TASC

Technical Assistance Services
for Communities Program

2010 — 2012 Program Report

Working with Communities to Strengthen Environmental Decision-Making

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Welcome

We are pleased to present the 2010-2012 Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) program report, which highlights some of the program's projects and accomplishments since the last report in 2010. Although TASC originated within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Superfund program, it has expanded to provide support to other EPA programs and the communities they serve. TASC puts into practice the powerful idea that communities can more meaningfully and effectively engage in addressing their environmental challenges when equipped with a clear understanding of technical and scientific concepts and environmental regulations and policies.

Since 2007, the TASC program has been helping communities build their technical capacities to address complex environmental issues and engage in EPA actions affecting them. Over the course of the last five-and-a-half years, the TASC program has worked to build such technical capacity in more than 90 communities nationwide, by providing workshops, training, document interpretation and educational assistance.

We hope this report illustrates how the program is making a difference in people's lives and supporting communities across the country as they work to address environmental challenges.

James E. Woolford,
Director
Office of Superfund Remediation
and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)

Program Overview

TASC is an EPA program that provides technical assistance services at no cost to communities. The program's goal is to empower communities to participate substantively in addressing local environmental issues and actions that affect them.

While EPA staff work to provide information, education and support to communities so they may engage effectively in Agency environmental actions, decisions and projects, sometimes a community may need supplemental technical assistance to fully engage in the decision-making process. TASC's purpose is to meet such needs.

Technical assistance under the TASC program focuses on increasing community understanding of the science, regulations and policy related to environmental issues and EPA actions. This support allows communities to have a more informed and influential voice in decisions related to their environmental issues of concern and EPA's actions.

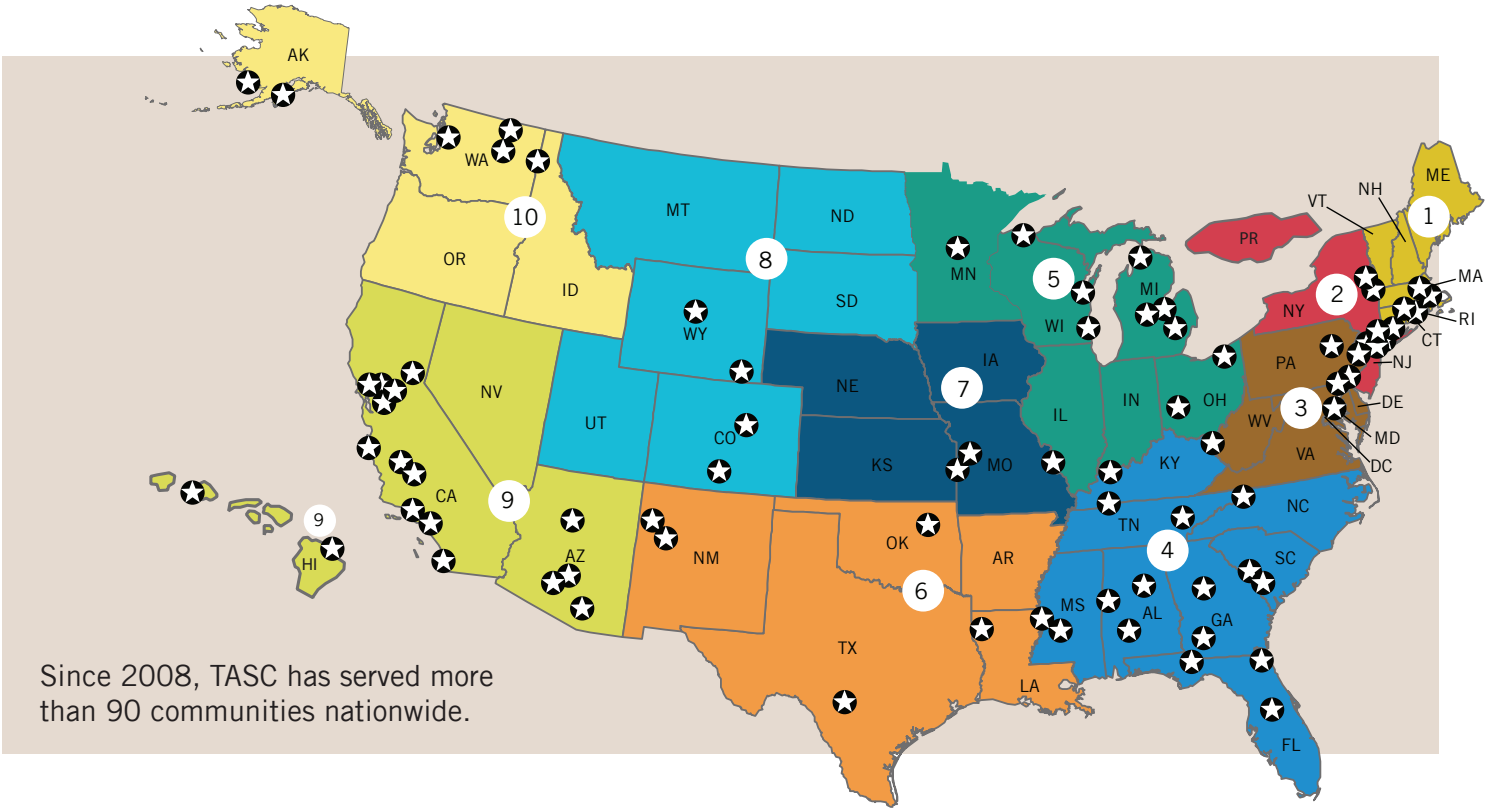
TASC Technical Assistance Areas

Information Assistance and Expertise

Community Education

Information Assistance Needs Evaluation and Plan Development

Community Involvement Support



Since 2008, TASC has served more than 90 communities nationwide.

Program Overview

TASC Services

The TASC program is flexible and highly responsive, moving rapidly to meet community needs. Recognizing that each community is unique, the program works with diverse stakeholders to provide a variety of technical assistance services. For example, TASC projects:

- Provide community trainings.
- Review and analyze data and technical reports on behalf of communities.
- Provide educational presentations.
- Conduct technical assistance needs assessments.
- Support the formation of community advisory groups.
- Facilitate community meetings.
- Develop community outreach materials.

TASC provides services through a national EPA contract. Under the contract, a contractor provides a dedicated team of technical assistance specialists to communities throughout the United States and U.S. territories.

Program Benefits

The TASC program benefits **people** by:

- Helping them understand complex environmental issues.
- Explaining technical findings and answering questions.
- Supporting their active role in protecting healthy communities and advancing environmental protection.

The TASC program assists **communities** by:

- Providing opportunities for community education.
- Engaging diverse stakeholders and building community capacities.
- Offering training and facilitating employment opportunities through the Superfund Job Training Initiative.

The TASC program assists **EPA** by:

- Removing communication barriers.
- Connecting EPA with community feedback.
- Building trust through productive working relationships.
- Demonstrating EPA's commitment to meaningful community involvement.

Information Assistance and Expertise:
Increasing Community Understanding

Some communities contact EPA with urgent information needs. TASC technical assistance specialists work with these communities to create accessible materials such as fact sheets and maps that increase understanding and help community members participate actively and effectively. The TASC program also translates documents into other languages to make sure they are widely accessible.

Playground at the Raritan Bay Superfund site.

Comprehensive Document Review in Northern New Jersey

In early 2012, the Raritan Bay Community Advisory Group requested TASC assistance. With several major cleanup reports for the Raritan Bay Slag Superfund site forthcoming, the community sought help in understanding the reports' technical contents so that they could participate meaningfully in site discussions and cleanup planning. The site includes portions of the Laurence Harbor seawall, a jetty and several beaches contaminated by metal slag from blast furnace bottoms.

TASC technical assistance specialists met with community members and the Community Advisory Group and toured the site. The specialists then developed three documents summarizing the site's cleanup reports, helping the community understand the site's remedial investigation, risk assessment and feasibility study. The technical assistance specialists presented their findings at a public meeting and answered community members' questions. Community members are now more informed participants in ongoing site cleanup discussions and are well prepared to provide comments to EPA on the site's upcoming proposed plan.

Information Assistance Engages Community in Southern Texas

Since 2010, TASC technical assistance specialists have worked closely with the Bandera Road Community Advisory Group, which provides EPA with community input on the cleanup of the Bandera Road Ground Water Plume Superfund site near San Antonio in Leon Valley, Texas. The specialists review and comment on technical documents, provide presentations on technical issues and summarize key site-related information for the community in semiannual newsletters.

To date, six newsletters have been created, in both English and Spanish, for the advisory group. The plain language publications summarize well sampling results, efforts to mitigate harmful indoor air vapors, results of cleanup pilot studies, changes to contaminant toxicity values, and efforts to plug and abandon old private water wells. TASC technical assistance specialists have worked with the City of Leon Valley to make sure the newsletters are available to all community members by posting English and Spanish versions of the newsletters on the city's website and mailing more than 300 copies to residents, businesses and government officials.

Community meetings in Leon Valley, Texas.

Community Education:
Enhancing Skills

TASC trainings and workshops are innovative, shared learning experiences that enhance local knowledge and skills. These sessions increase community knowledge about environmental issues, technical and scientific concepts, and regulatory and procedural issues. TASC workshops provide communities with the tools and skills needed to address their high-priority concerns.

TASC Workshop Focuses on Fresh Food and Healthy Communities

Cities and towns nationwide are turning to urban agriculture to increase their access to healthy, fresh food. During EPA's information gathering for the Agency's Environmental Justice Showcase Community project in Region 7, the community expressed interest in learning more about urban agriculture opportunities. TASC technical assistance specialists worked closely with local stakeholders to develop an urban agriculture workshop for the Kansas City, Missouri metropolitan area.

With TASC program assistance, a workshop was designed to present key topics in urban agriculture. Topics included growing crops on brownfield sites, garden design and community gardens. The workshop included speakers from local organizations, community gardens, and state and federal agencies. TASC technical assistance specialists provided support to organize, set up and host the April 2011 workshop. The specialists also developed an Urban Agriculture Workbook for attendees. The well-attended workshop provided participants with information and resources and the opportunity to speak with urban agriculture experts.

TASC Program Supports EPA Community Roundtable in Midwest

Since 2010, a TASC technical assistance specialist has worked closely with the community near the Carter Carburetor Superfund site, a former automotive manufacturing facility in St. Louis, Missouri. The specialist helped community members understand decision documents and cleanup techniques for the site and met with local organizations to interpret EPA-recommended alternatives to address site contamination. TASC also provided technical support at public meetings in 2011, with TASC staff facilitating community meetings to help residents understand site conditions and EPA's cleanup recommendations.

