

Superfund Community Involvement Program

NIEHS Superfund Basic Research Program Annual Meeting

January 12, 2006

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Community Involvement and Outreach Branch**

Purpose of Briefing

- Overview of community involvement programs with focus on technical assistance
- Overview of community involvement resources
- 25th anniversary of Superfund
- Tips before working with communities



Community Involvement and Outreach Branch (CIOB) Mission

- Build communities' capacity to participate throughout the Superfund planning and cleanup process and communicate Superfund's role in protecting human health and the environment
- CIOB accomplishes its mission through
 - Building staff capacity
 - Building community capacity
 - Variety of outreach activities

Building Staff Capacity

- Community Involvement University – courses offered in the regions on the art and science of community involvement (www.trainex.org), e.g.:
 - Advanced Reader-Focused Writing
 - Cross Cultural Effectiveness
 - Dealing with Hostile Meetings and Difficult Situations
- Generally, headquarters offers 2 courses/year in each region.

Building Staff Capacity (cont'd)

- Awards programs
 - RPM and OSC Excellence in Community Involvement Awards
 - Community Involvement Coordinator of the Year
- Community Involvement Toolkit
 - Comprehensive toolkit of 47 different techniques to involve the public at sites
 - <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/tools/index.htm>

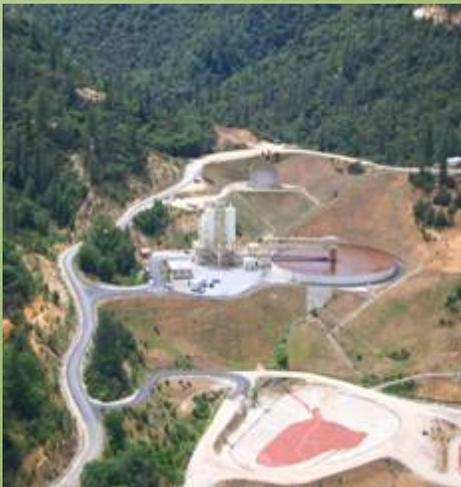
EPA 2006 National Community Involvement Conference and Training

- June 27-30, 2006, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- *Something Good is Brewing: Achieving Environmental Results Through Community Involvement*
- Call for Presenters proposals due January 18, 2006
- www.epa.gov/ciconference

Superfund is a Technical Program

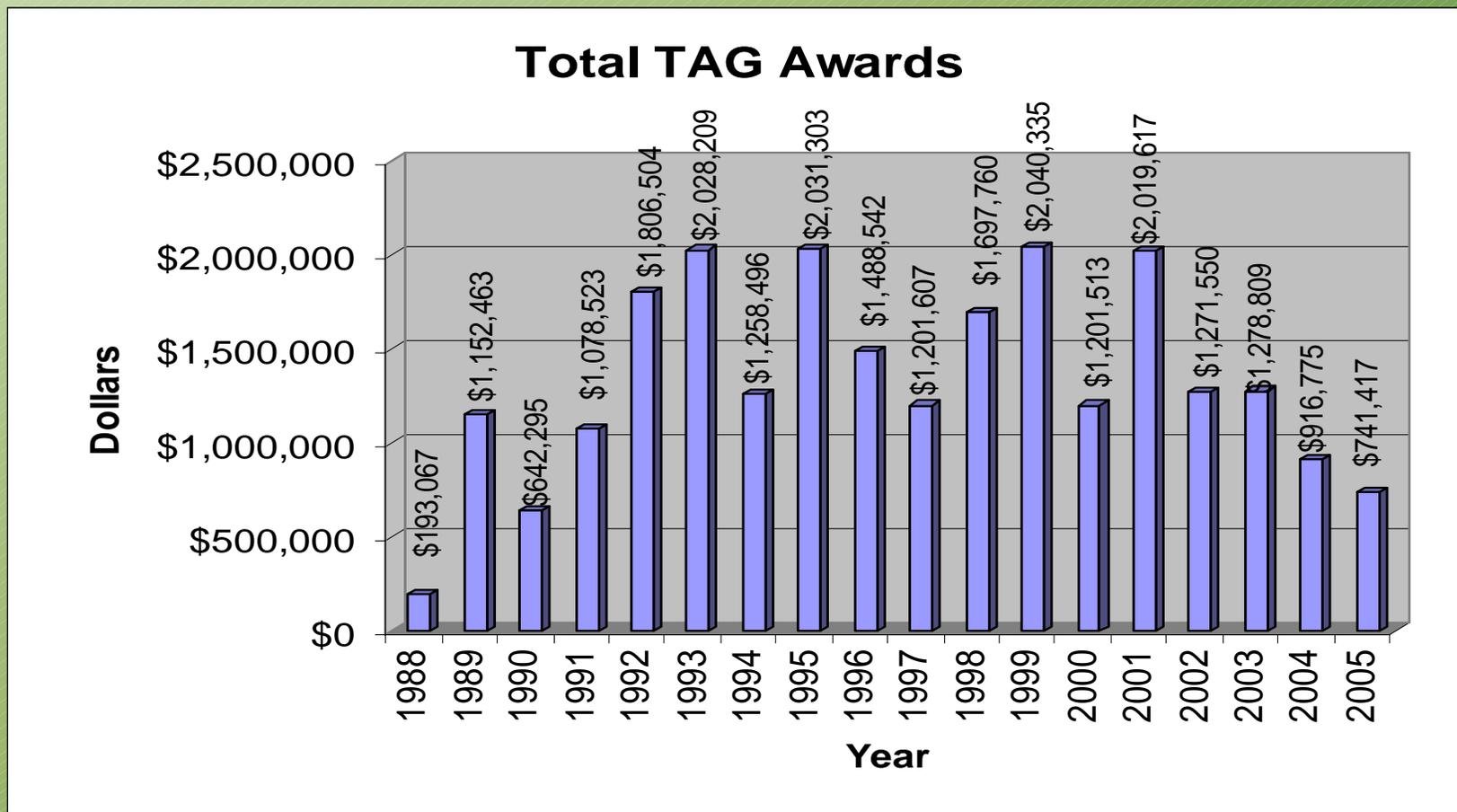


Superfund is a Technical Program



Building Community Capacity: Technical Assistance Programs

Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs)



Building Community Capacity: Technical Assistance Programs

- Technical Outreach Services for Communities (TOSC)
 - \$1.325 million in grants funded by headquarters per year to support independent, university-based technical assistance to communities
 - <http://www.toscprogram.org>
 - TOSC grants will expire in September 2006
 - EPA planning to compete a technical assistance contract

Building Community Capacity: Community Advisory Groups (CAGs)



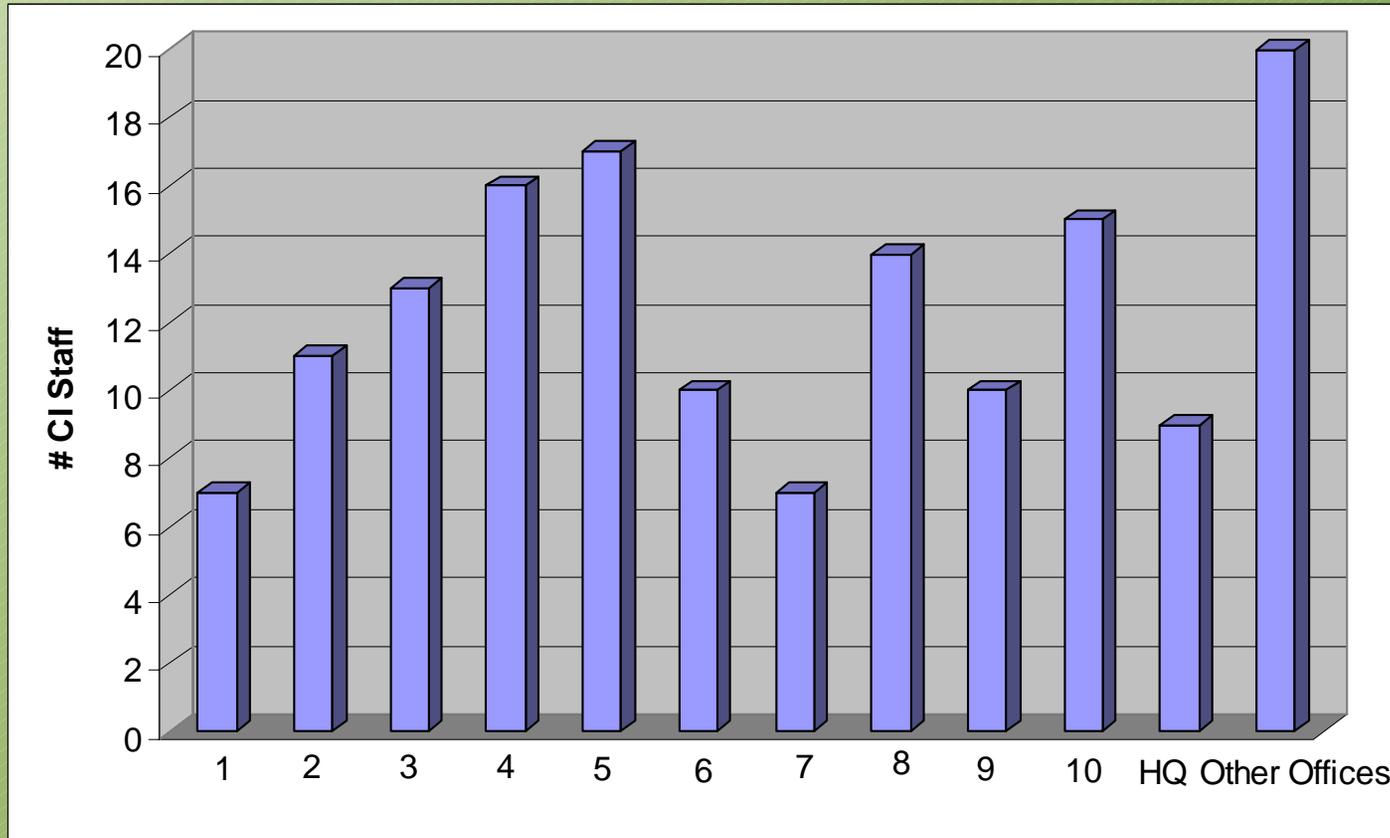
Building Community Capacity

- **Citizen Excellence in Community Involvement Award Winners**
 - **2000:** Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment (Tri-Valley CARES (R9))
 - **2001:** Laurie Nehring (R1)
 - **2002:** Harold Mitchell (R4)
 - **2003:** Clintel Betts (R7)
 - **2004:** Colorado Citizens Against ToxicWaste (R8)
 - **2005:** Sue Walker (R1)

Other Services Available

- Translation services through interagency agreement with the State Department
- Superfund Job Training Initiative
- Neutral facilitation support
- Evaluation of community involvement efforts *(Journal of Environmental Management, Vol. 77, Issue 3, November 2005, pages 165-182.)*

CI Staff by Region



Superfund 25th Anniversary Photo History Project

- <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/25anniversary>
- Display at National Museum of Natural History
December 2005 – January 2006



Superfund 25th Anniversary Oral History Project

- Intended to be a permanent, accessible record of interviews with people who shaped the Superfund program
- Interviewed 41 people including community members, congressional members and staff, industry representatives and program implementers

Oral History Project—Community Perspectives

- Technical assistance was very important to foster community member's involvement
- Technical assistance needed to understand health effects
- Technical assistance legitimizes community concerns

Working with Communities

- Contact EPA regional staff (site manager and community involvement coordinator) to learn about previous work in community
- Take time to understand the Community Involvement Plan, and other site-related documents
- Make use of existing information, and don't recreate things
- Ensure you are working with a broad range of interests, and promote coalition building
- Evaluate effectiveness