Community Involvement Plan (CIP) for the Anacostia River Study Area

February 12, 2014

DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

green forward

CIP Table of Contents

Introduction and Background 3

This section provides introduction of the Anacostia River Study Area and discusses the Community Involvement Plan (CIP) goals, and key components.

Issues and Concerns 5

This section covers some of the Study Area's issues and concerns based on the site knowledge compiled from various past investigations.

Assessment and Cleanup and Anticipated Timeline 6

This section describes the process for the investigation, assesment, and clean-up of the Anacostia River Study Area. This includes the Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, Proposed Plan, Remedy Selection, Remedial Design, and Remedial Action processes. It also offers an anticipated timeline or timeframes for the investigation and cleanup activities as well as opportunities for community involvement.

Community Involvement Activities 8

The section provides a summary of the community involvement activities, including a community profile, a summary of the District's community involvement activities, plans for community and stakeholder interviews and interaction with the public, key stakeholder contacts, DDOE personnel contacts, the location of public meetings, and the location of the Study Area information repository.

Appendices 10

The appendices include Sample Stakeholder Interview Questions, Key Stakeholder and Community Contacts, Acronyms, and Glossary.

Community Involvement Plan Contacts:
If you are interested in submitting comments or questions concerning the CIP, please contact:
Sharon Cooke - Community Involvement Coordinator
W 202.535.2511 | F 202.535.2881 | sharon.cooke@dc.gov

Introduction and Background

The District Department of the Environment (DDOE) has developed this Community Involvement Plan (CIP) to promote mutual communication during the investigation and remedial cleanup of the Anacostia River sediments. The CIP summarizes community concerns based on our current knowledge of sediments in the Anacostia River. It also serves as a planning document to strengthen early and meaningful community input during all phases of the project, including the investigation and remedial actions.

DDOE will make a concerted effort to inform and involve the public regularly in all phases of the project.

The Anacostia River Watershed encompasses an area of approximately 176 square miles in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland and Washington DC. The study area for this investigation (Figure 1.1) includes the approximately nine mile tidal portions of the river which begins at the confluence of the Northwest and Northeast Branch, near the Bladensburg Marina in Prince George's County and extends downstream to the confluence of the Anacostia and Potomac rivers. The study area also includes the Washington Channel, an approximate 1.5 mile long channel extending northward from the mouth of the Anacostia at its confluence with the Potomac River. Contaminants enter the river through spills, legacy sites, stormwater point source discharges, combined sewer outflows, non-point source runoff, and tributaries. Water and sediment quality in the Anacostia River have been degraded by nutrient loading, toxic chemicals, trash and refuse resulting in adverse effects to human health and the environment. The planned study will focus on the contaminants present in the sediments of the Anacostia River.

This CIP has been prepared in accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) process delineated in guidance documents. The plan is an *evolving document* and will be updated or revised as site conditions change. The underlying purpose is to ensure that opportunities for public participation continue throughout the investigation and remedial process. The revision process may include conducting additional community interviews, updating mailing lists, investigating the designated repository and updating the contacts and resources provided in the Appendices of the CIP.

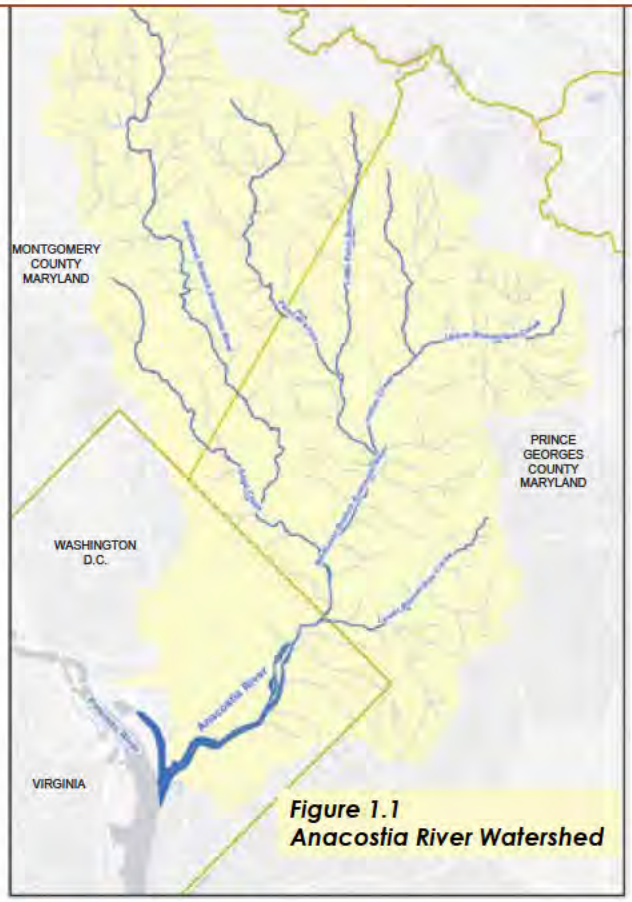


Figure 1.1
Anacostia River Watershed

The CIP Goals

DDOE is committed to engaging the public in every phase of the investigation. Cleanup of the Anacostia River Study Area is our priority and, to accomplish that, DDOE has developed the following community outreach goals:

- **Provide the public with accurate, timely, and understandable information;**
- **Provide the public with the opportunity to give relevant and important input;**
- **Ensure adequate time for the public to provide input;**
- **Respect and fully consider public input throughout the process; and assist the public in understanding the decision-making process during the design and clean-up phase.**

Key Plan Components

DDOE is committed to an open and transparent process, with full participation from the public at every phase of the site cleanup. DDOE strives to encourage affected communities and interested organizations to provide input on critical issues related to the site investigation through the final cleanup. In helping with that commitment, DDOE has developed this CIP that encourages open dialogue. DDOE considers the CIP to be a "*living document*," which will be updated as needed, based on community and other key stakeholder input.

This CIP describes a range of community involvement activities that DDOE will implement in consultation with the community and other stakeholders. The CIP's purpose is to serve as a roadmap for DDOE to provide opportunities for public engagement during the investigation, planning and cleanup phase of the Anacostia River sediments.

Issues and Concerns

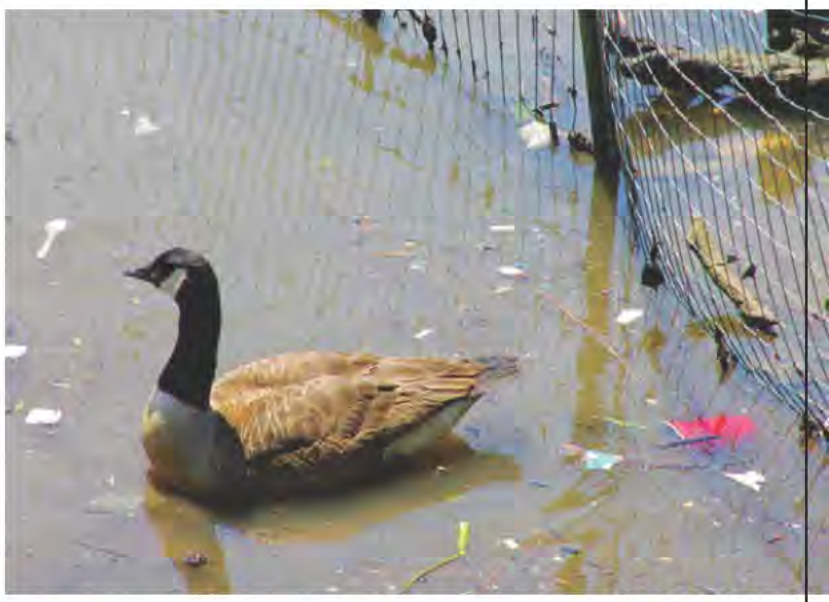
The Anacostia River has been the subject of numerous investigations dating back to the 1980s. Each investigation focused on a particular medium: surface sediment, subsurface sediment, surface water, fish tissue, or benthic invertebrate tissue. While some of the previous sediment sampling investigations covered the entire study area, others have focused on a limited area. DDOE's planned remedial investigation study is focused on verifying or updating past surface and subsurface sediment analytical results; obtaining additional data to complete the spatial coverage of the site; and identifying potential sources of contaminants in the sediment. The investigation will determine the risk to human health, and the environment.

DDOE has undertaken a series of initiatives in the last 10 years to implement large-scale restoration efforts for the Anacostia River Sediment Project. The list of current Anacostia River initiatives can be found on the DDOE Web page, *ddoe.dc.gov/anacostia-river-initiatives*.

Some of the key public health and environmental issues in the Anacostia River Study Area are:

- **Consumption of contaminated fish**
- **Contamination from Anacostia River sediments**
- **Pollution from adjacent contaminated waste sites**
- **Release of fecal bacteria from combined sewer outflows**
- **Sediment and water inflows from storm water runoff events in to the Anacostia River**
- **Clogging river from deposition of Trash and Refuse**
- **Presence of polychlorinated biphenyls, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, pesticides and heavy metals in sediments**

DDOE will collect more information from the concerns expressed in interviews by community and key stakeholders. A sample of interview questions is presented in Appendix A, which will be updated based on answers received from the interviews. An initial list of these stakeholders is included in Appendix B. These stakeholders include representatives from community and, environmental organizations, local government, neighborhood associations, federal agencies, state governments, private corporations, and local media. The stakeholders list will also be updated based on new and available information.



