Public Involvement Spectrum: A Range of Possible Processes

- **Outreach**
  - Purpose: Provide information

- **Information Exchange**
  - Purpose: Provide and exchange data, opinions and options

- **Recommendations**
  - Purpose: Provide non-binding, but influential advice or comments

- **Agreements**
  - Purpose: Reach workable agreement or settlement

- **Stakeholder Action**
  - Purpose: Empower stakeholders to take action

Increase in:
- Creative options
- Participant satisfaction
- Commitment to action
- Available information
- Collaborative behavior
- Interaction among stakeholders

Public Involvement Spectrum: A Range of Possible Processes
EPA’s Model of Public Involvement and Collaboration Options

**OUTREACH**

*Purpose:* To provide information

*PROMISE:* We will keep you informed

*Types:*
- Website
- Fact Sheet
- Phone Hot Line
- Federal Register Notice
- Press Release

**INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

*Purpose:* To provide & exchange data, opinions and options

*PROMISE:* We will listen, acknowledge your concerns & aspirations, & provide feedback on how your input influenced our decision

*Types:*
- Meetings with individuals
- Public Meeting
- Workshop
- Listening Session
- Availability Session

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Purpose:* To obtain useful & influential advice or comments

*PROMISE:* We will take your advise or comments into account when making a decision

*Types:*
- Advisory Committee
- Scoping Session
- Policy Dialogue
- Task Force
- Joint Fact-Finding

**AGREEMENTS**

*Purpose:* To reach workable agreement or settlement

*PROMISE:* We will work in good faith to reach an understanding that we all can support & we will implement it as agreed

*Types:*
- Statement of Principles
- Negotiated Rulemaking
- Consensus Permit
- Settlement Agreement (consent decree/order)

**STAKEHOLDER ACTION**

*Purpose:* To empower Stakeholders to take action

*PROMISE:* We will support your decision & assist in your implementation of it

*Types:*
- Industry Sector Initiative
- Voluntary Program
- Community Action for a Renewed Environment
- Sustainability Forum

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**Government Decision**

**Opportunity for a Collaborative Approach**

**Formal Collaboration**
Outreach

• One-way transfer of information from EPA to the public as a whole
• Provides transparency about data, options, schedules and decisions
• Increases stakeholder knowledge of EPA programs and issues
• Reduces misinformation and misunderstanding
• Complies with legal notice requirements
• Major component of all other public involvement processes
• Can be implemented quickly
Information Exchange

- Two-way transfer of information
- Open invitation to all or focused on particular stakeholders
- Obtain input from a wide range of interested parties
- Stakeholders can educate each other in addition to EPA
- Compile a knowledge base of the public’s interests, ideas and needs
- Better understand and consider issues related to a particular decision
- Not intended to build consensus or agreement

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Purpose:
Provide and exchange data, opinions and options

Methods:
Meetings with individuals
Public meetings
Workshops
Listening sessions
Availability sessions
Recommendations

- EPA interaction with stakeholder groups rather than general public
- Develop individual or group advice for EPA to consider when taking action
- Integrate technical or scientific information for improved decisions
- Reach understanding on data needs and/or policy options prior to EPA decision making
- Stimulate joint thinking to solve persistent problems
- Work through stakeholder concerns while reserving decision making authority

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Purpose:**
Provide non-binding but influential advice or comments

**Methods:**
- Advisory committees
- Scoping sessions
- Policy dialogues
- Task force
- Joint fact finding
Agreements

- EPA and each stakeholder group commit to a decision on EPA action
- Involve stakeholders in developing creative solutions that they can “live with”
- Coordinate multiple agencies/levels of government in decision making to improve implementation
- Bring closure to decisions on proposals or issues where buy-in is needed from other parties
- Work out a mutually acceptable approach with parties who have the power to block or further implementation
- Achieve high degree of compliance by affected parties

AGREEMENTS

**Purpose:**
Reach workable agreement or settlement

**Methods:**
- Negotiated rulemaking
- Consensus permit
- Settlement agreement
- Consent Order
- Statement of principles
Stakeholder Action

– Regulation might not be the only or most appropriate solution

– Involve stakeholders in developing creative solutions that they will implement

– EPA provides leadership, resources and energy in solving a problem that it alone cannot solve.

– Harness the energies of multiple parties to deal with different parts of the problem

– Achieve voluntary compliance by affected parties

STAKEHOLDER ACTION

Purpose:
Empower stakeholders to take action

Methods:
Industry Sector Initiatives
Voluntary Programs
Watershed Collaboratives