

Public Involvement Evaluation Tool

Site Information

Date:

Cleanup Process Stage:

Site Name:

Site Manager:

Public Involvement Lead:

Stakeholders:

Note for Environmental Justice Task Force members:
This is a slightly modified example of a community engagement evaluation tool that is in use. This example is specific to one discipline but could be developed into something more broad or tailored to fit agency-specific projects.

Best Practices and Assumptions

- We assess at a higher level of public participation in the absence of technical information and experience in the community.
- If it goes “bad,” what will we wish we had done at first.
- We will reassess at key decision points.
- This evaluation tool includes the defined cleanup site and the affected community (perceived or actual).
- We are assuming that all of our sites are difficult to communicate and may be complicated to cleanup.

Scoring System - Adapted from IAP2 Evaluating Public Participation

1-2 Very Low to Low – recommendation: at least inform.

2-3 Low to Moderate – recommendation: at least consult (public comment periods are consult).

3-4 Moderate to High – recommendation: probably involve.

4-5 High to Very High – recommendation: minimum Involve, consider opportunities for Collaborate or Empower if feasible

Assessment Question	Very Low	Low	Med	High	Very High
1. How much do major stakeholders (i.e. tribes, local government, local organizations, general public) care about the cleanup and the decision to be made?					
2. Proximity to other big or controversial projects.					
3. What degree of participation does the public appear to want?					
4. Impact of cleanup or investigation to people's daily life?					
5. What is the value of the site or the associated resources for the community? (aesthetics, economic, etc.)					
6. What degree is the risk or perceived risk of exposure off site?					
7. What is the level of environmental justice concerns? (linguistically isolated communities, EJ Index, demographics, workers?)					
8. What is the potential for public outrage?					
9. What is the legally optimal (MTCA, RCRA, DW Regs) level of public participation?					
10. Level of complexity that requires agency-wide policy or regulatory analysis (i.e. vapor intrusion, water quality standards, other regulations).					
11. To what extent do internal staff believe that the public could help improve the outcome?					
12. What is the potential for the public to influence the decision-making process?					
13. What level of media interest do you anticipate?					
14. What is the anticipated potential for political controversy?					
15. What is the capacity and level of resources that the community or organizations currently have to address this site?					
Count number of checks in each column.					
Multiply number of checks by the weight.	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5
Enter column score.					
Add total of all five column scores.					
Divide total score by the number of questions.					
Average score					

Outcomes:
