



Superfund and You - *What's the CAG/TAG Role?*

Congress made public involvement in decision making an important part of the Superfund process when the program was established by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980. The intent was to ensure that people whose lives were affected by abandoned hazardous wastes would have a say in actions to clean them up. This was further strengthened in the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA).

The Libby Asbestos Site benefits from the contributions of two community-based groups, the *Community Advisory Group* (CAG) and the *Technical Assistance Group* (TAG). Both groups meet regularly and are valuable resources and advocates for the community.

The Libby CAG

CAGs are generally found at sites where community interest is high and clean up is expected to take several years to complete. The Libby CAG was formed in 2001 and is made up of Libby residents and agency representatives with diverse community interests. It provides a public forum for the community to come together and discuss their needs and concerns related to the Superfund decision-making process. The CAG offers a unique opportunity for the community to share issues related to Libby Asbestos. It is part of EPA's overall community involvement program at the site.

The Libby CAG's purpose is:

- Providing a conduit for formal and regular communication between the people of the Lincoln County and EPA;

- Providing advice and/or recommendations to EPA and others such as Montana's Congressional delegation;
- Facilitating the creation of new organizations as needed;
- Causing the release of information; and
- Serving as a point of contact with Lincoln County for Montana's Governor and others.

CAG meetings are on the second Thursday of each month, from 7pm to 9pm, and are open to the public. Ads, which provide the agenda, are run in local papers immediately before the meeting.

The Libby TAG

The TAG is funded by a Technical Assistance Grant that provides money for the group to hire an independent technical advisor to interpret and help the community understand existing technical information about the site. The TAG was formed in 2003 and has recently hired a new technical advisor, Gerry Henningson. TAG meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month and are open to the public.

For More Information...

Meeting dates, times, places, and summaries and the TAG and CAG membership roles are available from the EPA Information Center at 501 Mineral Avenue (293-6194). You can also visit EPA's web site at:

www.epa.gov/superfund/tools/.

EPA will soon be making long-term cleanup decisions for the site that may affect you and your property. Now is the time to get involved, or reinvolved, and attending a CAG or TAG meeting can be a great place to start!

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