Gate Community Development Department	8650 California Avenue	South Gate	CA	90280-3075				Agency

TITLE	FIRSTNAME	LASTNAME	JOB TITLE	ORGANIZATION	STREET	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE	FAX/CELL PHONE	E-MAIL	CATEGORY
Mr.	Kenneth	Loesch		Goldrich and Kest	5150 Overland Avenue	Culver City	CA	90230	(310) 280-5087			Business
Mr.	Ruben M.	Lopez	Director	City of South Gate Community Development Dept.	8650 California Avenue	South Gate	CA	90280	(323) 563-9529			Agency
Ms.	Marsha	Mingay	Public Participation Supervisor	Dept. of Toxic Substances Control	5796 Corporate Avenue	Cypress	CA	90630	(714) 484-5416			Agency
Honorable	Gloria	Molina	Supervisor, First District	County of Los Angeles, 856 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration	500 West Temple Street	Los Angeles	CA	90012	(213) 974-4111	Fax: (213) 613-1739		Elected Official
Honorable	Raul	Moriel	Mayor	City of South Gate	8650 California Avenue	South Gate	CA	90280-3075	(323) 563-9502	Fax: (323) 569-2678		Elected Official
Ms.	Dodie	Mosby	Director	City of South Gate Parks and Recreation Dept.	4900 Southern Avenue	South Gate	CA	90280	(323) 563-5443			Agency
Mr.	Dennis	Young	City Manager	City of South Gate	8650 California Avenue	South Gate	CA	90280-3075	(323) 563-9502			Agency
Ms.	Lori	Parnass		Department of Toxic Substances Control	1011 N. Grandview Avenue	Glendale	CA	91201			LParnass@dtsc.ca.gov	
Mr.	Frank	Perez	Area Facilities Services	Los Angeles Unified School District	115 Southern Avenue	South Gate	CA	90280	(323) 357-7998	Fax: (323) 566-4184	fperez@lausd.k12.ca.us	Agency
Mr.	Carlos	Porras	Executive Director	Communities for a Better Environment	5610 Pacific Blvd., Suite 23	Huntington Park	CA	90255	(323) 826-9771, x109	Fax: (323) 588-7079		Association
Ms.	Patrician	Price	City of South Gate Public Information Manager	The Progress	8650 California	South Gate	CA	90280-3073	(323) 563-9565		Email: ppricenla@aol.com	Agency
s.	Erika	Ramirez	Staff Environmental Liaison	Office of Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard	255 East Temple Street, #1860	Los Angeles	CA	90012-3334	(work): (714) 565-2665 or (213) 628-9230	Fax: (213) 628-8578	erika.ramirez@mail.house.gov	Elected Official
Mr.	Rick	Rodriguez	Facilities Services Division	Los Angeles Unified School District, KMPG Building	355 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 320	Los Angeles	CA	90071	(213) 617-1163	Fax: (213) 617-3780		Agency
Honorable	Xochilt	Ruvalcaba	Vice Mayor	City of South Gate	8650 California Avenue	South Gate	CA	90280-3075	(323) 563-9510			Elected Official
Mr.	Ben	Shaw	Team W	Air Quality Management District	21865 E. Copley Drive	Diamond Bar	CA	91765			bshaw@agmd.gov	
Mr.	Tim	Smith		Sunlaw Energy Corp.	P.O. Box 58324	Los Angeles	CA	90058				Business
Ms.	EileenM.	Tokar	Community Library Manager	Leland Weaver Library, Los Angeles County Public Library	4035 Tweedy Blvd.	South Gate	CA	90280	(323) 567-8853	Fax: (323) 663-1046		Agency
Ms.	Yolanda	Urtex	Interim Director	Westside Community Resource Center	Tweedy Blvd.	South Gate	CA	90280	(323) 357-9670			Agency
Mr.	Joe	Vella	Adohr Farms		9923 Atlantic Avenue	South Gate	CA	90280				Business
Ms.	Cora	Watkins	Principal	Tweedy Elementary School	9515 Pinehurst Avenue	South Gate	CA	90280	(323) 569-7111	Fax: (323) 569-7315		Agency
Mr.	M.T. (Terry)	Wells	Plant Manager	Consolidated Drum Reconditioning Co., Inc.	9316 Atlantic Avenue		CA		(323) 566-6734 Fax: (323) 564-4534 Cell: (323) 494-6715			
				Chuck's Chinese & American Restaurant	9409 S. Atlantic	South Gate	CA	90280	(323) 566-0822			Business
				Consolidated Drum Reconditioning Company, Inc.	P.O. Box 2067	Montebello	CA	90640				
Eastside Sun				Eastern Group Publications, Inc.	2500 South Atlantic Blvd. Building A	Los Angeles	CA	90040	(323) 263-5743	Fax: (323) 263-9169		Media

