



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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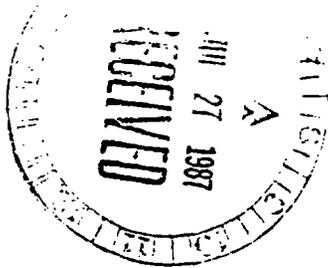
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TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE
TEAM



Region V

ROY F. WESTON, INC.

Spill Prevention & Emergency Response Division
In Association with ICF Technology Inc., C.C. Johnson & Associates, Inc.,
Resource Applications, Inc., Geo/Resource Consultants, Inc., and
Environmental Toxicology International, Inc.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
SUMMIT EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES
SUMMIT COUNTY
AKRON, OHIO

Prepared For:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region V
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois

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Prepared By:

WESTON-SPER
Technical Assistance Team
Region V

July 1987

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
SUMMIT EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES
AKRON, SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO
JULY, 1987

A. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

This community relations plan identifies issues of community concern regarding Summit Equipment and Supplies in Akron, Ohio, and outlines community relations activities to be conducted during the Superfund process at the site. Based on interviews with the Deputy Mayor of Akron, community reaction to the site has been light, however, residents are keenly aware of the impact contamination can have on the neighborhood because of experiences four years ago regarding drinking water contamination. An effective community relations program for this site should therefore prepare for the potential questions and concerns of the community. The community relations effort should attempt to educate, without alarming, residents so that they can better understand the Superfund process. In addition, the community relations program for the site should enlist the cooperation of the officials of the City of Akron and Summit County. These individuals hold visible positions of responsibility in the effort to communicate openly and effectively with the people of Akron.

This community relations plan has been prepared to aid the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) in developing a program tailored to the needs of the community affected by the Summit Equipment and Supplies site. The U.S. EPA conducts community relations activities to ensure that the local public has input into decisions relating to Superfund actions and is informed about the progress of those actions. The plan is divided into the following sections:

- Site Description
- Community Background
- Highlights of the Community Relations Plan
- Community Relations Techniques and Timing

U.S. EPA Region V has lead responsibility for managing the proposed removal actions. The Office of Public Affairs will oversee all community relations activities at the site.

B. SITE DESCRIPTION

Summit Equipment and Supplies is located at 875 Ivor Avenue, Akron, Ohio (See site location map). The 6-acre site is bordered by the Akron-Barberton Beltway Railroad line to the northwest; a large marsh to the east and northeast; Ivor Avenue and a residential area to the south; and, a small light industrial area to the west.

Summit Equipment and Supplies is an operating iron and scrap metal processing facility that has been acquiring and reprocessing electrical transformers since the late 1960's. A majority of the transformers were allegedly obtained from U.S. Department of Defense facilities in the eastern and midwest regions of the United States. The company also allegedly purchased transformers from utilities and private corporations. Once brought to the site the transformers' internal fittings were removed for salvage.

In July, 1986, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) responded to a complaint from the Akron Police Department (APD) regarding inappropriate handling of transformers at the site. The chemical hazard, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are commonly found in dielectric fluids used in electric transformers and capacitors. U.S. EPA banned the manufacture of PCBs in 1976, when they were linked to adverse health effects in laboratory animals. State inspectors observed discarded transformers, capacitors, and numerous areas of suspected PCB spills. Analysis of samples collected at that time indicated PCB soil contamination at levels ranging from 180 to 74,000 parts per million (ppm). OEPA advised the facility owners to clean up the contamination and notified the U.S. EPA of the high levels of PCBs at the site.

U.S. EPA investigated the site in February, 1987, and found most of the facility covered with large piles of scrap and metal and debris. Access to many of these piles was limited by the absence of cleared pathways. Investigators noted the presence of hundreds of electrical transformers and large quantities of transformer plates. U.S. EPA initiated a sampling effort involving the collection of soil samples in off-site areas most likely to be affected by site contamination.

Results of sample analyses indicated low levels of PCBs in residential areas to the south of the site. Samples collected from drainage ditches along the site's northern perimeter indicated PCBs at levels ranging from 550 to 8700 ppm. Because the drainage ditches are fully accessible to pedestrian traffic, the ditches present a potential environmental threat. Furthermore, the ditches drain to the marsh area to the east of the site. The marsh drains to Nesmith Lake, which empties into the Ohio Canal eventually leading the Tuscarawas River.

Additional samples were collected to define contaminated off-site areas to the east and west of the site. Results of these samples indicated that no upgradient source exists and that off-site contamination was limited to the ditches.