Assessment and Cleanup and Anticipated Timeline

The purpose of the assessment and cleanup process is to (a) characterize environmental conditions of the Anacostia River Study Area, (b) investigate whether, and to what extent, historic or current activities have caused or contributed to the contamination of the river sediment, (c) assess current and potential risk to human health and the environment posed by conditions in the river, (d) develop and evaluate potential cleanup actions, (e) provide opportunities for comment and community input, (f) select a final remedy, (g) prepare a remedy design, and (h) implement the site cleanup. DDOE will use the results of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) as well as input from the community to determine what, if any, cleanup actions should be undertaken at the site or adjacent areas of the river. DDOE will then prepare a Remedial Design, and implement a Remedial Action.

The key steps in the assessment and cleanup process are defined in the schematic below.

1. Remedial Investigation (RI)

Remedial investigation is a detailed investigation of the site, characterizing both the extent of sediment contamination (the area affected and its limits), and the types and concentrations of contaminants. The process also includes risk assessment to evaluate human health and ecological risks.

2. Feasibility Study (FS)

Feasibility study is a study requiring detailed evaluation and screening of cleanup alternatives. These alternatives are evaluated using EPA's nine criteria including protectiveness of human health and the environment, ease of implementation, cost, and time to reach clean-up goals. The technology is evaluated and tested at a reduced scale in the laboratory or in the field to generate treatability studies. The treatability results will help determine which alternatives should be considered, and offered to the public for their comments for a final selection of alternatives.

3. Proposed Plan

Proposed plan is a summary of the contaminations found, a comparison of various ways that the contamination can be cleaned up, and the identification of preferred alternatives that balance all cleanup considerations.

4. Record of Decision (ROD)

Record of decision is a document explaining the cleanup approach that will be used to remediate the site. It contains information on site history, site description, site characteristics, community participation, enforcement activities, contaminated media, contaminants present, description of the response actions to be taken, and the remedy selected for cleanup. The development of the ROD also includes consideration of how the site could be used in the future.

5. Remedial Design (RD)

Remedial design is a development of the engineering drawings and specifications for a site cleanup. The RD follows and is based upon the Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, and the Record of Decision. It will be completed and made available before the cleanup work begins.

6. Remedial Action (RA)

Remedial action is the actual building of treatment facilities, removal of waste materials, containment of contamination, implementation of institutional controls, or any other component that completes the cleanup action. The RA also includes the testing and certifying of any facilities that are put into operation.

Assessment and Cleanup and Anticipated Timeline

Project Time Frame:

A summary of the major assessment and cleanup activities, typical time frames, and associated **community involvement activities** are provided below:

Status	Typical Time Frame	Activity	Community Involvement
In Progress	Plan for completion in April 2014	Remedial Investigation Work Plan, Field Sampling Plan, Quality Assurance Project Plan, Health and Safety Plan, and Community Involvement Plan	Community Involvement Plan (CIP) available in Information Repository and on Project Website
Next step to be completed	**Field Investigations planned for May 2014** **1 to 2 Years from Work Plan Approvals**	**Field Investigations** **Remedial Investigation Report (determines the nature, extent and sources of contamination, evaluates human health and eco-logical risks)** **Feasibility Study (evaluating the cleanup options for the site)**	**Conduct Stakeholder Interviews** **Update CIP** **Kick-off Community Meeting** **Public Meeting and Fact Sheet** **Available in Information** **Repository and on Project Website**
To be completed	3 to 6 Months after Completion of Feasibility Study	Proposed Plan (issued to the public) to discuss cleanup options, and preferred approach	Public Comment Period Public Meeting Available in Information Repository and on Project Website
To be completed	3 Months after Completion of Public Comment Period on Proposed Plan	Record of Decision (to document the selected remedy)	Responsiveness Summary (to address public comments on the Proposed Plan) Fact Sheet announcing Remedy Decision Available in Information Repository and on Project Website
To be completed	1 to 2 Years (dependent on the selected remedy)	Remedial Design (detailed design for the selected remedy)	Remedial Design Fact Sheet (issued to the public) Update CIP
To be completed	1 to 2+ Years (dependent on the selected remedy)	Remedial Action (implementation of the selected remedy)	Periodic Fact Sheets (issued to the public)

Community Involvement Activities

Community Profile

In the District of Columbis, Wards 5, 6, 7, and 8 surround the Anacostia River. The Anacostia River Watershed includes stakeholders of every socio-economic background and every form of urban and suburban land use. The total District of Columbia population is approximately 600,000 residents. Additional statistics on the Wards are as follows:

Ward Number	Population	Population < 18	Population < 65	African American	Hispanic	White
Ward 5	74,308	22.7%	28.7%	76%	6.3%	16.5%
Ward 6	67,598	12.2%	16.5%	41.6%	4.8%	49.7%
Ward 7	71,068	31.4%	25.9%	94.9%	2.3%	1.8%
Ward 8	70,712	40.8%	16.5%	93.5%	1.8%	3.7%

Summary of Other Major DDOE Activities

While implementing the CIP, DDOE will conduct the following major activities:

- Identify key opinion leaders in the community,
- Identify the major public health and environmental issues of concern
- Develop fact sheets on DDOE's Community Engagement Activities and Plans for the Anacostia River
- Conduct periodic public workshops to inform the public on site activities
- Conduct periodic briefings for selected local officials about site activities
- Define any required coordination with applicable local, state, and federal government organizations

Community and Stakeholder Interviews

An important step in implementing a CIP is to conduct interviews with selected community members, local officials, public interest groups, and other parties with an interest in the Anacostia River Study Area. These interviews will help to identify new or existing concerns from community members and obtain new ideas for keeping the community informed about the cleanup process. The stakeholder interviews will encourage public participation and identify how the community prefers to stay engaged.

A sample list of interview questions is provided in Appendix A. DDOE will begin this process by recognizing of already stated community concerns about the investigation process, the cleanup process, and public involvement commitments.

Key Stakeholder Contacts

The stakeholder contact list for the District community involvement activities is provided in Appendix B. Some of these individuals will be interviewed and/or requested to participate in DDOE community involvement activities. The list will be updated regularly.

DDOE Project Team

Integrating community involvement into every phase of a site cleanup requires the commitment of the District's site investigation and remediation team. This DDOE team will be led by the Remedial Project Manager (RPM) with support from the Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC). The RPM is the overall project manager responsible for all site activities. The CIC will coordinate public outreach and community involvement activities. The active involvement of the RPM and CIC promotes public participation among all team members, and ensures the integration of community involvement in the cleanup process.

Community Involvement Activities

Community Profile

In the District of Columbia, Wards 5, 6, 7, and 8 surround the Anacostia River. The Anacostia River Watershed includes stakeholders of every socio-economic background and every form of urban and suburban land use. The total District of Columbia population is approximately 600,000 residents. Additional statistics on the Wards are as follows:

Ward Number	Population	Population < 18	Population < 65	African American	Hispanic	White
Ward 5	74,308	22.7%	28.7%	76%	6.3%	16.5%
Ward 6	67,598	12.2%	16.5%	41.6%	4.8%	49.7%
Ward 7	71,068	31.4%	25.9%	94.9%	2.3%	1.8%
Ward 8	70,712	40.8%	16.5%	93.5%	1.8%	3.7%

Summary of Other Major DDOE Activities

While implementing the CIP, DDOE will conduct the following major activities:

- Identify key opinion leaders in the community,
- Identify the major public health and environmental issues of concern
- Develop fact sheets on DDOE's Community Engagement Activities and Plans for the Anacostia River
- Conduct periodic public workshops to inform the public on site activities
- Conduct periodic briefings for selected local officials about site activities
- Define any required coordination with applicable local, state, and federal government organizations

Community and Stakeholder Interviews

An important step in implementing a CIP is to conduct interviews with selected community members, local officials, public interest groups, and other parties with an interest in the Anacostia River Study Area. These interviews will help to identify new or existing concerns from community members and obtain new ideas for keeping the community informed about the cleanup process. The stakeholder interviews will encourage public participation and identify how the community prefers to stay engaged.

A sample list of interview questions is provided in Appendix A. DDOE will begin this process by recognizing of already stated community concerns about the investigation process, the cleanup process, and public involvement commitments.

Key Stakeholder Contacts

The stakeholder contact list for the District community involvement activities is provided in Appendix B. Some of these individuals will be interviewed and/or requested to participate in DDOE community involvement activities. The list will be updated regularly.

DDOE Project Team

Integrating community involvement into every phase of a site cleanup requires the commitment of the District's site investigation and remediation team. This DDOE team will be led by the Remedial Project Manager (RPM) with support from the Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC). The RPM is the overall project manager responsible for all site activities. The CIC will coordinate public outreach and community involvement activities. The active involvement of the RPM and CIC promotes public participation among all team members, and ensures the integration of community involvement in the cleanup process.

Community Involvement Activities

Interaction with the Public

The RPM, CIC and all team members will contact key people in the community and, during site visits, meet informally with community members. DDOE will also explore the use of community involvement techniques such as community workgroups, open houses, and informal discussions to ensure open communications with the community.

All major site decisions will be explained throughout the entire site assessment and cleanup process.

Public Meetings

Public meetings will be held close to Metro train stop and the affected community.

District of Columbia
Department of Employment Services
4058 Minnesota Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20019

Access via Minnesota Avenue Metro train stop, Blue and Orange lines

Information Repository

The information repository is located at three sites:

1) District Department of the Environment
1200 First Street, NE, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20002

Contact: Dev Murali
Phone: W 202.535.2600 | dev.murali@dc.gov

2) Francis A. Gregory Neighborhood Library
3660 Alabama Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20020

Main Library Phone: 202-698-6373
Contact: Bettye Smith, Branch Manager
Phone: 202-698-3870
bettye.smith@dc.gov
Alternate Contact: Alana Quarls

3) Rosedale Neighborhood Library
1701 Gales St, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Main Library Phone: 202-727-5012
Contact: Eboni Henry, Branch Manager
202-727-5023
eboni.henry@dc.gov
Alternate Point of Contact:
Anna Clare Livoti, Children's Librarian

Community Involvement Plan Contacts

If you are interested in submitting comments or questions concerning the CIP, please contact:

Sharon Cooke
Community Involvement Coordinator

District Department of the Environment
Government of the District of Columbia
1200 First Street NE, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
W 202.535.2511 | sharon.cooke@dc.gov

Timothy Fields, Jr.
Contractor Community Involvement Coordinator
Phone: 202.331.0060
tfields@michaelbaker.com

Appendix A
Sample Community Interview Questions

1. *When did you first become aware that the DDOE is working on the Anacostia River Study Area?*

2. *What do you know about the history of the site?*

3. *What are your current concerns about the site study area?*

4. *Have you participated in activities concerning this project?*

5. *How you like would to be involved in future activities?*

6. *How can the District best provide you with information about the project?*

7. *What kinds of information are you interested in receiving?*

8. *How do you want to receive information about the project and how frequently? (For example, public meetings, emails, fact sheets, or discussions with community leaders) What about via social media (Facebook, Twitter)?*

9. *Would you attend District held meetings on this issue? If not, what would prevent you from attending?*

10. *What newspapers are circulated in your area?*

11. *How do you perceive the presence of DDOE or federal officials in the area?*

12. *Have you spoken with any state, federal or local officials about the Anacostia River Study Area? What was the response?*

13. *What major environmental issues in the area should DDOE be aware of?*

14. *Is there anything that would be helpful to you to know about this project that we have not discussed?*

15. *Are there other individuals or groups you'd recommend that we should contact for additional information?*

Appendix B
Key Stakeholder Contacts

Environmental Organizations

Lori Baranoff, Anacostia Watershed Society
Dr. Janet Phoenix, D.C. Environmental Health Collaborative
Brooke DeRenzis, DC Appleseed
Mike Bolinder, Anacostia Riverkeeper
Dana Minerva, Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership
Steve Raabe, Opinion Works
Dennis Chestnut, Groundwork Anacostia
Kacey Wetzel, Chesapeake Bay Trust
James B. Dougherty, Sierra Club
Dottie Yunger, Chesapeake Covenant Community
Chris Weiss, DC Environmental Network

District Department of the Environment Project Personnel

Paul Connor, Deputy Director - Environmental Services Administration
Richard Jackson, Associate Director - Toxic Substances Division
Sharon Cooke, Community Involvement Coordinator
Tim Fields, Contractor Community Involvement Coordinator
Dev Murali, P.G., Remedial Project Manager
Apurva Patil, P.E., Remedial Project Manager
Ray Montero, Remedial Project Manager
Collin Burrell, Associate Director, Water Quality Division

U.S. House of Representatives

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.)

District of Columbia Government Officials

Phil Mendelson, Chairman, Council of District of Columbia
Fransisco Fimbres, Director, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Engagement
Councilwoman Mary Cheh, Ward 3
Councilman Kenyan McDuffie, Ward 5
Councilman Tommy Wells, Ward 6
Councilwoman Yvette Alexander, Ward 7
Councilman Marion Barry, Ward 8

Neighborhood Associations

Regina James, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5C
Kathy Henderson, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5D
David Holmes, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Villareal Johnson, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7F
Greg Stewart, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7C
Lisa White, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7D
L. Yvonne Moore, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8A
Khadijah Watson, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8B
Mary Cuthbert, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8C
Theresa H. Jones, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8D
Anthony Muhammad, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8E
Ajia Meux, Deanwood Citizens Association
Dan Milstein, Eastland Gardens Civic Association
Gwendolyn Hunnicutt, Friends of Kingman Park
Frazer Walton, Kingman Park Civic Association
Geraldine Bell, Park Side Civic Association
Johnny Gaither, River Terrace Community Association

Federal Government Agencies

Tom Brosnan, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Jon Cooper, U.S. Coast Guard
Emily Ferguson or Tammy Stidham, National Park Service
Lisa Pelstring, U.S. Department of the Interior
Jeff Bigler or Jeff Corbin, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Dr. Fred Pinkney, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of Defense
General Services Administration
Steve Hirsh, EPA
Simeon Hahn, NOAA

Other Local & State Government Agencies

Larry Coffman, Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources (DER)
Meo Curtis, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Frank Dawson - Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Jim Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment

Private Corporations

Pepco Energy Incorporated
Washington Gas and Light Company
CSX
Federal City Council

Media

DDOE will use both print and broadcast media such as local newspapers, local radio and TV stations to convey information related to the site investigations and remediation.

Appendix C
Acronyms List

CIC	Community Involvement Coordinator
CIP	Community Involvement Plan
COI	contaminant of interest
CQAP	Construction Quality Assurance Plan
DC	District of Columbia
DDOE	District Department of the Environment
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
FS	feasibility study
FSP	Field Sampling Plan
GIS	geographic information system
HHRA	Human Health Risk Assessment
HASP	Health and Safety Plan
MDEP	Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection
NCP	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
NPL	National Priorities List
NRDA	Natural Resource Damage Assessment
PAHs	poly aromatic hydrocarbons
PCBS	poly chlorinated biphenyls
PGDER	Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources
PRP	potentially responsible party
QAPP	Quality Assurance Project Plan
RA	remedial action
RAGS	Risk Assessment Guidance for Superfund
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RD	Remedial and/or Response Design
RI	remedial investigation
RIWP	Remedial Investigation Work Plan
ROD	record of decision
RPM	Remedial Project Manager
SAP	Sampling and Analysis Plan
SOPs	standard operating procedures
SOW	Statement of Work
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency

Glossary

Accelerated Actions
Accelerated actions are cleanup actions taken at areas with high concentrations of contamination mostly along the river.

Administrative Order on Consent
A legal agreement signed by the EPA, DDOE and an individual, business or other entity through which the entity agrees to take an action, refrain from an activity, or pays certain costs. It describes the actions to be taken, applies to civil actions, and can be enforced in court. In limited instances it may be subject to a public comment period.

Capping
Placing a cover over contaminated materials. These covers are called "caps." Caps do not clean up the contaminated material. They keep it in place so it will not come into contact with people or the environment.

Carcinogen
Any substance that can cause or aggravate cancer.

Cleanup
Actions taken to deal with a release or threat of release of a hazardous substance that could affect humans and/or the environment. The term "cleanup" is sometimes used interchangeably with the terms "remedial action," "remediation," "removal action," "response action," or "corrective action."

Community
An interacting population of various types of individuals in a common location; a neighborhood or specific area where people live.

Community Advisory Group
A Community Advisory Group is a committee, task force, or board made up of residents affected by a Superfund or other hazardous waste site. A CAG provides a way for representatives of diverse community interests to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to the site and the site cleanup process. CAGs are a community initiative and responsibility. They function independently of the EPA.

Community Involvement
The term used by the EPA to identify its process for engaging in dialogue and collaboration with communities affected by Superfund sites. EPA community involvement is founded in the belief that people have a right to know what the Agency is doing in their community and to have a say in it. Its purpose is to give people the opportunity to become involved in the Agency's activities and to help shape the decisions that are made.

Community Involvement Coordinator
The DDOE representative responsible for involving and informing the public about the Superfund process and response actions in accordance with the interactive community involvement requirements set forth in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP).

Community Involvement Plan
A management and planning tool outlining the specific community involvement activities to be undertaken during the course of a site investigation and cleanup. It is designed to 1) share communication between the affected community and DDOE, EPA, and 2) make sure of public input in the decision-making process related to the affected communities.

Comprehensive Cleanup
Long-term cleanup plan for the Anacostia River will take place in phases over several years.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as Amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986
Commonly known as Superfund, CERCLA is intended to protect human health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. Under the program the EPA either can pay for a site cleanup when parties responsible for the contamination cannot be located or are unwilling or unable to perform the work, or take legal action to force parties responsible for site contamination to clean up the site or repay the federal government for the cleanup cost.

