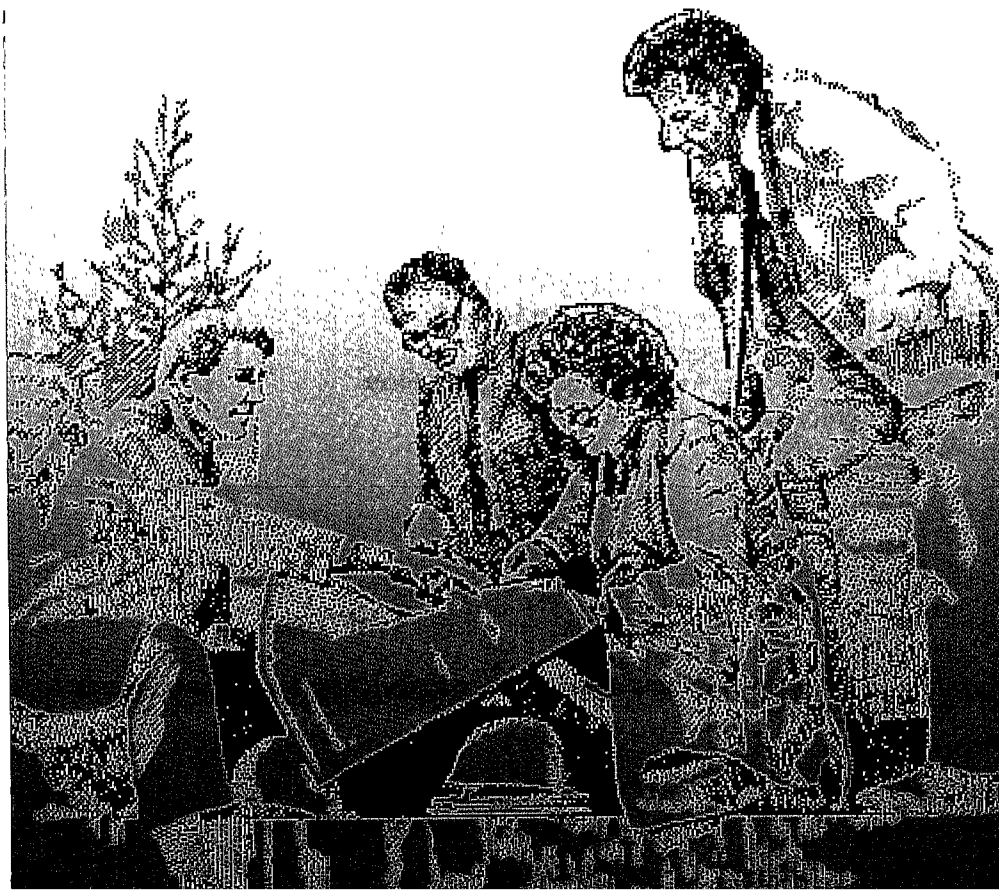
United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

540-K-02-002

Technical Assistance Resources for Communities Near Contaminated Sites



NOTICE

This booklet was prepared under contract 68-W-02-033, work assignment 003, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. For more information about this project, contact Freya Margand, Community Involvement and Outreach Center (5204G), U.S. EPA Office of Emergency and Remedial Response, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460, phone: 703-603-8889, e-mail: *margand.freya@epa.gov.*

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United States Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Emergency and Remedial Response/ Community Involvement and Outreach Center (5204G)

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INTRODUCTION

Early and meaningful community participation in decisionmaking results in better solutions for cleanup and revitalization of contaminated sites. Many of the issues to be considered involve technical data and other complex information. For this reason, EPA provides a variety of ways for communities to get technical assistance to help them better understand technical issues, legal requirements, and available options for cleanup and revitalization of contaminated sites.

This booklet provides information about the primary technical assistance programs available from EPA and other federal agencies concerned with environmental cleanup. Each section explains the kind of assistance available, who can get it, and how to take the first step towards applying for assistance.

Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Key Features

- Available to communities near NPL sites or proposed NPL sites where response actions are underway.
- Recipient group chooses its own technical advisor.
- Initial award of up to $50,000 per site is available.

The Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program provides funds to qualified community groups to hire independent technical advisors to explain technical information, plans, and documents related to site cleanup and to help voice the community's concerns. This includes redevelopment and reuse issues, public health concerns, and relocation issues. A portion of TAG funds also can be used to publish newsletters, obtain relevant supplies and equipment, or hire a grant administrator. Grants of up to $50,000 per site are available. Additional funds are available for some complex sites, but there can be only one TAG at a time for each Superfund site.