U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) personnel inspected the site on February 17, 1987. Their report and recommendations regarding working conditions is forthcoming.

March 10, 1987, U.S. EPA began a cleanup to stabilize the chemical hazard at the Summit Equipment and Supplies facility. Through the Superfund program, the U.S. EPA proposed the following removal activities to clean up the site:

- **Establish site security and safety measures** - Fencing and warning signs will identify restricted areas to the general public. A site safety plan will be developed and adhered to by all personnel working in or near contaminated areas.
- **Excavate off-site contaminated soils** - All off-site contaminated soils currently identified will be excavated, stored in a secure location near or on the site and covered to prevent release of the contaminants into the air or possible runoff and to reduce potential for direct contact.
- **Identify the extent of contamination** - Additional sampling efforts will identify other off-site areas requiring excavations with emphasis on the marsh to the east of the site.
- **Control contaminant migration** - To eliminate possible release of PCB contaminants off-site, transformers and scrap piles will be moved away from site perimeters, proper drainage will be established, and treatment units will be installed where necessary and feasible.
- **Characterize the site** - U.S. EPA personnel will more fully determine the extent of PCB contamination at the facility. Samples will be collected for other possible contaminants at the site. The determination of all site contamination will be used to formulate plans for complete clean up of the site. Alternatives for the complete clean up of the site will be included in the U.S. EPA Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EECA) study. U.S. EPA will notify residents of the availability of the EECA study for review and the time period for public comment.

C. COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

1. Community Profile

Akron was founded by General Simon Perkins and later chartered in 1825. Akron's population is approximately 237,000. Firestone, Goodrich, GenCorp, and Goodyear national corporate headquarters are in Akron. Akron Deputy Mayor Tony O'Leary said employment has shifted in the last 25 years from predominantly manufacturing-related positions to service and sales. Residents actively participate in the city's parks and recreation program. Akron supports the University of Akron and is host city of the annual soap box derby competition. The neighborhood nearest the site is known as the Kenmore area. The Kenmore neighborhood is located in the southwest section of the city. Kenmore is an established neighborhood comprised of family-oriented residents. Residents are active in area churches and are supportive of local sports and Kenmore High School activities. Nesmith Park and Lake provide recreational opportunities for the neighborhood.

2. Chronology of Community Involvement

Residents were first informed of site activity at the Mayor's weekly news conference on Wednesday, March 11, 1987, in conjunction with an U.S. EPA news release. A city public health official participated in the news conference to address health concerns. Mayor Donald Plusquellic announced that a public meeting regarding the site was being organized. Approximately 70 residents attended the March 23, 1987, public meeting at Kenmore High School. Representatives from the city and U.S. EPA presented information and answered questions from the public. A U.S. EPA Region V fact sheet was distributed at the meeting. City and U.S. EPA officials assured the public that the respective offices would provide timely and factual information as site activities developed.

3. Key Community Concerns

Area residents' foremost concerns are health risks and site clean-up procedures. At the public meeting residents asked about short and long-term health risks; potential health effects of inhaling air during the company's lead smelting operations; drinking water standards; and, fishing in Nesmith Lake. Knowing that this is the neighborhood's second experience to be impacted by a hazardous substance, city and U.S. EPA officials addressed each concern. (The first experience was four years ago when the drinking water was contaminated and the supply to the neighborhood was cut off for approximately two weeks.) During the meeting, the following responses were offered:

- Off-site contamination appears to be limited and current actions should mitigate immediate or long term risks associated with the site.
- No immediate or long-term health risk (including breathing the air) exists.
- Akron's water is not supplied from the vicinity; it is piped for 35 miles from the city.
- The city is working with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to sample and analyze fish from Nesmith Lake.
- U.S. EPA representatives discussed the options the agency has to clean up the site; secure federal funds to pay for the removal; and take appropriate actions with the potentially responsible party.
- The mayor's office will keep the public apprised of site activities.

D. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

The community relations program at the site should be designed to provide an opportunity for the community to be educated and participate in the Superfund removal process. To be effective, the community relations program must be gauged according to the community's need for information, and its interest and willingness to participate in the removal process.

The community relations program at the Summit Equipment and Supplies site should take the following approaches:

1. Enlist the support and participation of local officials in coordinating community relations activities.

Appropriate officials to involve in a community relations program include the City of Akron Deputy Mayor and Health Department officials and Summit County officials. These officials are visible and trusted leaders in the community and are, therefore, an invaluable resource in U.S. EPA's effort to understand and monitor community concern. It is essential that local officials be regularly and fully informed of site activities, plans, findings, and developments.