Consent Decree
A legal document, approved by a judge, that formalizes an agreement reached between the DDOE and potentially responsible parties through which PRPs will conduct all or part of a cleanup action at a Superfund site; cease or correct t actions or processes that are polluting the environment; or otherwise comply with the DDOE-initiated regulatory enforcement actions to resolve the contamination at the site involved. The consent decrees describes the actions PRPs will take, is subject to a public comment period prior to its approval by a judge, and is enforceable as a final judgment by a court.

Glossary

Contaminant
Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter that has an adverse effect on air, sediment, water or soil.

Contamination
Introduction into water, air, and soil of chemicals, toxic substances, wastes, or wastewater in a concentration that makes the water, air and/or soil unfit for its intended use. Also applies to surfaces of objects, buildings, and various household use products.

Dredging
The removal of sediment (mud) from the bottom of a body of water.

Ecosystem
The complex of a community and its environment functioning as an ecological unit in nature.

Emergency Response Action
If a site poses an immediate threat to public health or the environment, an emergency response action will be taken immediately to stop the threat.

Endangered Species
Any native species in imminent danger of extinction.

Environment
The sum of all external conditions affecting the life, development and survival of an organism.

Environmental/Ecological Risk
The potential for adverse effects on living organisms associated with pollution of the environment by effluents, emissions, wastes, or accidental chemical releases; by energy use; or by the depletion of natural resources.

Environmental Justice
The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, culture, education, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Feasibility Study
Describes and analyzes potential cleanup options for a site and starts as soon as the remedial investigation, which is a study of the nature and extent of contamination, begins at a site. The feasibility study will usually recommend the selection of a cost effective cleanup option.

Fish Advisory
State-generated health warning regarding the consumption of fish. Fish advisories include advice on how to reduce exposures to chemical contaminants in fish by avoiding or reducing consumption and by the use of filleting/trimming and cooking techniques to further reduce contaminant levels.

Floodplain
Frequently flooded flat area along the Anacostia River.

Health and Safety Plan
The purpose of the Health and Safety Plan is to make sure that the work associated with sampling, construction, and dredging operations is performed in a manner that is safe for workers, the public, and the environment and, in the event of an accident, provides a prompt and effective response.

Health Assessment
An evaluation of available data on existing or potential risks to human health posed by contaminated site. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry of the department of Health and Human Services is required to perform such an assessment at every site on the National Priorities List.

High-Use Properties
Flood prone properties along the Anacostia River that are frequently used by people.

Information Repository
A file containing current information, technical reports, and reference documents regarding a site. The information repository usually is located in a public building convenient for local residents such as a public school, town hall, or library.

Interim Exposure Control
Placing a barrier such as ground cover over floodplain soil and raising land use features such as gardens, swing sets, fire pits to limit contact. These controls are for high-use properties that meet the eligibility requirements.

Land-Use Features
Gardens, fire pits, swing sets in flood prone contaminated areas.

Glossary

Lead Agency
An agency such as the EPA, DDOE or other federal agencies and state agencies that plan and implement response actions under the National Contingency Plan (for example, the agency that has the primary responsibility for coordinating a response action).

Mitigation
Measures taken to reduce adverse impacts on the environment.

National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan
The federal regulations that guide the Superfund program. The purpose of the NCP is to give the organizational structure and procedures for preparing for and responding to discharges of oil and releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, and contaminants.

Natural Attenuation
The natural process (or not aided by human intervention) by which a contaminant is reduced in concentration over time through absorption, adsorption, degradation, dilution, and/or transformation.

Natural Resources
Land, fish, wildlife, air, water ground water, drinking water supplies and other such resources belonging to, managed by, or controlled by the United States, a state or local government, any foreign government, any Indian tribe, or any member of an Indian tribe.

Natural Resource Damage Assessment
The process of collecting, compiling, and analyzing information, statistics, or data to determine damages for injuries to natural resources.

Non-point Source
Pollution coming from a wide, non-specific source such as runoff from cities, farms, or forest land.

Nutrient Loading
Nutrient loading is when nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizer gets into the soil and water and affect various ecosystems. Excess nitrogen also gets into the atmosphere from the manufacturing of fertilizer and fossil fuel combustion. This is a concern to biodiversity because the excess nitrogen can destroy or boost the growth of nitrogen sensitive plants which throws ecosystems out of balance.

Point Source
Pollution coming from a wide, non-specific source such as runoff from cities, farms, or forest land.

Poly Chlorinated Biphenyls
A group of chemicals composed of 209 congeners, consisting of a biphenyl ring with between one and 10 chlorine atoms attached, known to be persistent in the environment and to cause adverse effects in organisms.

Pollutant
Generally, any substance introduced into the environment that adversely affects the usefulness of a resource or the health of humans, animals, or ecosystems.