Who Is Eligible?

Your community group may qualify for a TAG if your community has been affected by a site on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) or a site proposed for the NPL where response actions have begun. The NPL is EPA's list of the most serious hazardous waste sites nationwide.

Your group must incorporate as a nonprofit organization (be made into a legal, nonprofit corporation in your state) before it can receive TAG funds.

Program Considerations

Some groups in the community are not eligible for TAGs. These include potentially responsible parties (PRPs); universities and other academic institutions; city, county, and local governments, tribes, or other political subdivisions; and groups affiliated with a national organization. Community groups established or sustained by these entities also are ineligible for TAGs.

- The application process and recordkeeping requirements for recipients are time consuming.
- Recipients must share in the costs of the project by providing resources equal to at least 20% of the total project costs (usually through volunteer time and donated or in-kind services).
- TAG funds cannot be used for travel expenses for group members, underwriting legal actions, political activity or lobbying, social activities or fundraising, tuition or training for group members, or creating new information, such as from well drilling, sampling, or medical testing.

How to Obtain Assistance

- Write a letter expressing interest in a TAG to your EPA Regional office (See pages 19-20 for a list.) After that, a formal application to EPA is required. Visit the TAG web site at *www.epa.gov/superfund/tools/tag* for an application package.

For More Information

Contact Freya Margand, TAG Program Coordinator

U.S. EPA (5204G)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460

703-603-8889, 703-603-9095

margand.freya@epa.gov

www.epa.gov/superfund/tools/tag

Technical Outreach Services for Communities (TOSC) & Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities (TAB)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Key Features

- Any community affected by a hazardous waste site or redeveloping brownfields is eligible.
- Recipient does not select a technical advisor; HSRCs provide one.
- There is no application process, so getting assistance may be faster.

The TOSC program links community groups with professors and technical assistance specialists from the Hazardous Substance Research Centers (HSRCs), a group of university centers focused on hazardous substance management and brownfields redevelopment. These specialists have experience with the cleanup of contaminated sites and redevelopment of brownfields sites. With some exceptions, brownfields are abandoned, idled, or underused properties where redevelopment is complicated by real or percieved environmental contamination. HSRCs' specialists can serve communities as a free, independent source of information and assistance. A variety of technical assistance activities are provided by TOSC/TAB:

- Reviewing and explaining technical reports
- Providing information about basic science and environmental policy and technical assistance resources
- Providing training in leadership skills, risk assessment and communication, facilitation, and conflict resolution
- Helping communities understand health risks associated with a site
- Facilitating brownfields redevelopment efforts, including community and other stakeholder involvement

The TOSC/TAB programs strive to help communities understand the underlying technical issues associated with a contaminated site or brownfields site so that they may substantively participate in the decisionmaking process.

Who Is Eligible?

In general, any community affected by a hazardous waste site or other environmental contamination or pursuing brownfields redevelopment, is eligible for TOSC/TAB assistance. This includes Superfund sites, RCRA cleanup sites, and communities that want to redevelop brownfields. Communities should request assistance directly from the appropriate HSRC serving their area.

Program Considerations

The TOSC program is intended primarily for communities that have not received other sources of technical assistance. HSRCs are funded by grants from EPA, academia, industry, and other state and federal programs, but the decision to assist a particular site is made independently by the HSRCs.

How to Obtain Assistance

☞ Contact the HSRC in your area or visit the national web site at *www.toscprogram.org*. A list of the HSRCs is on page 7.

For More Information

Contact Nancy M. Porter, TAB program (brownfields)

U.S. EPA (5105T)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460

202-566-2751

porter.nancy-m@epa.gov

Contact Jennifer Browne, TOSC program (Superfund)

U.S. EPA (5204G)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460

703-603-8922

browne.jennifer@epa.gov

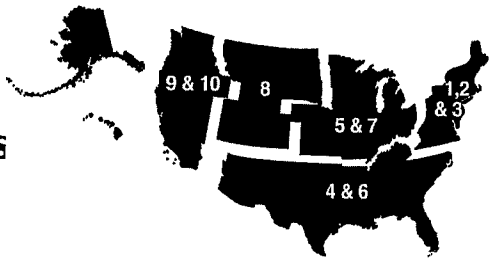
Contact Karen Randolph, TOSC program (RCRA)

U.S. EPA (5303W)
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460

703-308-8651

randolph.karen@epa.gov

Hazardous Substance Research Centers for TOSC/TAB



Northeast Center (Regions 1, 2, & 3)
Hedy Alavi, Johns Hopkins University
410-516-7091or hedy.alavi@jhu.edu
www.jhu.edu/hsrc/

South and Southwest Center (Regions 4 & 6)
Bob Schmitter, Georgia Institute of Technology
888-683-5963 or bob.schmitter@gtri.gatech.edu
www.hsrc-ssw.org

Midwest Center (Regions 5 & 7)
Jordan Radin, Purdue University
800-213-2318 or mhsrc@ecn.purdue.edu
bridge.ecn.purdue.edu/~mhsrc

Rocky Mountain Center (Region 8)
Karl E. Burgher, Project Manager, TOSC/TAB
406-496-4410 or kburgher@mtech.edu
www.engr.colostate.edu/hsrc

Western Center (Regions 9 & 10)
Stephanie Sanford, Oregon State University
800-653-6110 or Stephanie.Sanford@orst.edu
www.tosc.orst.edu

Technical Outreach Services for Native American Communities (TOSNAC)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Key Features

- Native American communities affected by hazardous substances are eligible.
- Recipient and TOSNAC Coordinator jointly select the technical assistance team.
- There is no application process, so getting assistance may be faster.

The Technical Outreach Services for Native American Communities (TOSNAC) program provides technical assistance to tribal communities dealing with hazardous substance issues on their lands. TOSNAC provides initial needs assessment and on-site visits for tribal communities requesting assistance. Through partnerships with regional TOSC and TAB programs, TOSNAC assists in technical review and provision of comments concerning documents related to hazardous substances and cleanup processes. Through these partnerships, TOSNAC contributes to the development of training materials and delivery of workshops to Native American communities from a standpoint that is culturally harmonious with tribal needs and values.

TOSNAC is located at the Haskell Indian Nations University and housed in the Haskell Environmental Research Studies (HERS) Center. TOSNAC is dedicated to the development and application of technologies grounded on the holistic and healing foundation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge. This approach provides the philosophical basis for the HERS Center's efforts in environmental education, technology transfer, research, and community service. HERS promotes activities that reduce negative environmental impacts of economic development in Native American communities, provide for environmental restoration, and promote environmental health.

Who Is Eligible?

Native American and Alaskan Native communities, as well as tribal environmental professionals who serve communities in need are eligible for TOSNAC assistance.

Program Considerations

TOSNAC focuses primarily on environmental justice and tribal cultural risk concerns that revolve around cleanup processes for a wide range of tribal sites, including: mine waste, federal facilities cleanup, and brownfields; as well as surface and groundwater protection. TOSNAC is a nationwide service. The amount of assistance is based on need.

How to Obtain Assistance

☞ Contact Brenda Brandon at Haskell Indian Nations University or call the TOSNAC hotline at 866-880-2296.

For More Information

Contact Brenda Brandon, TOSNAC Coordinator

Haskell Environmental Research Studies (HERS) Center
Haskell Indian Nations University
155 Indian Avenue, Box 5001
Lawrence, KS 66046

785-749-8498

brendabrandon@msn.com

www.tosnac.org

Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP)

U.S. Department of Defense

Key Features

- Available for DoD environmental restoration sites.
- DoD makes the final decision on who is hired as the technical consultant.
- Up to $100,000 per site is available.

The Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) program provides funds to small businesses to conduct independent technical analyses for community members of Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs) on topics of concern at U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) environmental restoration sites. These analyses might address potential health implications of site conditions, site investigations, and planned remedial activities. Installations are limited to $25,000 in any given year and a total of $100,000.

Who is Eligible?

Community members of DoD RABs and Technical Review Committees (TRCs) are eligible to receive TAPP assistance. RABs and TRCs provide a forum through which communities review and comment on DoD environmental restoration activities at military installations and formerly used defense sites.

Program Considerations

Those requesting technical assistance must be members of an established RAB or TRC with at least three community members. The majority of the members of the RAB or TRC must support the request for TAPP assistance. Funding will be considered only if federal, state, and local agencies cannot provide the needed assistance, and will be awarded on a competitive basis under federal contracting rules. Funds cannot be used for underwriting legal actions, political activity, or health studies.

How to Obtain Assistance

☞ Submit a formal application to the installation through the DoD Co-Chair of your RAB or TRC.

For More Information

Contact Patricia Ferrebee

Department of Defense
Environmental Cleanup
3400 Defense Pentagon, 3E791
Washington, DC 20301-3400

703-695-6107

patricia.ferrebee@osd.mil

www.dtic.mil/envirodod/

Citizens' Monitoring and Technical Assessment Fund (MTA Fund)

Key Features

- Recipients must be nonprofit organizations working on eligible DOE nuclear weapons sites.
- Recipient proposes a qualified technical advisor of its own choice.
- Most grants fall in the range of $35,000 to $50,000.

The Citizens' Monitoring and Technical Assessment Fund provides money to eligible organizations to obtain technical and scientific assistance to review and analyze environmental management activities at U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) sites. Established as part of an out-of-court legal settlement, the Fund is administered by RESOLVE, Inc. The amount of assistance depends on specified need, but usually is no more than $50,000.

Who is Eligible?

Groups eligible to receive MTA Fund money include nonprofit, non-governmental organizations and federally recognized tribal governments working on issues related to the DOE nuclear weapons complex.

Program Considerations

An applicant's proposal must identify technical and scientific issues to be reviewed or analyzed and the appropriately qualified experts who will conduct the review or analysis. Applicants must issue any technical and scientific reviews and analyses prepared with MTA Fund money in final written form. MTA Fund money may be used to distribute the findings of the reviews or analyses, but cannot be used to conduct or initiate litigation, lobbying, or fundraising.

How To Obtain Assistance

☞ Visit the MTA Fund web site for the application and guidelines at *www.resolv.org/mta/*.

For More Information

Contact Louise E. Gant, Citizens' Monitoring and Technical Assessment Fund

Citizens' Monitoring and Technical Assessment Fund
c/o RESOLVE
Suite 275
1255 23rd St., NW
Washington, DC 20037

202-965-6389

mta-fund@resolv.org

www.resolv.org/mta/
www.em.doe.gov/settlement/funding.html

Other Technical Assistance Resources

Technical assistance may be available from a variety of other sources depending on your community and who is involved in the site cleanup. For example, in some cases, members of Community Advisory Groups (CAGs), Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs), or Site-Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs) themselves may have technical knowledge they can offer. In other cases, potentially responsible parties (PRPs) may offer resources to help provide community members with technical assistance. Some states also have programs that offer technical assistance resources to communities.

In addition, a variety of other programs may offer technical assistance or financial resources your community can use to get the technical assistance it needs.

Brownfields Program Grants

Assessment Grants
Cleanup Grants
Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Grants
Job Training Grants

Brownfields grants support local efforts to assess, clean up, and reuse brownfields properties. States, tribes, regional councils, local governments, and redevelopment authorities may apply for assessment, cleanup, and cleanup revolving loan fund grants. Nonprofit organizations also are eligible to apply for cleanup grants. Nonprofit training centers, colleges, and public entities that serve brownfields communities are eligible to apply for job training grants. Proposals must demonstrate the environmental and community benefits of brownfields revitalization activities. All grants are competitively awarded.

ⓘ For more information or to apply, contact the Brownfields Coordinator in your EPA Region or visit the Brownfields website at *www.epa.gov/brownfields*.

Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP)

The General Assistance Program (GAP) provides assistance to federally recognized Indian tribal governments and intertribal consortia to develop the capability and capacity to establish their own environmental programs. EPA provides technical assistance to assist tribes in developing environmental protection programs that are tailored to individual tribal needs. The initial GAP grant must be for a minimum of $75,000, but additional funds may be awarded in lesser amounts. No matching share is required.

Activities are eligible for funding under the GAP program if they are for the purpose of planning, developing, or establishing an environmental protection program. The following are examples of eligible activities:

- Developing the technical capability to manage environmental programs
- Developing training for environmental management personnel for program implementation and technical competency
- Developing the legal infrastructure to implement environmental protection programs
- Generating materials, information, and plans for environmental education or public outreach programs for community members

ⓘ For more information, contact the EPA American Indian Environmental Office at 202-564-0303 or visit the website at *www.epa.gov/indian/tgrant.htm.*

U.S. EPA Environmental Justice Grants

These grants provide financial assistance to eligible community groups and federally recognized tribal governments that are working on or plan to carry out projects to address environmental justice issues. Any affected community group, nonprofit organization, university, or tribal government is eligible to receive assistance. However, organizations must be nonprofit to receive funds. Up to $20,000 is available, and no matching share is required.

