Maps and Aerial Photographs

Description

Maps and aerial photographs are visual aids that help people understand the complexities of contamination and operable units at *Public Meetings* and *Public Availabilities/Poster Sessions*. It is easier to communicate complex issues effectively with the benefit of these visual aids.

Required Activity?

No.

Making it Work

When to Use

Maps and aerial photographs can be used to:

- Help explain where a response action or operable unit will be occurring relative to the site;

- Indicate where residences, schools, playgrounds, and hospitals are located;

- Show how many citizens may be at risk;

- Display current contamination and predict paths of migration;

- Illustrate environmental receptors and natural resource damages;

- Show groundwater and surface water contamination relative to the area's watershed;

- Plan where to conduct interviews or determine whom to include on a *Mailing List;*

- Help predict community concern about a site before the interviews by locating nearby schools, residences, bodies of water, farmland, etc.;

- Enhance your own understanding of a citizen's relation to the site during interviews;

- Illustrate Section 2 of the *Community Involvement Plan* ("Capsule Site Description"); and

- Guide citizens to the areas to visit and the areas to avoid during a site tour.

How to Use

Decide which type of map and scale would be most appropriate for each activity. Consult the site Remedial Project Manager (RPM) or On Scene Coordinator (OSC) for all site information. He or she has the most complete and up-to-date maps and aerial photographs available. If you need more information, consult the *Internet* (see below). Other good sources for spatial information include Site Assessment Managers and the Region's Geographic Information System (GIS) office.

Tips

- Use the right type and scale of map for the job. For presentations, ensure that the map is large enough to be read by people in the back of the room.

- Label all areas (*e.g.,* operable units, buildings, plume, or debris) that you will be referring to during your presentation. Include clearly labeled off-site reference points.

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◉ Try to use overlays. For example, the base map could be of the community and the site. When referring to nearby natural resources, you could use an overlay that shows wetlands, watersheds, and sensitive habitats around the site.

Related Tools/Resources in the Toolkit

◉ Community Interviews, Tab 5

◉ Community Involvement Plans, Tab 7

◉ Informal Activities, Tab 20

◉ Exhibits, Tab 13

◉ Internet, Tab 10

◉ Mailing List, Tab 23

Outside Sources of Information

Through the **Internet**, visit the *EnviroMapper* home page (*www.epa.gov/enviro/html/em/index.html*); a World Wide Web-based mapping application that generates maps displaying environmental information for the entire United States.

See
LandView,
Tab 10

Another **Internet** resource is LandView, which has its roots in the CAMEO software (Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations). CAMEO was developed by the EPA and the NOAA to facilitate the implementation of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. This far-reaching law requires communities to develop emergency response plans addressing chemical hazards and to make available to the public information on chemical hazards in the community.

This product contains both database management software and mapping software used in the CAMEO system to create a simple computer mapping system involving two programs - MARPLOT® and LandView.

The MARPLOT mapping program allows users to map Census 2000 legal and statistical areas, EPA Envirofact sites, and USGS Geographic Names Information (GNIS) features.

The LandView database system allows users to retrieve Census 2000 demographic and housing data, EPA Envirofacts data and USGS GNIS information. The GNIS contains over 1.2 million records which show the official federally recognized geographic names for all known places, features, and areas in the United States that are identified by a proper name.