2. Identify and access citizen perception of the site.

Information regarding citizen perception and concern of the site is indispensable. Areas of focus are health, environmental impact, removal activities, and agency procedures. Understanding the separate and combined concerns will assist the U.S. EPA in focusing on health questions and clean up activities and level of effort for community relations at the site. It is important not to over plan or stress community relations activities in a way that might discourage members of the community from participating. Background information and the direction of local concern will determine those activities that best meet the community's needs.

3. Provide follow-up explanations about sampling and test results to area residents.

Concise, easily understood, and timely information should be available to all area residents concerning the schedule of technical activities, their purpose, and their outcome. Where information cannot be released to the public, either because of quality assurance requirements or the sensitivity of enforcement proceedings, a clear and simple explanation as to why the information must be withheld is in order. The community relations staff should also attempt to identify special situations or concerns where more specialized information is desired by individuals or groups. For example, further investigations of Nesmith Park and Lake will determine the need for additional information provided to residents who frequent the recreational area (e.g. fishing, swimming, and playground use). Finally, to ensure that inquiries from the community are handled efficiently and consistently, a single U.S. EPA contact should be established for the site.

4. Inform area residents and local officials about the procedures, policies, and requirements of the Superfund program.

An effort should be made to circulate basic information to the community describing the Superfund process to dispel possible confusion about U.S. EPA's purpose and responsibilities at the site.

E. COMMUNITY RELATIONS TECHNIQUES AND TIMING

A member of the U.S. EPA Region V community relations staff will be designated to respond directly to media and public inquiries regarding site activities. A number of activities will be implemented to ensure that the community is well informed about site activities.

1. Initiate and maintain contact with local officials.

Through telephone, correspondence, or meetings the U.S. EPA will contact government officials informing them of the federal agency's interest in the site. Designated U.S. EPA personnel will maintain contact with appropriate officials at all levels of government (municipal, county, state, national) to provide them the opportunity to address the Superfund activities at the site. Also, by developing and maintaining these contacts the U.S. EPA can identify individuals or groups involved with the site and gain an understanding of the level of community concern for the site.

2. Initiate and maintain contact with residents.

The information that citizens provide to the U.S. EPA about the background of a site is valuable to the agency in planning a removal action. For example, citizens' knowledge about how and when a site was contaminated may facilitate U.S. EPA efforts to determine where sampling and monitoring are needed. Through regular and frequent contact, citizens can voice their concerns regarding the site directly to the designated U.S. EPA representative(s). This representative(s) will be identified at the beginning of agency involvement and assist concerned members of the community throughout the removal process.

3. Write and distribute news release.

News releases, distributed to all local media (newspapers, radio, and television) should coincide with milestones in the removal program: site investigation, stabilization, and clean-up activities. News releases may also be used to report the results of a public meeting and describe the way citizen concerns were considered in the planning process. Information copies should be sent to appropriate government officials and citizens, if possible, before their release. Because news releases usually contain only the most important information, other details that citizens may be more interested in are often excluded. A news release alone cannot address all citizen concerns, therefore, this community relations plan includes additional methods of communication that supplement the news release purpose and information.

4. Brief the local officials of site activities.

Briefing sessions with local government officials during removal events and before public meetings and news conferences will inform them about recent developments at the site, provide them with background material and technical studies, investigation results, and proposed removal actions. Local officials may participate in public or small group meetings and news conferences which require knowing and understanding the site particu-

lars and Superfund process. Care must be taken to include all appropriate local offices and agencies with a direct interest to the site. Offices and agencies to be considered are mayor/city manager, health, law enforcement, legislators, environment/natural resources, and public works.

5. Sponsor public meetings (second meeting optional).

Meetings provide an opportunity for the U.S. EPA to present information and a proposed course of action. U.S. EPA technical resources are available to provide information and answer questions. Local officials may make short presentations and respond to questions. A public meeting is not a formal public hearing where testimony is received. Instead, it is a meeting to exchange information and comments. Public meetings provide the public with an opportunity to express their concerns to the U.S. EPA, state, or local government officials.

6. Prepare and distribute fact sheets.

Fact sheets are one way to inform the community of technical developments, however, bureaucratic jargon and highly technical language is avoided. Public understanding of the issues involved in the removal program is increased through fact sheets that explain site background, U.S. EPA involvement, removal activities, Superfund process, future for the site following the clean-up, and community concerns. A fact sheet will be published in concert with the availability of the EECA study for review by residents and before the public comment period. Fact sheets include the name, address, and telephone number of the U.S. EPA personnel who can provide further information. Fact sheets must be distributed to the appropriate government officials and agencies, area residents, citizen groups, the media, and other interested persons.