TITLE	FIRSTNAME	LASTNAME	JOB TITLE	ORGANIZATION	STREET	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE	FAX/CELL PHONE	E-MAIL	CATEGORY
				Press-Telegram	604 Pine Avenue	Long Beach	CA	90844				Media
				Southeast News	3941 Tweedy Blvd.	South Gate	CA	90280				Media
				Southland News	3939 Tweedy Blvd.	South Gate	CA	90280	(323) 567-2080	Fax: (323) 567-0934		Media
La Ola/Press				Wave Community Newspapers	2621 W. 54th Street	Los Angeles	CA	90043	(323) 290-3000			Media
La Opinion					411 West Fifth Street, 3rd Floor	Los Angeles	CA	90013	(213) 622-8332			Media

APPENDIX G

**Glossary of Commonly Used
Environmental Terms**

APPENDIX G

GLOSSARY OF COMMONLY USED ENVIRONMENTAL TERMS

Administrative Record (AR): An official, legal project file maintained at EPA's headquarters office. The AR contains all documents and other relevant information regarding environmental activities at the Cooper Drum site. The AR is available for public review. To review documents in the AR, call (800) 231-3075.

Baseline Risk Assessment: A key part of the remedial investigation process. The baseline risk assessment provides a quantitative evaluation of the potential threat to human health and the environment in the absence of any remedial action. The baseline risk assessment is used to help to determine whether remedial action is necessary and to provide information used to justify remedial actions. The baseline risk assessment also forms the basis for the findings of imminent and substantial endangerment to public health or the environment. See also Health Risk Assessment.

Community Interviews: Informal face-to-face or telephone interviews held with local residents, government officials, community groups, media representatives, potentially responsible parties, and other individuals interested in site activities. Interviewees are asked to identify the concerns and information needs of the community, and the best techniques for keeping the community informed.

Community Involvement: The federal program designed to inform and involve the public and to provide a mechanism for responding to community concerns during the Superfund process.

Community Involvement Plan (CIP): A document that identifies community concerns and specifies community involvement activities that occur during the remedial response at a site. The CIP guides EPA's efforts to keep the public informed of environmental work at the site, and establishes a program that enables citizens to review and comment on decisions that may affect the final actions at the site.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA): Commonly referred to as "Superfund," CERCLA provides funding and enforcement authority for hazardous waste site cleanup and hazardous waste spills. The release or threat of release into the environment of any defined hazardous substance could result in CERCLA response or liability. Removal and remediation are the primary response actions under CERCLA.

Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA): An analysis of removal action alternatives for a site, similar to a remedial program feasibility study. The EE/CA must be made available for a 30-day public comment period prior to the signing of the action memorandum.

Environment: The sum total of all the external conditions that may act upon an organism or community to influence its development or existence.

Fact Sheet: A brief report summarizing current or proposed activities in the cleanup program.

Feasibility Study (FS): A report on the development, evaluation, and description of remedial action alternatives.

Groundwater: The water beneath the ground surface. Groundwater is underground water that fills pores between particles of soil, sand, and gravel or openings in rocks to the point of saturation. Where groundwater occurs in significant quantity, it can be used as a source of water supply.

Hazardous Waste: Generally, any waste product of hazardous material. The term may also refer to toxic waste.

Health Risk Assessment (HRA): A quantitative analysis of the potential human health risks posed by exposure to specified concentrations of chemicals.

Information Repository (IR): A project file or repository that contains all documents and detailed information regarding environmental cleanup activities ongoing at a Superfund site. The IR should contain executive summaries of recent documents used to develop a record of decision for remedial action. The IR is maintained to provide community members with easy access to information about environmental activities at the site.

National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP): Regulations adopted by EPA to implement the CERCLA program. These regulations are found in 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 300.

National Priorities List (NPL): A list of sites developed by EPA and designated as needing long-term remedial cleanup. The purpose of the list is to inform the public of the most hazardous waste sites in the nation. The NPL is also called the Superfund list.

Open House: An informal meeting where people can talk to agency officials one-on-one.

Operations and Maintenance (O&M): Activities conducted to ensure proper functioning of the cleanup program equipment.

Parts per Billion (ppb): A commonly used term of measurement meaning one part in a billion parts. For liquids, this is the approximate equivalent of one drop of water in a full Olympic-size swimming pool. Because some chemicals are very toxic even at low concentrations, ppb has become a standard unit of measurement in the industry.

Parts per Million (ppm): A commonly used term of measurement meaning one part in a million parts. One ppm is roughly the equivalent of one drop of liquid in a filled gas tank of a full-size car.

Petroleum Hydrocarbons: Hydrocarbons are chemical compounds that consist entirely of carbon and hydrogen. Petroleum is a gooey, dark, strong-smelling liquid containing a mixture of hydrocarbon compounds plus small amounts of oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen compounds.

