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Federal Facilities Restoration  
and Reuse Office

## Federal Facilities Stakeholder Involvement—

# Blueprint for **ACTION**

A simple line-art illustration of two stick figures. The figure on the left is holding a large sheet of paper (a blueprint) up to its face. The figure on the right is wearing a hard hat and holding a shovel.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful  
committed citizens can change the world.  
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

— Margaret Mead

For the most recent information,  
please see the FFRRO Homepage at [www.epa.gov/swerfrr](http://www.epa.gov/swerfrr)

## Laying the Foundation—Involving People in Decisions That Affect Them



It is vitally important that public stakeholders—citizens like you—take an active role in effectively influencing and overseeing decisions concerned with the cleanup of federal facilities. Experience has shown that cleanups improve at federal facilities when local stakeholders share information and actively participate in environmental

decisionmaking. Stakeholders are people with an interest or stake in the cleanup of a federal facility, and their concerned involvement is an important part of any cleanup program. Successful citizen involvement creates a process in which communities and agencies are seen as equal partners in the dialogue on cleanup issues.

### Who are Stakeholders?

- Local communities and governments
- Tribal communities and governments
- Civic and labor organizations
- Environmental Justice groups
- Local redevelopment boards
- Educational institutions
- State agencies
- Federal agencies
- Individual citizens



### Why is Stakeholder Involvement Important in Cleanup Decisions?

Active and informed stakeholders:

- Ensure their diverse interests are considered in making cleanup decisions,

- Expand public awareness of cleanup efforts,
- Increase the effectiveness of cleanup efforts,
- Decrease the time needed to select and approve an appropriate remedy, and
- Reduce cleanup costs significantly.

### What is FFRRO's Role in Stakeholder Involvement?

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office (FFRRO) works with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and other federal agencies to foster public participation and link communication networks. FFRRO is responsible for activities that promote:

- Partnerships for improved cleanups,
- Innovative treatment technology projects,
- Citizen and stakeholder involvement, and
- Policy development.

By focusing on partnerships, innovation, and public involvement, FFRRO and its regional counterparts are producing results that restore the environment while meeting local community needs.

### Building a Framework—A BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION

FFRRO's BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION outlines a comprehensive program to ensure stakeholder involvement by putting citizens first. The BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION charts the direction for all stakeholders in four key areas:

- Dialogue,
- Partnerships,

- Environmental justice, and
- Stakeholder involvement.

### **1) Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration Dialogue—A Blueprint for Creative Solutions**

EPA established a forum, the Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration Dialogue Committee (FFERDC), to provide a blueprint for all stakeholders—the public, regulators, and regulated agencies—to develop creative solutions to the challenges associated with environmental pollution at federal facilities. The dialogue set a high standard for public participation and serves as a model for all serious environmental dialogues. The 50 Committee members, representing diverse interests, released the FFERDC Final Report in April 1996. The principles and recommendations in the Report reflect the consensus of those involved with and affected by federal facilities cleanup decisions. The FFERDC Final Report presents a new approach for making cleanup decisions reflect the priorities and concerns of all stakeholders.

### **2) Partnerships—A Blueprint for Public Participation**

The success of our nation's cleanup programs is increasingly dependent upon strong partnerships. FFRRO promotes the building of partnerships to provide integral links to a diverse cross section of stakeholders. We have formed or participated in several partnerships with DoD, DOE, and other stakeholders to facilitate faster, more effective, and less costly cleanups. For example, working through EPA's regional offices, FFRRO helps DoD implement President Clinton's Fast-Track Cleanup Program. This program accelerates cleanups and speeds the economic recovery of communities affected by military base closures. We also develop partnerships between the different levels of government and the public, resulting in more efficient cleanups that better reflect each community's values.

### **3) Environmental Justice—A Blueprint for Diversity**

Environmental justice represents a fundamental change in the way EPA makes and implements environmental decisions. There are many diverse groups of stakeholders affected by the cleanup of federal facilities. As we work to ensure a safer environment for all Americans, we realize that environmental benefits and burdens are not distributed equally throughout the population. The environmental justice challenge requires a process that recognizes the interests of these diverse stakeholders and provides meaningful opportunities for their involvement. FFRRO integrates environmental justice perspectives into its work.

### **4) Stakeholder Involvement Networks—A Blueprint for the Future**



Each citizen has a stake in the future of federal facilities, and FFRRO values maximizing public involvement in the process of making decisions about our environment. FFRRO involves citizens groups, tribal parties, and state and local agencies in the cleanup process through dialogue that respects the unique needs of each community. This approach provides access to resources, information, and training so all stakeholders are able to participate in decisionmaking. Those most affected by federal cleanups must have the opportunity to be fully informed and to work together with federal officials to develop cleanup solutions. If all stakeholders work together, we will reach reasonable solutions that improve our communities and protect our environment.

## BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION— Charting the Course



FFRRO's BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION charts out a workable course for ensuring meaningful partnership among all stakeholders. Although our BLUEPRINT FOR ACTION provides a foundation for community involvement, stakeholder participation in all phases of the federal facility cleanup program is continually evolving. FFRRO and our regional counterparts across the nation are committed to developing and implementing new and more effective ways to reach out and foster community cooperation and trust.

## Stakeholder Tools for Involvement—RABs and SSABs



Over 300 Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs) are established at most military installations scheduled for realignment or closure, as well as many active DoD installations across the country. RABs promote teamwork by bringing members of the community together with military officials and government regulators to discuss cleanup issues. They successfully increase community understanding of cleanup issues and progress, provide greater opportunities for communities to participate in the cleanup process, and enhance the credibility of installations.

Similarly, DOE established Site-Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs) to provide policy and technical advice for federal facility site cleanups. SSAB involvement enhances the cleanup process by providing a forum for experts and concerned stakeholders to make recommendations affecting decisions that impact future land use, risk management, economic development, and budget prioritization. These recommendations achieve significant cost savings and increase the pace of cleanup.

## Maintaining the Community Connection

FFRRO involves citizens and tribes in the cleanup process through dialogue that respects the unique needs of each community. FFRRO also works to enhance public health, the environment, and local economies in vital ways. One such way is promoting faster, more effective, and less costly cleanup and reuse of federal facilities.

For more information about FFRRO, call or write:

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Visit the FFRRO Homepage for more information about federal facility cleanups, including success stories, descriptions of new initiatives, policy and guidance documents, and a calendar of upcoming meetings and conferences.