In 2012, continuing its efforts to support the community, EPA worked with local stakeholders to create an open and inclusive dialogue as part of the site's cleanup. The Carter Carburetor Roundtable was established to help all participants focus on teamwork, improved interactions and building trust. The Roundtable includes nearby residents, local and federal agency staff, responsible parties, faith-based and other community organizations, and state and federal elected officials. The Roundtable helps make sure that the community, EPA and other interested stakeholders keep each other informed regarding the site's cleanup and its local impacts. At the request of the community, a TASC technical assistance specialist participated in the third Roundtable discussion in February 2012 to provide a presentation on "How Contaminants Move through the Environment."

Community Education:
Building Capacities

Communities provide the vision and long-term leadership for many projects. The TASC program provides capacity-building tools – information materials, trainings, website development – to support and strengthen community initiatives. The TASC program helps make information accessible to local leaders and community members so they can make meaningful, consistent progress in addressing environmental issues.

Denver Urban Waters – Green Jobs Pilot Project

As part of the Urban Waters movement, EPA is helping communities restore their urban waters and surrounding land. Community groups nationwide have taken the initiative to address local water issues in urban environments. The groups are engaging volunteers, community organizations and government agencies to make their waters safe for many uses. The Denver Urban Waters Green Jobs Pilot project brings together community and watershed organizations in underserved areas of Denver to work on water-related issues. The TASC program works with an urban youth environmental corps, the River Rangers, to build local youth leadership capacity and watershed stewardship. The Rangers are part of the Greenway Foundation, a river-focused community organization in Colorado.

EPA and River Watch, a statewide volunteer water quality-monitoring program, trained the River Rangers to take water quality samples. Additionally, an interactive Internet mapping tool was developed, allowing the Rangers to post sampling results, photos and comments from their sampling missions, and then view water quality results in a map format. The TASC program also supported partnerships to provide continued training and mentoring and assist the Rangers in finding environmental internships.

Hands-on learning is a key part of TASC's Urban Waters training for the River Rangers.

Green Careers Curriculum Support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Four Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) recently joined Spelman College in signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on environmental sustainability with EPA. As part of the agreement, HBCUs and EPA are working together to develop "green career" opportunities for students in areas like green building and renewable energy through internships, service and outreach. The TASC program assisted EPA Region 4 in this effort by developing an Environmental Science / Engineering Curriculum Manual. The manual serves as a guide for HBCUs looking to help students pursue green careers and assists HBCU faculty in developing green career tracks to complement existing environmental science and engineering courses and curricula. The completed manual was shared with HBCUs and EPA offices nationwide in early 2012.

EPA signed an environmental sustainability agreement with several institutions, including Spelman College in Georgia, in July 2012.

Information Assistance Needs Evaluation and Plan Development

TASC technical assistance specialists work closely with communities requiring technical assistance to assess their needs and develop detailed plans to guide EPA in addressing them as rapidly and comprehensively as possible.

Technical Assistance Needs Assessment Conducted in Filmore, California Community

In early 2011, when youth group One Step A La Vez learned about the status of the Pacific Coast Pipeline Superfund site in Fillmore, California, they contacted EPA Region 9 to request technical assistance services for their community. EPA had issued a draft cleanup plan for the former oil refinery for public review and was working with Chevron, the site's potentially responsible party, to increase community engagement activities. TASC technical assistance specialists conducted a community technical assistance needs assessment, which included a site tour as well as meetings and interviews with community members. The assessment identified strong community interest across several topic areas, including historical health studies, soil removal history, soil gas vapor intrusion, and ground water and air monitoring data. EPA is currently working to address the needs assessment findings.

Community visit to the Pacific Coast Pipeline Superfund site.

Needs Evaluation Addresses One of Nation's Largest Superfund Sites

The Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical site, located in Idaho's Coeur d'Alene Basin, is one of the largest historical mining areas in the world. Mining activities released an estimated 100 million tons of waste that contaminated area lakes, rivers and floodplains. Many Basin communities were built on these mine wastes. The result: widespread exposure to unsafe levels of heavy metals contamination in soil and water.

In March 2012, Region 10 requested a technical assistance needs assessment to identify knowledge gaps and types of assistance that might aid the community's understanding of the cleanup process and EPA's community involvement efforts. TASC technical assistance specialists held four community meetings across the Basin, sharing information about the TASC program and the Coeur d'Alene needs assessment. Specialists also spoke with individual stakeholders about local technical assistance needs. The resulting technical needs assessment report summarized community priorities and provides a blueprint for designing an effective, coordinated approach to meet the community's technical assistance needs. In response to the report, EPA provided a plain language summary of the Upper Coeur d'Alene Basin Record of Decision Amendment and is taking steps to fulfill other recommendations.

Historical aerial view of the Bunker Hill Mine site.

Community Involvement Support:
Facilitating Meaningful Engagement

The TASC program provides support to help community members work together effectively so they can address their environmental challenges. TASC technical assistance specialists meet with communities to provide process training, meeting support and communication materials, facilitating sustainable, community-driven community engagement. This support is often provided alongside other technical assistance services, such as technical assistance needs assessments and document review.

TASC Efforts Support Community Leadership and Engagement

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

Through EPA Region 2, TASC technical assistance specialists followed up on an initial Community Advisory Group formation assessment at the Newtown Creek Superfund site to provide the community with the support needed to get their new organization up and running. The TASC team organized the group's initial meeting and facilitated group discussions that led to key decision-making on the group's leadership and prioritizing issues of concern. The group is now self-sustaining and works closely with EPA on planning for the site's cleanup. The site, a former industrial area and polluted waterway, separates Brooklyn and Queens Counties in New York City.

Community meeting for the Newtown Creek Superfund site.

CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI

The Red Panther Chemical Company site is located in Clarksdale, Mississippi, near the 18th Street Neighborhood. In 2011, following several earlier cleanups, EPA identified the potential spread of contaminated ground water as a threat to public health and listed the site on the Superfund National Priorities List. Recognizing that local residents had many questions about the Superfund process, EPA and TASC technical assistance specialists worked with the community to establish a Community Advisory Group for the 18th Street Neighborhood in early 2012. TASC technical assistance specialists provided training to help the group organize, establish procedures and responsibilities, and facilitate meetings. TASC is now providing support to the group to make sure it can operate independently and sustainably throughout the Superfund process.

Community Advisory Group meeting to discuss the Red Panther Chemical Company Superfund site.

"TASC did an outstanding job working productively with a diverse group of stakeholders. TASC staff were responsive to their concerns and produced all deliverables in a professional and timely manner."

~ Community Representative

Tribal Assistance:
Strengthening Community Engagement in Indian Country

Building stronger tribal partnerships and increasing the Agency's support for tribal communities is one of EPA's top priorities. Working closely with tribal communities nationwide, the TASC program provides technical assistance services tailored to local tribal needs and concerns.

Technical Assistance Services Address Tribal Priorities in Pacific Northwest

Midnite Mine is an inactive open-pit uranium mine on the Spokane Indian Reservation in Washington State. It became a Superfund site in 2000 when EPA added it to the National Priorities List. Members of the Spokane Tribe have a unique relationship with the land due to their subsistence lifestyle and cultural/spiritual practices, including hunting, fishing, gathering of roots and berries, logging, and sweatlodge and medicinal plant use.

EPA offered TASC program support to the community affected by Midnite Mine in early 2012. TASC provided a review of two technical documents for the community. A TASC technical assistance specialist then attended a public meeting to share more information on TASC services and gather technical assistance requests from the community. A TASC technical assistance specialist also attended two technical meetings, summarized them and hosted open calls with the community to discuss the summaries, and delivered a summary of community concerns to EPA. The support helped the community provide meaningful input into the site's draft 30% Remedial Design Report. Assuming funding is available, additional TASC support will be offered during the development of the site's remedial design.

Community members attend a meeting at the Spokane Tribe longhouse.

Document Review Enhances Tribal Engagement in New Mexico

The Navajo Nation's Red Water Pond Road community is located near Northeast Church Rock and Quivira former uranium mines in northwest New Mexico. Following several short-term cleanups, EPA was developing long-term cleanup plans for the site. To support the community's active participation and engagement, EPA Region 9 sought TASC program assistance for the Red Water Pond Road Community Association. Beginning in late 2011, TASC technical assistance specialists aided the Association in building organizational capacity and interpreting technical documents related to a removal action in English and Navajo. They also performed a detailed needs assessment for the Association, documenting and categorizing the community's needs. The assessment will guide future technical assistance to the community.

Red Water Pond Road community members gather for a meeting.

RCRA Sites:
Responding to Community Concerns

The TASC program also provides technical assistance services to communities affected by sites regulated by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

Meeting Facilitation, Technical Review Services in Northern New Jersey

In summer 2010, community members contacted EPA Region 2 to request technical assistance services at this RCRA-regulated former explosives manufacturing facility in Pompton Lakes, New Jersey. From late 2010 through fall 2011, TASC technical assistance specialists helped residents form a Community Advisory Group. The specialists also facilitated several of the group's meetings, helping make sure the community is well informed and able to share its expertise as part of ongoing site investigations and cleanup. Finally, TASC technical assistance specialists conducted reviews of several technical site documents and provided key findings in several formats, including a presentation during a Community Advisory Group meeting.

Cleanup of Pompton Lake is part of planned site activities.

Document Review Enhances Community Capacities in Western Texas

For more than a century, the Asarco smelter operated in El Paso, Texas. In the 1990s, EPA and the State of Texas filed civil enforcement actions against the RCRA-regulated facility, stating it failed to manage hazardous waste properly. The facility had to complete multiple corrective actions to clean up contamination. Community groups concerned about sampling and facility cleanup requested TASC program assistance from EPA Region 6. TASC technical assistance specialists performed an in-depth review of the site's Draft Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) with the community's concerns in mind and suggested questions the community may want to ask the Trust, TCEQ and/or EPA to clarify the adequacy of sampling and the proposed corrective actions.

Historical aerial view of the Asarco Smelter.

The Superfund Job Training Initiative:
Providing Opportunities

EPA's Superfund Job Training Initiative (SuperJTI), supported under the TASC program, is a job readiness program that provides training and facilitates employment opportunities for citizens living in communities affected by Superfund sites. Many of these areas are environmental justice communities with high levels of unemployment and under employment (see page 12). Through SuperJTI, EPA's goal is to help these communities develop job opportunities that remain long after Superfund site cleanup.

Jacobsville SuperJTI: Making a Difference in Evansville, Indiana

In spring 2012, the SuperJTI program provided training and job opportunities for 20 trainees living on and near the Jacobsville Neighborhood Soil Contamination site in southern Indiana. Through a partnership with the site contractor, a community liaison, and community organizations like United Neighborhoods of Evansville and the Evansville Housing Authority, the SuperJTI program provided local job seekers with new skills and work experience.

In early 2012, SuperJTI support staff reached out to area community organizations for recruitment and hosted candidate orientations to promote the program as a no-cost training opportunity for local residents. The 20 trainees selected completed pre-employment training and earned health and safety certifications. After graduating in April 2012, trainees were placed into positions as environmental technicians, drivers and site coordinators, working to clean up contaminated yards in Evansville.

"The tryout program was well done, thoughtful, respectful and interesting … the candidates found pride in their efforts and were encouraged throughout."

~ Community Representative

Jacobsville SuperJTI training session, spring 2012.

SuperJTI at the Diamond Alkali Site in Newark, New Jersey

In spring 2012, the SuperJTI program provided career development opportunities for 15 trainees in an environmental justice community near the Passaic River in northern New Jersey. Through a partnership with site contractors, SuperJTI provided local job seekers with new skills and work experience. SuperJTI staff and community partner Ironbound Community Corporation conducted community outreach and hosted candidate orientations to publicize the training and attract interested candidates.

After a rigorous screening process, trainees completed pre-employment and technical training, and received three certifications. Following graduation, 13 trainees were placed in positions with contractors cleaning up the Passaic River. Several news articles covering the program and the cleanup have featured the graduates. EPA Region 2 Administrator Judith Enck also visited the class and spoke at graduation.

Passaic River SuperJTI graduation ceremony, spring 2012.

Environmental Justice:
Expanding the Conversation

All Americans should have access to a safe, healthy environment. Across EPA's programs, the Agency maintains an ongoing commitment to ensure environmental justice for all people, regardless of race, color, national origin or income.

Ensuring environmental justice means not only protecting human health and the environment for everyone, but also making sure all people are treated fairly and given the opportunity to participate meaningfully in the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. Each year, the TASC program provides technical assistance for a variety of projects as EPA engages with environmental justice communities across the United States.

Environmental Justice
means that all communities deserve the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, equal access to the federal decision-making process, and a healthy environment in which to live, learn and work.

The community is working closely with EPA to address environmental and human health challenges in Jacksonville's Health Zone 1.

The Jacksonville Environmental Justice Showcase Community Pilot Project

In 2010, EPA selected Jacksonville, Florida, as one of 10 Environmental Justice Showcase Community Pilot projects. As part of its commitment, EPA provided $100,000 to help a predominantly low-income and minority Jacksonville community, referred to as "Health Zone 1," address environmental and human health challenges. To provide the best possible support, TASC technical assistance specialists coordinated and facilitated meetings with neighborhood groups, community development organizations and local government representatives, and prepared a summary outlining local concerns and recommendations for addressing the concerns. Building on this work, TASC technical assistance specialists worked closely with EPA to prepare a Community Action Plan that discusses priority activities and how EPA will work with affected residents and partners. The specialists also collaborated with EPA to consider appropriate success indicators and develop a measurement tool for the project.

TASC Environmental Justice Projects in Maine and Pennsylvania

In 2012, TASC supported Portland, Maine's first CARE grantee by conducting an assessment of the environmental stressors and lifestyle factors affecting the Somali community in the Riverton Park housing development. A demographic profile was included in the results, which were translated into written Somali and presented at a community meeting. CARE (Community Action for a Renewed Environment) is an EPA program that helps communities organize and take action to reduce toxic pollution in local environments. The TASC program provides supplemental services to CARE grantee communities.

The TASC program also assisted the City of Chester Asthma Initiative in Chester, Pennsylvania. TASC technical assistance specialists created two plain language fact sheets for this environmental justice community: "Managing Asthma: A Guide for Seniors" and an accompanying symptoms checklist that seniors could share with their health care provider.

TASC Profiles: Making a Difference in People's Lives

One Step A La Vez ~ Fillmore, California

Cindy Escoto grew up in Fillmore, California, without ever knowing about the nearby Pacific Coast Pipeline Superfund site. That changed in 2011, however, after local residents expressed concern about the effects of the site on their health. One Step A La Vez, a local youth development organization, jumped into action, with Ms. Escoto and the organization's staff and Superfund Committee successfully encouraging local residents to comment on EPA's updated cleanup plan. In response to One Step A La Vez's request for support, TASC technical assistance specialists conducted an assessment of community technical assistance needs.

Working with TASC, One Step A La Vez staff and Fillmore residents identified priority topics of interest. The completed community technical needs assessment report recommended a series of dialogues on these topics, led by a TASC technical assistance provider and hosted by One Step a La Vez. The dialogues will help community members develop a deeper understanding of each topic and discuss their concerns. Ms. Escoto explained that "TASC helped us in clarifying what we wanted as a community." She added, "people should know about the TASC program and the role it can play in helping make sure communities get what they need."

Theodore Brown ~ Newark, New Jersey

In 2011, Theodore Brown was at a difficult point in his life. Weighed down by past mistakes, he was struggling simply to find a job. His fortunes started turning, however, after a meeting at the local employment office led to the SuperJTI program. Theodore took a chance and participated in the SuperJTI screening process for the Diamond Alkali Superfund site. Bolstered by encouragement from his family, Theodore was accepted as a SuperJTI trainee. Recognizing the opportunity, Theodore fully committed himself to the training.

In March 2012, Theodore stood alongside other proud SuperJTI program graduates. A few days later, Theodore's hard work was rewarded when an environmental cleanup company hired him as a conveyer operator at the Diamond Alkali site. While Theodore hopes to work for the company as long as he can, his hopes do not end there. One day, he hopes to be a part of a cleanup team responsible for responding to emergency spills. This important work, Theodore explained, could take him anywhere in the country; it would be a way of "helping someone else, and giving back." Theodore's experience with SuperJTI has done more than merely open doors. The program, he said, has "given me a new life, and a new beginning."

Appolone Brooks ~ Clarksdale, Mississippi

Having grown up directly across from the Red Panther Chemical Company site in the 18th Street neighborhood in Clarksdale, Mississippi, Appolone Brooks has long been concerned about the site's potential effects on her family and neighbors. In 2011, Ms. Brooks and other residents formed the Red Panther Community Advisory Group to provide input on the site's cleanup. With assistance from EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator at the site and the TASC program, the group first met in May 2012. Today, the group is expanding its membership, finalizing its operating procedures and meeting with site agencies.

According to Ms. Brooks, recently elected as the Community Advisory Group's chair, "TASC has been just wonderful. They have provided valuable resource information and hands-on assistance as we have worked through complex issues and decisions." Ms. Brooks added that, "I would want other communities interested in technical assistance to know that they should not be discouraged by a lack of knowledge or information in pursuing their goals. TASC has the expertise and skills needed to guide communities in the direction of their choice." Having been involved at the site since 2004, Ms. Brooks' greatest highlight to date is "seeing the process moving forward with TASC's involvement."

The TASC Program: A Look Back

EPA has been providing educational and technical assistance services to communities for almost two decades. TASC was preceded by EPA's Technical Outreach Services for Communities (TOSC) and Technical Outreach Services for Native American Communities (TOSNAC) programs, which assisted communities and tribes, respectively, between 1994 and 2006. Brownfield communities continue to receive assistance through the Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Communities program.

Across the TASC and TOSC programs, EPA's goal has been to provide high-quality, independent educational and technical assistance services to communities. Informed, engaged communities are vital partners in ensuring EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment.

Since its inception, the TASC program has worked closely with communities to provide high-quality services that effectively and comprehensively address their educational and technical assistance needs. As the table below shows, the TASC program has achieved some striking milestones. The program has worked with more than 90 communities in 34 states, territories and tribal nations across all 10 EPA Regions. TASC works with a diversity of EPA programs and stakeholders, to address wide-ranging environmental problems. The program also provides significant opportunities, helping communities build new capacities for the future through trainings, education and information assistance.

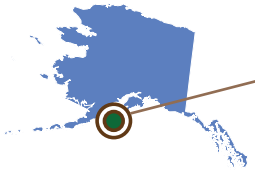
The TASC Program: By the Numbers
April 2008 – December 2012

Communities Served:	98
EPA Regions Represented:	10
States, Territories and Nations Represented:	34
SuperJTI Projects:	8
Advisory Groups Assisted with Formation and Facilitation:	8
Meetings Facilitated:	75+
Technical Reports Prepared:	29
Agency Documents Reviewed:	75+
Community Trainings Conducted:	21
Community Outreach Materials Prepared:	100+
Technical Assistance Needs Assessments Conducted:	14
Projects with Environmental Justice Communities Completed:	38
RCRA Projects Completed:	9
Tribal Projects Completed:	9

TASC Today and Tomorrow

Building on this strong foundation, the TASC program is also looking forward, recognizing that our partner agencies and programs and the diverse communities we work with will continue to identify new needs, opportunities and priorities. In 2013 and beyond, TASC will develop creative educational approaches and seek innovative technical assistance solutions that meaningfully engage communities and truly make a difference, one community at a time.

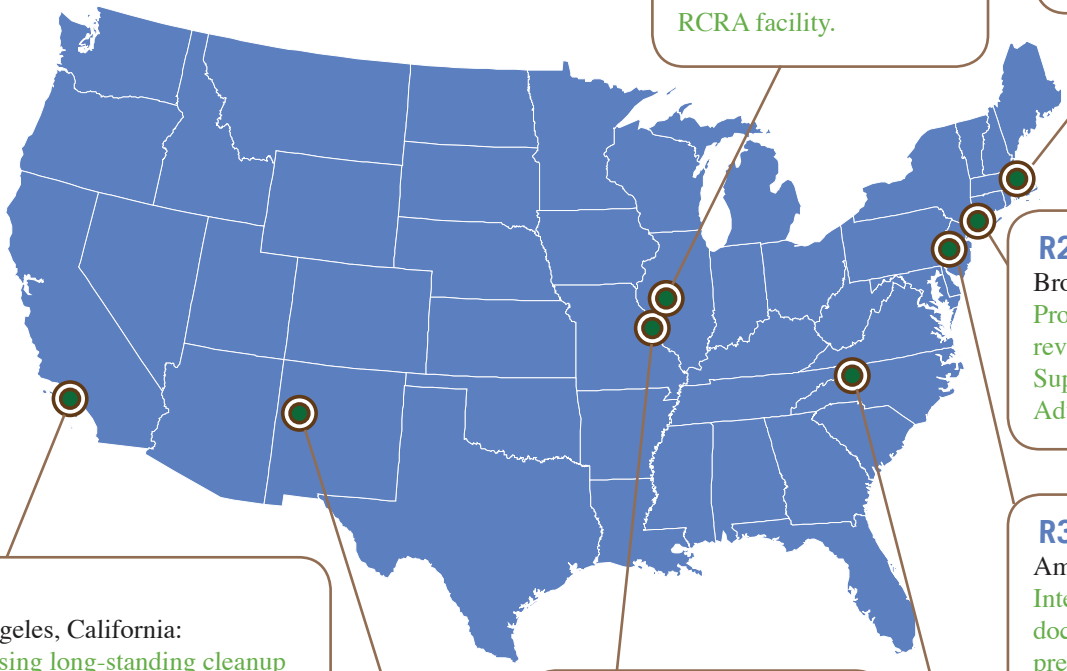
Some of the TASC program's activities are highlighted below.



R10
Kodiak, Alaska:
Providing technical assistance to the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak regarding water quality in the Buskin River.

R5
East Saint Louis, Sauget and Cahokia, Illinois:
Identifying key community stakeholders and conducting a technical assistance needs assessment for the Solutia Inc. W. G. Krummrich RCRA facility.

R1
Rockland, Abington, Weymouth and Hingham, Massachusetts:
Developing a report evaluating water supply impacts for the towns related to development of the former South Weymouth Naval Air Station.



R2
Brooklyn, New York:
Providing technical document review for the Gowanus Canal Superfund site's Community Advisory Group.

R3
Ambler, Pennsylvania:
Interpreting technical documents and providing presentations to the community on technical topics at the BoRit Asbestos Superfund site.

R9
Los Angeles, California:
Addressing long-standing cleanup questions of the Del Amo Action Committee at the Del Amo and Montrose Superfund sites.

R7
St. Louis, Missouri:
Continuing support for ongoing EPA-community roundtable discussions focused on cleanup of the Carter Carburetor Superfund site.

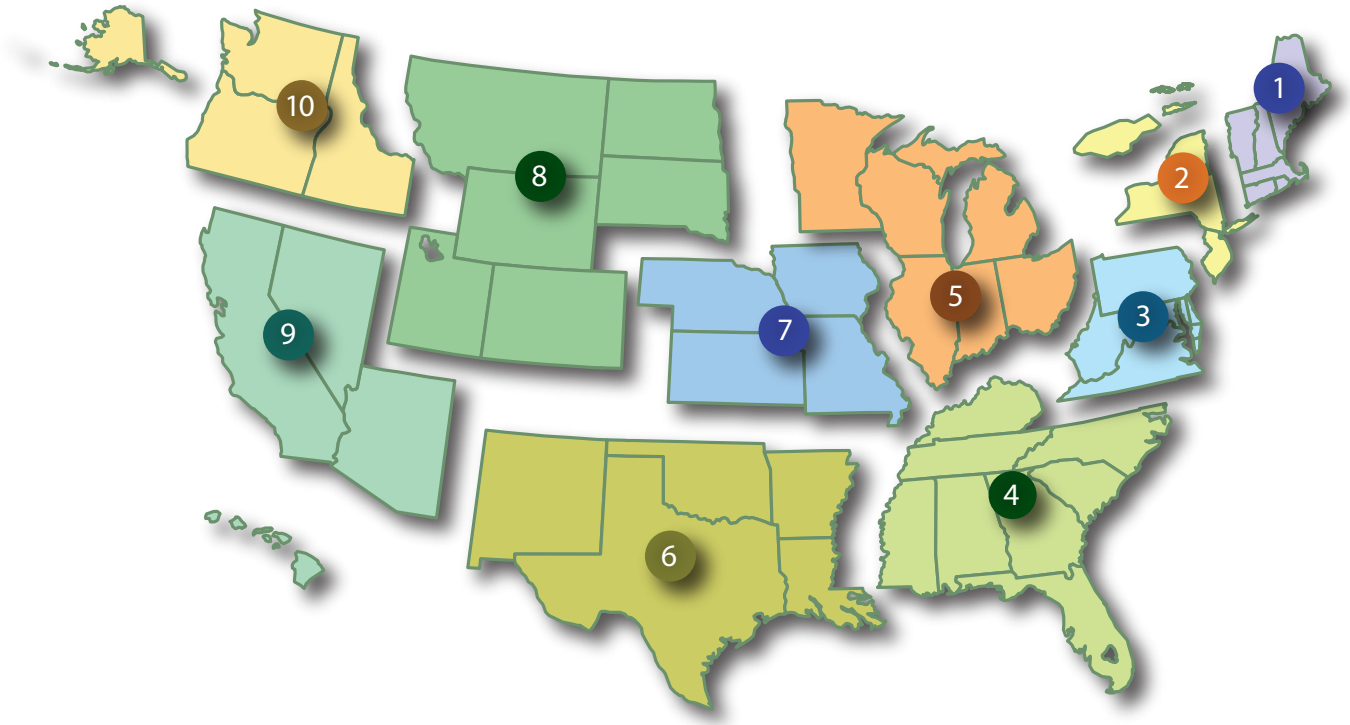
R4
Laurel Springs, North Carolina:
Assisting with the formation of a Community Advisory Group for the Ore Knob Superfund site.

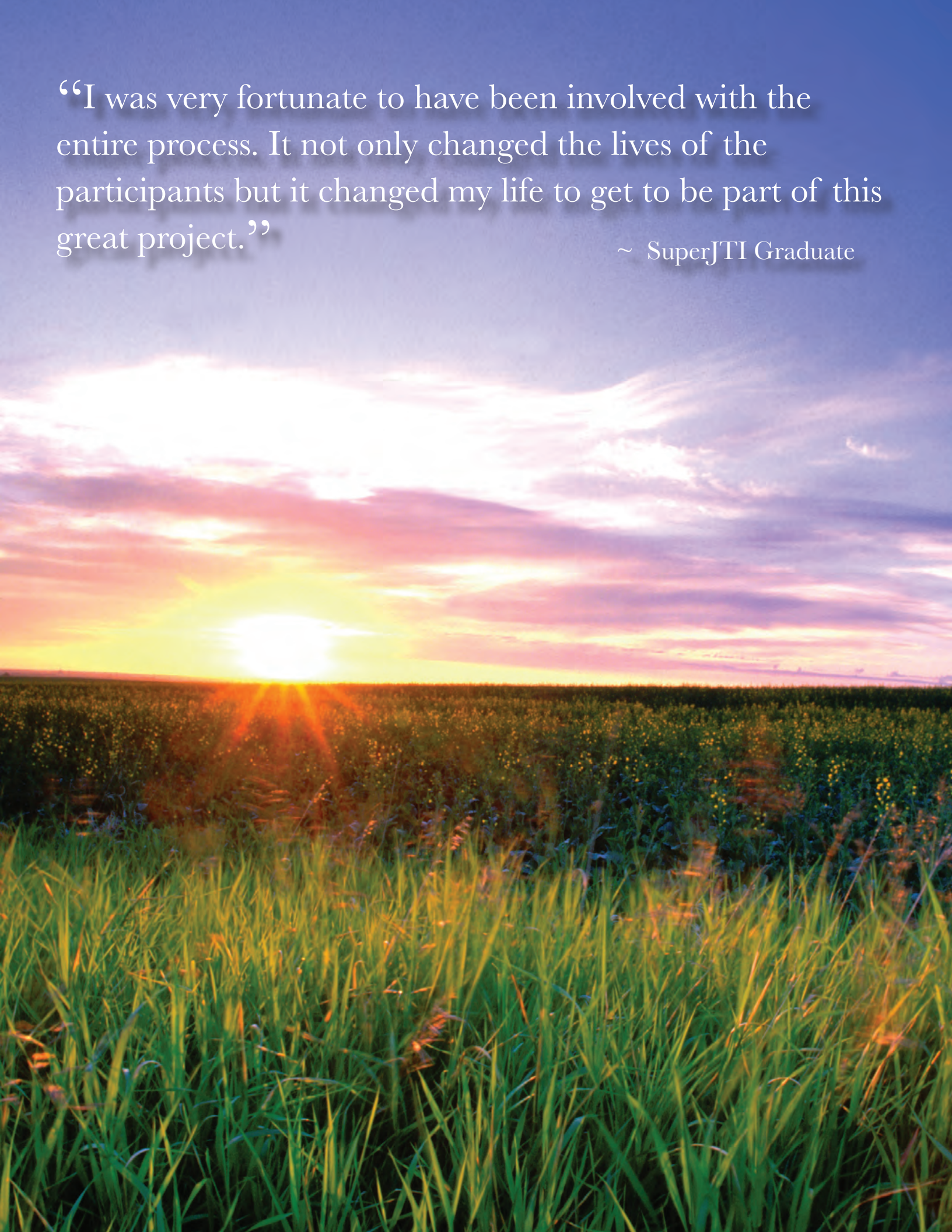
R6
Cibola County, New Mexico:
Assisting Bluewater Valley Downstream Alliance with interpreting and understanding Superfund site cleanup activities.

TASC Assistance Where You Live

For communities interested in the TASC services, more information is available on EPA's Web pages. If you are interested in contacting EPA about the TASC program, please locate your state and EPA Region on the map below and contact the appropriate EPA regional TASC coordinator listed on EPA's Web pages. Your regional TASC coordinator will review your situation and answer any questions you have about the TASC program.

If a TASC project may be appropriate for your community, the representative will explain the straightforward request process. The process begins with a written request from the community. All requests for technical assistance must be reviewed and approved by EPA before TASC services are provided.





"I was very fortunate to have been involved with the entire process. It not only changed the lives of the participants but it changed my life to get to be part of this great project."

~ SuperJTI Graduate

train

strengthen

educate

facilitate

empower

enable

engage

inform

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (5204P)
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Washington, DC 20460

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