Potentially Responsible Party
An individual, company, or other entity (such as owners, operators, transporters, or generators of hazardous waste) potentially responsible for, or contributing to, the contamination problems at a Superfund site. When possible, the EPA requires a PRP, through administrative and legal actions, to clean up hazardous waste sites that it has contaminated.

Proposed Plan
A plan for a site cleanup that is available to the public for comment.

Public
The community or people in general or a part or section of the community grouped because of a common interest or activity.

Public Availability Session
Informal public sessions that often use poster displays and fact sheets and that include DDOE personnel and contractors who are available to discuss issues and answer questions.
Public availability sessions offer the public the opportunity to learn about project-related issues and to interact with the DDOE on a one-to-one basis. Public availability sessions do not require the use of court reporters and transcripts, although meeting summaries may be issued through newsletters and progress reports.

Public Comment Period
A formal opportunity for community members to review and contribute written comments on various DDOE documents or actions.

Glossary

Public Forum
Semi-formal public sessions that are characterized by a presentation, question-and-answer session, and a less formal poster/display session. This format allows members of the public to participate in both large and small group settings. Public forums do not require the use of court reporters and transcripts, although meeting summaries may be issued through newsletters and progress reports.

Public Meeting
Formal public sessions that are characterized by a presentation to the public followed by a question-and-answer session. Formal public meetings may involve the use of a court reporter and the issuance of transcripts. Formal public meetings are required only for the Proposed Plan and ROD amendments.

Reaches
The Anacostia River was divided into nine channel reaches of nine mile in length for the purpose of identifying locations in the river.

Record of Decision
A public document that explains the cleanup method that will be used at a Superfund site based on EPA studies, public comments, and community concerns.

Remedial Action
The actual construction or implementation phase that follows the remedial design. Also referred to as site cleanup.

Remedial Design
The phase that follows the remedial investigation/ feasibility study (RI/FS) and includes development of engineering drawings and specification for a site cleanup.

Remedial Investigation
An in-depth study designed to gather data needed to determine the nature and extent of contamination at a Superfund site, establish site cleanup criteria, identify preliminary alternatives for remedial action, and support technical and cost analyses of alternatives. The remedial investigation is usually concurrent with the feasibility study. Together they are referred to as the "RI/FS."

Remedial Project Manager
The DDOE official responsible for coordinating, monitoring, and/or directing site investigations and cleanups at sites.

Remediation
Cleanup or other methods used to remove or contain a toxic spill or hazardous materials from a Superfund site.

Responsiveness Summary
A summary of oral and/or written public comments received by the EPA during a comment period on key EPA documents and the EPA's response to comments.

Restoration
Actions undertaken to return an injured resource to its baseline condition, as measured in terms of the injured resource's physical, chemical, or biological properties, or the services it previously provided, when such actions are in addition to response actions completed or anticipated, and when such actions exceed the level of response actions determined appropriate to the site.

Sediment
Soil, sand and minerals washed from land into water, especially after rain. Sediment piles up in reservoirs, rivers and harbors.

Stakeholder
Any organization, governmental entity, or individual that has a stake in or may be affected by the superfund program.

Standards
Norms that impose limits on the amount of pollutants or emissions produced. The EPA establishes minimum standards, but states are allowed to put in place more stringent standards.

Superfund
The program operated under the legislative authority of CERCLA that funds and carries out EPA's solid waste emergency and long-term removal and remedial activities.

Toxic Chemical
Any substance which may be harmful to the environment or hazardous to your health if inhaled, ingested or absorbed through the skin.

Treatment
Any method, technique or process designed to remove solids and/or pollutants from solid waste, waste-streams, effluents, and air emissions.

Water Quality Standards
State adopted and EPA approved standards for water bodies. The standards prescribe the use of the water body and establish the water quality criteria that must be met to protect designated uses.

Watershed
A watershed is the area of land where all the water that is under it or drains off it goes into the same place.

Glossary

Standards
Norms that impose limits on the amount of pollutants or emissions produced. The EPA establishes minimum standards, but states are allowed to put in place more stringent standards.

Superfund
The program operated under the legislative authority of CERCLA that funds and carries out EPA's solid waste emergency and long-term removal and remedial activities.

Toxic Chemical
Any substance which may be harmful to the environment or hazardous to your health if inhaled, ingested or absorbed through the skin.

Treatment
Any method, technique or process designed to remove solids and/or pollutants from solid waste, waste-streams, effluents, and air emissions.

Water Quality Standards
State adopted and EPA approved standards for water bodies. The standards prescribe the use of the water body and establish the water quality criteria that must be met to protect designated uses.

Watershed
A watershed is the area of land where all the water that is under it or drains off it goes into the same place.

DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

green forward