

## Lessons Learned Along the Road to Hazardous Waste Clean-up

Susan M. Pinney<sup>1\*</sup>, Marilyn V. Howarth<sup>2\*</sup>, Kathleen M. Vandiver<sup>3\*</sup>, Adrian Wood<sup>2</sup>,  
Bob Adams<sup>2</sup>, Joyce Bentle<sup>1</sup>, Sharon Cooke-Vargus<sup>2</sup>, Lisa Crawford<sup>1</sup>, Graham  
Mitchell<sup>1</sup>, Martha K. Stevenson<sup>3</sup>, Suzanne M. Sullivan<sup>3</sup>, Kent Meloy<sup>1</sup>, Kayla McGill<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Community Engagement Core, University of Cincinnati Center for Environmental Genetics; <sup>2</sup>Community Engagement Core, University of Pennsylvania Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology;

<sup>3</sup>Community Engagement Core, MIT Superfund Research Program;

\*contributed equally to the project

Hazardous Waste clean-up can be contentious. Information gradients and poor communication among stakeholders contribute to a suboptimal experience. There are very few educational resources for community organizations, governmental agencies and/or commercial entities to help them improve multi-directional communication while addressing an environmental hazard and navigating the cleanup process. Employing first-hand experiences and lessons learned, our objective is to provide a vehicle for groups beginning the process of hazardous waste evaluation and clean-up that supports the evolution of productive relationships between government, regulators and community members. We found that building-relationships led to successfully solving complex environmental, public health, community planning and resource development challenges.

Methods: In a three-site collaboration among Community Engagement Cores we held a series of discussions comparing and contrasting our experiences distilling unique circumstances and commonalities among sites. We collected media of all types and developed video modules to help other sites and stakeholders facing the often difficult and lengthy process of achieving hazardous waste clean-up. The “lessons learned” for these modules have come from the Fernald OH uranium processing facility site, the Ambler PA asbestos manufacturing site, and the Wilmington MA Olin Chemical Superfund Site. The content addresses: assembling a group including community members, regulations, elected officials and representatives of the commercial site entity; encouraging self-education; conduction an evaluation; productive protesting; developing productive relationships; speaking with the media; working towards agreement on big concepts; considering cost and feasibility of remediation methods. The project was supported by a multi-disciplinary team of community stakeholders, professionals in film development and academic partners. Samples from the video modules will be shown with the poster.