The Environmental Justice Grants program gives priority to projects that improve the environmental quality of the community by:

- Having wide application or addressing a high priority issue
- Enhancing skills in addressing environmental justice issues and problems
- Establishing or expanding information systems for communities
- Facilitating communication, information exchange, and community partnerships
- Motivating the public to be more conscious of environmental justice issues, leading to action to address those issues

ⓘ For more information, contact the Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) Hotline at 1-800-962-6215 or visit the OEJ web site at *www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/index.html.*

U.S. EPA Environmental Education Grants

Environmental Education Grants provide financial support for projects that design, demonstrate, or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques. Any local or tribal education agency, state education or environmental agency, college, university, nonprofit organization, or noncommercial educational broadcasting entity is eligible to receive assistance. Up to $25,000 may be granted by EPA Regional Offices. Grants of between $25,001 and $150,000 are granted by EPA Headquarters. A 25% non-federal matching share is required.

All proposals must satisfy the definition of environmental education in the current solicitation notice, and projects must focus on one of the following:

- Educating teachers, students, or the public about environmental health threats, especially as they affect children
- Building state, local, or tribal government capacity to develop environmental education programs
- Using environmental education to advance education reform
- Educating the public about community environmental issues through community-based organizations or the media

- Improving educators' environmental education teaching skills
- Educating students about environmental careers
- Educating low-income and culturally diverse audiences about environmental issues

ⓘ The Environmental Education grants are effective through September 30, 2002 and are pending Congressional approval for fiscal year 2003. For more information, contact the EPA Office of Environmental Education at 202-564-0451, or visit their web site at *www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html.*

More Resources for Communities

There are many other sources of assistance for a variety of environmental projects. You may want to look at these web sites for additional information:

- The EPA grant writing tutorial helps communities identify financial assistance opportunities and makes it easier for applicants to produce more competitive grant applications.
  www.epa.gov/seahome/grants/src/grant.htm

- EPA helps Indian tribes find funding and provides grant writing tips.
  www.epa.gov/tribalmsw/finance.htm

- The *Summary of Federal Assistance to Communities for Environmental Projects* provides a brief description of federal funding sources available for a wide variety of environmental projects.
  www.epa.gov/ecocommunity/matrix.htm

- The *Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance* is a searchable database that provides access to all federal programs available to state and local governments, Native American communities, for profit and nonprofit organizations, and individuals.
  www.cfda.gov/default.htm

- The *Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection* provides a summary of the resources available from federal agencies for the protection of watersheds.
  www.epa.gov/owowwtr1/watershed/wacademy/fund/sources.html

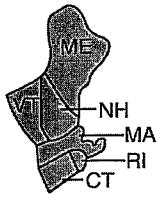
- The *State and Local Gateway* web site describes available funding resources organized by subject area or type of assistance.
  www.statelocal.gov/funding.html

- The RCRA, Superfund & Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) Call Center provides up to date information on several EPA programs, including the availability and distribution of publications and other resources.
  800-424-9346

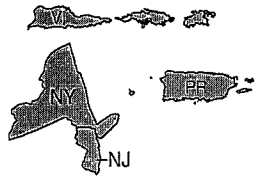
EPA Regional Offices

For more information about the EPA programs listed in this booklet, please call the main number of your region listed below.

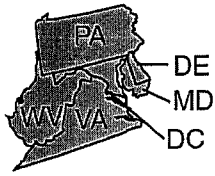
Region 1
888-372-7341



Region 2
212-637-5000

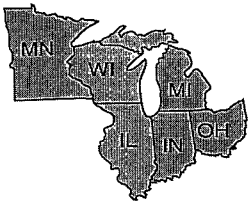


Region 3
800-438-2474

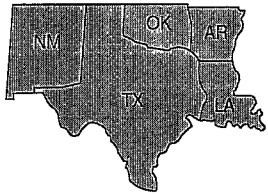


Region 4
800-241-1754

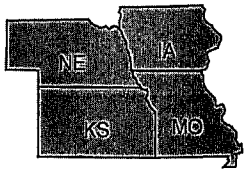
Region 5
800-621-8431



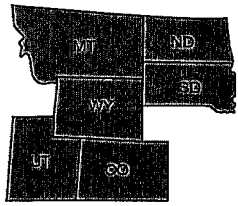
Region 6
800-887-6063



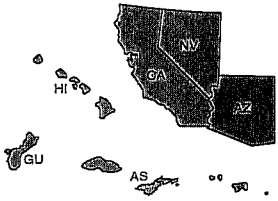
Region 7
800-223-0425



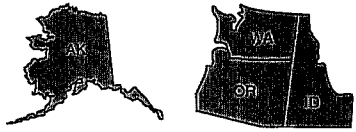
Region 8
800-227-8917



Region 9
866-EPA-WEST



Region 10
800-424-4EPA



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