Plume: A body of contaminated groundwater flowing from a specific source. The movement of groundwater is influenced by such factors as local groundwater flow pattern, the characteristics of the aquifer in which the groundwater is contained, and the density of contaminants.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs): Any of a family of industrial compounds produced by chlorination of biphenyls. These compounds accumulate in organisms and concentrate in the food chain with resultant pathogenic and teratogenic effects. They also decompose very slowly. PCBs are also a group of toxic, persistent chemicals that have been used in transformers and capacitors for insulating purposes and in gas pipeline systems as a lubricant. The sale or new use of PCBs was banned by law in 1979.

Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (PA/SI): The stage before a full-scale remedial investigation. A PA/SI provides information such as site characteristics, land use practices, and knowledge of former employees. The PA/SI provides preliminary sampling data to determine whether a site requires a full-scale study.

Proposed Plan: A summary of remedial alternatives for a contaminated site, including a preferred alternative and the reasons for its selection.

Public Comment Period: A period of time after the release of a document pertaining to the cleanup program. During the public comment period, the public has the opportunity to read the document and submit comments. Comment periods can range from 30 to 60 days (see Responsiveness Summary).

Public Meeting: A meeting open to the public. At typical public meetings, experts are available to present information and answer questions, and citizens are encouraged to ask questions and offer comments.

Public Notices: A notice published in major local newspapers, broadcast via local radio stations, and/or sent in individual mailings to announce agency decisions, major project milestones, public meetings, or to solicit public comment on agency actions.

Record of Decision (ROD): A public document explaining which cleanup alternative(s) will be used at a site. The ROD is based on information and technical analyses generated during the remedial investigation/feasibility study and on public comments received on the proposed plan.

Remedial Action (RA): Action taken to stop or substantially reduce a release, or threat of release, of hazardous substances which are not of immediate threat to human health or the environment. If the substances pose an immediate threat, they will be removed in a removal action.

Remedial Alternative: A method or combination of methods designed to protect public health, welfare, and the environment, over the long term, from releases of hazardous substances at a Superfund site. Remedial alternatives are usually projects or a combination of technologies that contain, remove, or destroy most of the contaminants in the air, water, soil, and/or groundwater at a Superfund site.

Remedial Design (RD): A phase of the remedial action that follows the remedial investigation/feasibility study and includes the development of engineering drawings and specifications for a site cleanup.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS): An investigation at a Superfund site that assesses contamination and environmental problems (the RI) and evaluates cleanup alternatives (the FS). The process consists of two distinct but related phases. The first phase is the RI, which examines the nature and extent of contamination at the site. The second phase is the FS, which evaluates different methods to remediate or clean up the contamination found during the RI.

Remediate: To remove or isolate hazardous materials that have contaminated an area so the area can be used for other purposes without fear of exposing humans, plants, or animals to adverse environmental conditions.

Removal Action: A prompt remedial action taken in response to immediate and significant threats to public health or the environment. Removal actions at a contaminated site may fall into one of three categories: emergency removal actions, time-critical removal actions, or non-time-critical removal actions.

Responsiveness Summary (RS): The section within the ROD that summarizes comments received from the public during the public comment period and provides EPA or other lead agency responses to the comments.

Risk Assessment: A study, based on the results of the remedial investigation, which is used to determine the extent to which chemical contaminants found at a Superfund site pose a risk to public health and the environment.

Soil Gas: The gas contained in the space between soil particles. Contamination of soil gas may result from contamination present in the soil or groundwater.

Source: As applied to hazardous waste, a source is the point of origin of contamination. For example, subsurface sources may include underground storage tanks or pipelines. Geographic areas, facilities, or portions of a facility where air emissions regulated under the Clean Air Act may be released are also known as sources.

Site: Any area (landfill, maintenance yard, storage facility, etc.) where a hazardous substance is present as a result of a release of hazardous material from the facility as defined under CERCLA and as referred to in this and related environmental documents.

Solvent: A liquid capable of dissolving another substance. Solvents are used in a number of manufacturing/industrial processes, including the manufacture of paints and coatings for industrial and household purposes, equipment cleanup, and surface degreasing.

Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA): A federal law that re-authorized and expanded the jurisdiction of CERCLA.

Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) Title III: Part of SARA mandating public disclosure of chemical information and development of emergency response plans in case of a chemical release.

Tetrachloroethylene (PCE; also known as perchloroethylene): A stable, colorless liquid used as a dry-cleaning and industrial solvent, in pharmaceuticals and medicine, and for metal cleaning.

Trichloroethylene (TCE; also known as trichloroethene): A stable, colorless liquid with a sweet odor and a low boiling point, and which readily evaporates. TCE has many common uses, such as a general solvent, a degreaser in dry-cleaning operations, and in the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals.