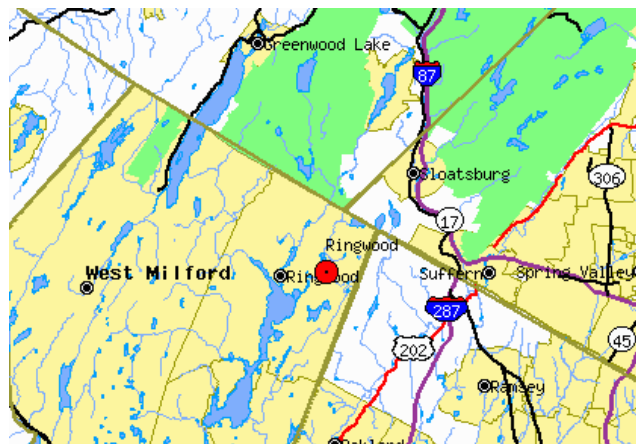




The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Superfund Community Involvement Program is committed to promoting communication between the community and the Agency. Active public involvement is crucial to the success of any project, especially at The Ringwood Mines Superfund site.

EPA's community involvement activities at The Ringwood Mines Superfund site are designed to:

- Inform the public of the nature of the environmental issues associated with the site
- Involve the public in the decision-making process that will affect them
- Involve the public in the responses under consideration to remedy these issues
- Inform the public of the progress being made to implement the remedy.



## **1.0 Overview of Community Involvement Plan:**

EPA developed this Community Involvement Plan (CIP) to facilitate two-way communication between the community impacted by the Ringwood Mines Superfund site and EPA, and to encourage community involvement in site activities. EPA will implement the community involvement activities outlined in this plan to ensure that the community is kept informed and provided with opportunities for involvement.

## **2.0 Site Background**

### **2.1 Site History:**

The Ringwood Mines are a series of iron ore mines that were operated almost continuously from the mid-1700s to the early 1900s. Prior to 1940, the entire mine area was purchased by the U.S. Government and administered by the U.S. Government Defense Plant Corporation. The mine area was subsequently leased to the Alan Wood Steel Company as part of the World War II effort.

In 1956, the U.S. Government sold the property to the Pittsburgh Pacific Company, of Hibbing, Minnesota. The timeframe of their ownership and the way in which the property was used was not well-documented; however, aerial photographs taken in 1959 indicate that the mines were in operation at that time.



On January 1, 1965, the Pittsburgh Pacific Company sold the mine area to the Ringwood Realty Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ford

Motor Company (Ford). A Bureau of Mines Safety Inspection Report, dated 1965, indicated that

some refuse, including municipal waste, was already present in the abandoned mining pits and shafts and recommended procedures for safeguarding the mines. Beginning in 1967, Ringwood Realty used the site to deposit waste products from the Ford factory in Mahwah, New Jersey. These waste products included, but may not have been limited to, car parts, solvents and paint sludge. Some of these wastes were deposited on the ground surface in both natural and man-made depressions. Other wastes were allegedly dumped into the abandoned mine shafts.

In 1970, Ringwood Realty divided the property, donating 290 acres to the newly-formed Ringwood Solid Waste Management Authority (RSWMA). In addition, 209.9 acre and 140.6 acre tracts of the property were sold to the Public Service Electric and Gas Company and High Point Homes, Inc. The remaining land, (approximately 150 acres) in the vicinity of Peters' Mine, was retained by the Ringwood Realty Corporation. A portion of the 150-acre tract was known as the O'Connor Refuse Disposal Area and it was used for industrial refuse disposal by Ford. Property records suggest that by 1974, Ford was no longer sending waste of any type to the Ringwood Mines/Landfill site, including the O'Connor Refuse Disposal Area. In 1973, Ringwood Realty donated the remaining 150 acres of the mine area to the State of New Jersey and to Housing Operation With Training Opportunity Inc. (How To Inc.). In March 1972, the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission, (NJDWSC), which is responsible for administering the downstream Wanaque Reservoir and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), agreed to permit the development of a municipal refuse area on RSWMA property. This municipal disposal area, located near Margaret King Avenue was supposed to be limited to municipal refuse and industrial packing and waste parts from Ford (not including liquid waste, chemical or petroleum products).

In 1976, the NJDEP sampled surface water from the vicinity of the Municipal Disposal Area and determined that it was contaminated by leachate emanating

from the landfill. As a result of these findings, NJDEP closed the landfill that year.

Between November 1979 and April 1980, both EPA and NJDEP conducted preliminary assessments on the Ringwood Mines/Landfill site. In July 1982, NJDEP conducted a site inspection and based on ground water sampling results taken from water in the Peters' Mine shaft, the site scored high enough on EPA's *Hazard Ranking System* (HRS) to be proposed for the *National Priorities List* (NPL) five months later.

## **2.2 Site Location/Description:**

The Ringwood Mines Superfund site consists of approximately 500 acres in a historic mining district in the Borough of Ringwood, which is located in the northeast corner of Passaic County, New Jersey. The site, which is about one-half mile wide and one and one-half miles in length, is predominantly made up of rugged forested areas, open areas overgrown with vegetation, abandoned mine shafts and surface pits, small surficial pits, an inactive landfill, an industrial refuse disposal area, small surficial dumps, a municipal recycling area and the Ringwood Borough garage. Additionally, there are approximately 50 private residences located on or near the disposal areas. The Mines are located immediately west of the town of Ringwood, approximately one-quarter mile west of Ringwood Manor State Park and one mile northwest of the northern most segment of the Wanaque Reservoir. Ground water beneath the site discharges to surface streams and the Wanaque Reservoir, located one-half mile southeast of the on-site sludge disposal areas.



### **2.3 Past, Current and Future Cleanup Activities:**

The Site was officially added to the NPL in 1983 and in March 1984, Ford signed an Administrative Order on Consent, essentially agreeing to perform (or through a contractor perform) field studies and conduct a *Remedial Investigation* (RI) on the site. The RI was conducted in four phases between March, 1984 and April, 1988 under EPA oversight. Ford was also ordered to conduct a *Feasibility Study* (FS) in 1987. Additionally, Ford conducted an endangerment assessment in order to evaluate any potential risk to public health and the environment posed by the site.

Under a separate unilateral Administrative Order issued by EPA in June, 1987, Ford and its contractors, in accordance with an EPA approved work plan, excavated and removed 7,000 cubic yards of surficial paint sludge containing lead from four areas at the site. The paint sludge was disposed of at an out-of-state facility in compliance with Federal and State regulations. Paint sludge removal operations began in October 1987 and ended in February 1988. In August 1988 at a meeting between EPA and Ringwood Borough officials, EPA agreed to monitor potable ground-water wells which may have been affected by the site as part of

the proposed remedial action. In September 1988, EPA issued a Record of Decision which selected a remedy for the site. The selected remedy provided for long-term surface water and ground water monitoring to confirm that ground water achieved health-based levels through natural attenuation processes.

In early 1990, 60 drums containing wastes were discovered. The drums were removed and disposed of off-site.



EPA and NJDEP determined that Ford had completed the cleanup of the Ringwood Mines/Landfill site under the terms of the Administrative

Orders and EPA consequently deleted the site from the NPL on November 2, 1994.

However, additional solidified paint sludge (approximately five cubic yards) was discovered in April of 1995 and was disposed of off-site. Two years later, 50 cubic yards of paint sludge was discovered at the Site. This paint sludge was removed and transported to an off-site facility during December 1997 and January 1998.

In April 2004, more paint sludge was found at the site, which prompted additional removal activities, which were initiated in December 2004 and are ongoing. A thorough re-surveying of the site was recently performed to ensure all areas of paint sludge are addressed in this action. Administrative Orders (AOs) were issued by EPA to Ford and to the Borough of Ringwood in September 2005 which

required a comprehensive investigation of the site. In September 2006, EPA restored the Ringwood Mines/Landfill site to the NPL. All response work is being overseen by EPA.

Paint sludge and other industrial waste at the site have been and continue to be addressed through a series of removal actions, as described above. Long-term ground water and surface water monitoring efforts began in 1989 and are ongoing. Surface water at the site has been sampled on a number of occasions in the 1990s, and in 2000, 2004 and 2005. Results of surface water sampling indicate that surface water has not been significantly impacted by site-related contaminants.

Ground water sampling has shown limited and sporadically-elevated levels of some contaminants, including benzene, arsenic and lead. Additional ground water sampling will be performed in conjunction with ongoing activities related to the investigation and removal of paint sludge.



A comprehensive investigation of the site was initiated in December 2004, and is ongoing. This investigation has focused on determining the nature and extent of contamination remaining in the O'Connor Disposal Area, Peter's Mine Pit and Cannon Mine Pit areas of the site, which are known to have received Ford's

waste. In addition, many smaller areas throughout the site that appear to have been filled in over the years were characterized as part of this phase of investigation. EPA anticipates that this comprehensive investigation will be completed during the Spring of 2008. The results of this investigation will be used to evaluate options for addressing contamination remaining at the site. EPA will present a proposed cleanup option to the public for comment in a Proposed Plan, which is currently scheduled for the Spring of 2009. Comments received by EPA on the Proposed Plan will be evaluated and a final remedy for the site will be selected in a *Record of Decision* (ROD). EPA currently expects to issue the ROD during the Summer of 2009.

### **3.0 Community Background:**

The following community background information includes a description of the demographics of the Ringwood community. A brief overview of past community involvement activities and a summary of community interests and concerns are also included.

#### **3.1 Community Profile:**



The Borough of Ringwood is in Passaic County, New Jersey, just 35 miles outside of New York City. It is the home of Ringwood State Park which contains the State Botanical Garden, the Shepherd Lake Recreation Area and Ringwood Manor. According to a U.S.

Census Bureau 2000, there are 12,396 people who reside in the Borough, and this number has increased since 2000, with the most recent estimation in 2006 counting 12,814 residents.



The Borough of Ringwood's population distribution by ethnicity and race according to the 2000 U.S. Census Bureau is:

- White: 93.9%
- Hispanic/Latino: 4.3%
- African American: 1.6%
- American Indian: 1.4%

Referencing the 2000 Census, there are 4,108 households in the Borough, out of which 42.1% have children under the age of 18 living with them. 27.6% of the population is under the age of 18, 6.0% is from 18 to 24 years of age, 30.7% of the population falls in the 25 to 44 age group, while 27.9% is between 45 and 64, and 7.9% is 65 years of age or older. The per capita income for the Borough of Ringwood is \$31,341. More than 91% of the population (25 years and over) has graduated from high school or has a higher degree. More than 39% has a bachelor's degree or higher.

### **3.2 Community History:**

Historically, the Ramapough Lenape American Indians inhabited the Ringwood area, preceding the arrival of the Europeans. The Ramapough Lenape Indian Nation has been described as the descendants of the Lenape and the Munsee people, with, among other nationalities and races, varying degrees of Dutch, African and Caucasian ancestry. The Lenni-Lenape were divided into three groups that ranged from Maryland to Northern New Jersey and Southeastern New York. The Munsee people, which meant people of the "Stony Land," inhabited the most northern locale.

In this area, there were several bands and villages of the Munsee living throughout, including the Hackensackee, the Wappingers and the Ramapoughs. The word "Ramapough" means "Slanting Rock" and the main Ramapough Lenape villages in New Jersey were Hillburn, Stagg Hill and Ringwood.

Between 1630 and 1710, it has been recorded historically that deeds were obtained from the American Indians that took all of the land between Sandy Hook, New Jersey and Bear Mountain, New York. With exception to a small number, the Munsee either migrated west or north to avoid the expanding European/Caucasian population in the area. Another solution to this dilemma was to move into the Ramapo Mountains, where the Munsee could find isolation from the Europeans and could retain some of the land they had depended on for centuries. Due to the fact that there were neither roads nor trails into the mountains, the European settlers paid little attention to the Munsee Indians or Ramapough Tribe living in them. The mountain land was too rocky for farming, however, the Ramapoughs plowed their own gardens and hunted and fished for their own food.

In the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century, iron was discovered in the Ringwood vicinity and iron mining was prominent in the area from that point forward, until the Great Depression.

Ringwood Manor was home to a number of well-known ironmasters from the 1740s to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. During the American Revolution, certain iron-making operations were managed from Ringwood.

George Washington visited the Manor House several times. Ringwood iron was used in the famous Hudson River Chain, and for tools and hardware for the army. The Manor is part of a National Historic Landmark District.

The Borough of Ringwood was incorporated by an act of the New Jersey Legislature on February 23, 1918, from a portion of the Township of Pompton. The first organizational meeting of the Borough Council took place in the existing Borough Hall on May 6, 1918.

### **3.3 Key Community Concerns:**

A representative from EPA met with members of the community of Ringwood to conduct interviews. The purpose of the interview was to hear about community members' concerns about the cleanup of the site and how they are to be affected by this cleanup.

The following key issues were identified by residents of the Upper and Lower Ringwood Community:

- Health impacts of site-related contaminants
- Is the water safe to drink?
- What is going to happen to our property value?
- Can we trust the EPA based on past actions/cleanup? Can we trust that Ford is doing their best job?
- Is Ford being held wholly accountable?
- How will these contaminants affect the surrounding wildlife?
- Are cultural issues and differences among the town and between the town and the rest of the country being addressed?
- What are the financial impacts going to be on the taxpayers of the Borough?

The following key issues were identified by an Environmental Justice Advocate:

- Many believe that EPA did not keep records of the cleanup in the past.
- What about the health of the residents, especially the children?
- Is this contamination infiltrating the drinking water used by the Ringwood Community?
- Does EPA really think that capping this pollution is going to ensure a proper cleanup?
- EPA and Ford are cohorts and EPA is not listening to the concerns of the Ringwood Community. Why doesn't EPA force Ford to do more with the cleanup?
- Worried about consumption of the wildlife—Why can't EPA do a full-blown biota study?
- Will a CAG actually be effective?

- EPA needs to connect more with the community and listen to the concerns of the community and not Ford's concerns.
- Can we trust EPA?



## **4.0 Community Involvement:**

The overall goal of EPA's community involvement program is to promote a two-way communication between citizens and EPA, and to provide opportunities to the community for meaningful and active involvement in the process. EPA will implement or already has implemented the community involvement activities mapped out below. The following plan is based on the results of the community interviews conducted. The plan addresses issues that were identified as being important to the community.

### **4.1 The Plan:**

**Activity 1:** Designate a Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC)

**Objective:** To provide a primary liaison between the community and EPA, and to ensure prompt, accurate and consistent responses and information dissemination about the site.

**Method:** EPA will designate an EPA CIC to handle site inquiries and serve as a point of contact for community members. The CIC assigned to the Ringwood Mines Superfund site is:

Pat Seppi  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2  
290 Broadway, 26<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007  
212-637-3679

**Timing:** The CIC for Ringwood has been designated.

**Activity 2:** Continue to prepare and distribute site fact sheets and site updates as needed

**Objective:** To provide the community with accurate information about site related issues and to keep the community in the know of project milestones.

**Method:** EPA will periodically develop and distribute fact sheets and updates to the community. Fact sheets may be mailed to residents via the mailing list, sent via email, and can be found on the EPA Region 2 website on the Ringwood Mines Superfund page.

**Timing:** Fact sheets will be developed and distributed as project milestones are met or site issues warrant.

**Activity 3:** Continue to contact elected officials and other key community representatives.

**Objective:** To keep local officials informed so that they can serve as an additional conduit of information to the community; and to gather information about any developments in the community that could impact activities at the Ringwood Mines Superfund site.

**Method:** EPA will periodically contact elected officials and community leaders via telephone and email to brief them on site related activities.

**Timing:** Ongoing.

**Activity 4:** Continue to maintain an Information Repository.

**Objective:** To provide interested parties with site related documents.

**Method:** EPA will establish a location in the community where site related documents can be kept and made available to anyone wishing to review them.

**Timing:** This task has been completed. The information repository for the Ringwood Mines Superfund site has been established at the:

Ringwood Public Library  
30 Cannici Drive  
Ringwood, NJ 07456

**Activity 5:** Continue to reconstruct the previously-formed Community Advisory Group (CAG)

**Objective:** To provide community members with a meaningful way to become actively involved, and to provide the site team with a viable means of learning first hand citizen concerns, issues and ideas.

**Method:** EPA will encourage the re-formation of a CAG and provide support as appropriate to facilitate the re-construction of the CAG. Once re-formed, EPA will provide administrative support but will not be an active member.

**Timing:** As necessary, EPA promotes pre-CAGs and CAGs regularly throughout the Superfund process.

**Activity 6:** Establish and maintain the Administrative Record

**Objective:** To provide residents with hard copies of all documents, resources, etc. used by the Remedial Project Manager (RPM) and site team in reaching all decisions about the site and its cleanup.

**Method:** EPA will provide at least two Administrative Records—one in the regional offices, located at:

U.S. EPA Records Center  
Region 2  
290 Broadway, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007-1866  
(212) 637-3261

and the second located in the local Information Repository near the site. The Administrative Record will contain all documents used by the RPM and Site Team to draw conclusions and reach decisions, including a chronological listing of all community involvement products and activities.

**Timing:** The Administrative Record has been opened.

**Activity 7:** Continue to update & maintain both a mailing list and an email list for the Ringwood Mines Superfund site

**Objective:** To facilitate the distribution of site-related information to interested parties.

**Method:** EPA will generate a mailing list and email list based on current tax maps as well as addresses obtained at public meetings, public information sessions, etc.

**Timing:** EPA has developed a site mailing and email list based on tax maps and sign in sheets from public meetings.

**Activity 8:** Update Site information on Region 2 Superfund Web Page for the Ringwood Site

**Objective:** To ensure that all information on the Region 2 Superfund Web Page is up to date with all public documents, including the fact sheet, sampling data, recent press releases, community updates, etc.

**Method:** Work with EPA Region 2 web team to update website when necessary.

**Timing:** Continuing to monitor and update Ringwood webpage.

**Activity 9:** Hold public meetings and public information sessions.

**Objective:** To update the community on site developments and address community concerns, ideas and issues.

**Method:** EPA will hold informal information sessions, during which residents may come in at any time during established hours to talk one-on-one with members of the site team.

**Timing:** EPA has and will continue to host these meetings and public information sessions periodically.

**Activity 10:** Interview neutral facilitators and work with one chosen by Ringwood Community

**Objective:** Utilize a neutral facilitator to aid the Ringwood Community, EPA and the other agencies involved in open communication with all matters involving the Ringwood Mines Superfund site.

**Method:** Interview prospective facilitators, review their resumes and qualifications and provide information to the Ringwood community so that they can make the most informed decision as to which facilitator they would like to work with.

**Timing:** Michael Lythcott is the facilitator who has already been chosen by the Ringwood Community.

**Activity 11:** Solicit comments during Public Comment Period

**Objective:** To give community members an opportunity to review and comment on various EPA documents, particularly the Proposed Plan.

**Method:** EPA will announce comment periods in local papers, Agency fact sheets and press releases. Announcements will include details on the duration of the comment period, how to make comments, where to submit comments, etc.

**Timing:** Comment periods will be announced as appropriate. A comment period is required in conjunction with the announcement of the Proposed Plan and will last a minimum of 30 days.

**Activity 12:** Provide Technical Assistance Grant (TAG), TASC information

**Objective:** To provide impacted residents with an opportunity to hire a technical advisory.

**Method:** EPA will provide printed information on the technical assistance program and provide guidance to interested parties.

**Timing:** EPA has provided interested community members with information on the TAG program at public information sessions in Ringwood.

**Activity 13:** Make informal visits to community

**Objective:** To check in with the Ringwood community through informal visits in order to have open discussions about the progress being made on the Ringwood site and to hear the community's concerns.

**Method:** By informally visiting members of the Ringwood Community outside the walls of public meetings or public information sessions to get to know the community members individually and to listen to their concerns and answer any questions they may have about the cleanup.

**Timing:** Ongoing.



## 4.2 Time Frame Summary for Community Involvement Activities

ACTIVITY	TIME FRAME
<b>Designate a Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC)</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>Prepare and distribute fact sheets</b>	<b>Periodic, as needed</b>
<b>Contact elected officials other key community representatives</b>	<b>Periodic, as needed</b>
<b>Establish and maintain an information repository</b>	<b>Established, updated as needed</b>
<b>Reconstruct Citizens' Advisory Group (CAG)</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>Establish an Administrative Record</b>	<b>Established, updated as needed</b>
<b>Develop and maintain a mailing list and email list</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>Update site information on EPA's web page</b>	<b>As needed</b>
<b>EPA will host public meetings and public information sessions</b>	<b>Periodic, as needed</b>
<b>Provide information for Ringwood Community to select and utilize a neutral facilitator</b>	<b>Facilitator chosen; Working with facilitator ongoing</b>
<b>Solicit comments during Public Comment Period</b>	<b>As needed</b>

<b>Provide community with information on the Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program</b>	<b>As needed</b>
<b>Visit with community informally, outside of public meetings and public information sessions</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>

**Appendix 1**  
**Federal Elected Officials**

**Senator Frank R. Lautenberg**

Hart Senate Office Building  
Suite 324  
Washington, DC 20510  
202.224.3224

**Senator Robert Menendez**

Hart Senate Office Building  
Suite 317  
Washington, DC 20510  
202.224.4744

**Congressman Scott Garrett**

1318 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
202.224.4465

**Appendix 2**  
**State Elected Officials**

**Senator Kevin J. O'Toole**

Wayne Plaza II, 1st Floor  
155 Route 46 West  
Wayne, NJ 07470  
973.237.1360

**Assemblyman Scott Rumana**

Wayne Plaza II, 1st Floor  
155 Route 46 West  
Wayne, NJ 07470  
973.237.1360

**Assemblyman David C. Russo**  
22 Paterson Avenue  
Midland Park, NJ 07423  
201.444.9719

### **Appendix 3** **Local Officials**

xxx

### **Appendix 4** **EPA Regional Contacts**

**Joe Gowers**  
Remedial Project Manager  
U.S. EPA, Region 2  
290 Broadway, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007-1866  
212-697-4413  
[gowers.joe@epa.gov](mailto:gowers.joe@epa.gov)

**Pat Seppi**  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
U.S. EPA, Region 2  
290 Broadway, 26<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007-1866  
212-637-3679  
fax: 212-637-4445  
800-346-5009  
[seppi.pat@epa.gov](mailto:seppi.pat@epa.gov)

**George Zachos**  
Superfund Ombudsman  
U.S. EPA, Region 2  
2890 Woodbridge Avenue MS-211  
Edison, NJ 08837  
732-321-6621

Toll-free 888-283-7626  
[zachos.george@epa.gov](mailto:zachos.george@epa.gov)

## **Appendix 5** **Local Media**

### **Newspapers:**

#### **The Bergen Record**

150 River Street  
Hackensack, NJ  
07601  
(201) 646-4000

### **Radio:**

#### **WGHT Radio**

P.O. Box 316  
Pompton Lakes, NJ  
07442  
(973) 839-2404

### **AP-Trenton**

50 W. State Street, #1114  
Trenton, NJ  
08608  
(609) 392-3622  
(609) 392-2709  
(609) 396-0348

### **Suburban Trends**

300 Kakeout Road  
Kinnelon, NJ  
07405  
(973) 283-5600

## **Locations for Information Repository** **Administrative Record File** **and Public Meetings**

### **Information Repository**

Ringwood Public Library  
30 Cannici Drive  
Ringwood, NJ  
07456

**EPA Region 2 Superfund Records Center**  
290 Broadway, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007  
Tel: (212) 637-3261  
Monday through Friday 9 AM to 4:30 PM

**Public Meetings**  
**xxx**

## **GLOSSARY:**

**Record of Decision (ROD):** The Record of Decision (ROD) is a public document that explains which cleanup alternatives will be used to clean up a Superfund site. The ROD for sites listed on the NPL is created from information generated during the RI/FS.

**National Priorities List (NPL):** Sites are listed on the National Priorities List (NPL) upon completion of Hazard Ranking System (HRS) screening, public solicitation of comments about the proposed site, and final placement of the site on the NPL after all comments have been addressed. The NPL primarily serves as an information and management tool. It is a part of the Superfund cleanup process and is updated periodically.

**Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS):** After a site is listed on the NPL, a remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) is performed at the site. The RI serves as the mechanism for collecting data, while the FS is the mechanism for the development, screening, and detailed evaluation of alternative remedial actions. The RI and FS are conducted concurrently. Data collected in the RI influence the development of remedial alternatives in the FS, which in turn affect the data needs and scope of treatability studies and additional field investigations.

**Hazard Ranking System (HRS):** The Hazard Ranking System (HRS) is the principal mechanism EPA uses to place waste sites on the NPL. It is a numerically based screening

system that uses information from initial, limited investigations - the preliminary assessment and the site inspection - to assess the relative potential of sites to pose a threat to human health or the environment.