7. Prepare a presentation. (optional)

Presentations improve the public's understanding of the problems associated with spills or releases of hazardous substances and what U.S. EPA is doing about them. Presentations can easily be adapted to suit different audiences. Each presentation should at least describe the problem, describe how the problem affects the public and environment, discuss what U.S. EPA is doing about it, discuss how citizens can help or obtain additional information, and answer questions from the audience. Through question and answer periods, U.S. EPA has an opportunity to identify and access citizens' concerns. Presentations are suitable for public meetings, small group meetings, and special interest groups. Visual aids should be used whenever possible to enhance and reinforce the information being presented. A presentation need not last longer than 30 minutes.

8. Sponsor small group meetings. (optional)

Small group meetings facilitate two-way interaction between citizens and U.S. EPA. Like the more formal, open public meetings, small group meetings inform citizens of the process and progress involved in a removal action. Small group meetings, with five to ten in attendance, often take place in site area residents' homes. The usually informal setting of the small group meetings lends itself to open discussion; questions, concerns, ideas, plans, and complaints are shared. Public meeting presentations may be repeated and focused to a personal level at small group meetings. Great care should be taken on the part of citizens and the agency that small group meetings do not create factions or exclude interested residents. Several small group meetings should be planned so that all interested citizens have an opportunity to participate.

9. U.S. EPA Toll Free Number.

Citizens should have access to a local telephone number or the U.S. EPA Region V toll free number (800-621-8431 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Central Time) so that the public can be informed of site activities and receive timely responses (three days) to questions and concerns. The phone number(s) should be publicized at public meetings and listed on fact sheets, correspondence, and press releases.

10. Establish and maintain an information repository.

An information repository contains U.S. EPA approved, non-confidential information and documents regarding site activities and is made available for review by the public. The collection of information for the repository may include: news releases and clippings about the site; site descriptions; technical data; fact sheets; community relation plans; and, maps for further information. Possible locations for the information repository might be the public library, town hall, community center, or health office. U.S. EPA will publicize the location and hours of public access for the information repository in the local media as well as notify interested citizens, groups, and government officials.

11. Revise community relations plan.

Through the various means of communication and interaction previously listed, U.S. EPA will note changes in community concerns, information needs, and activities, and modify this community relations plan, as necessary, to respond to those changes.

TIMING

Developing the Work Plan	Finalization of the Work Plan	During Removal Activities	Closure of Removal Actions
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Techniques

(1) Contact w/ officials	●	—	—	—	—	→
(2) Contact w/ citizens	●	●	—	—	—	→
(3) News releases	●	●	●	●		●
(4) Briefings	●		●		●	
(5) Public meetings		●		●		
(6) Fact sheets/ Progress reports	●		●	●		●
(7) Presentations (optional)		●		●		
(8) Small group meetings (optional)				●	—	→
(9) EPA toll-free number	●	—	—	—	—	→
(10) Informatic. reposi- tory	●	—	—	—	—	→
(11) Revise community relations plan						as needed

**ATTACHMENT A
LIST OF CONTACTS AND INTERESTED PARTIES**

FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

Senator Howard Metzenbaum
The Senate Russell Office Building
Room 140
Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-2315

In Cleveland: 1240 East 9th Street
Room 2915
Cleveland, Ohio 44114 (216) 522-7272

Senator John Glenn
The Hart Senate Office Building
Room 503
Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-3353

In Cleveland: 201 Superior Avenue
U.S. Courthouse Bldg.
Cleveland, Ohio 44114 (216) 522-7095

Congressman Tom Sawyer
1338 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-5231

In Akron: Federal Building
2 South Main
Akron, Ohio 44308 (216) 375-5710

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Governor Richard Celeste
Office of the Governor
Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215 (614) 466-3555

Senator Robert Nettle
Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215 (614) 466-7041

In Akron: 31 31st Street, S.W.
Barberton, Ohio 44203 (216) 825-4514

Representative Thomas Seese
Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215 (614) 462-6676

In Akron: 3580 Mong Avenue
Akron, Ohio 44319

(216) 644-7475
(216) 733-6231
(Goodyear)

LOCAL OFFICIALS

Mayor Donald Plusquellic
City of Akron Municipal Building
166 South High Street
Akron, Ohio 44308

(216) 375-2345

Deputy Mayor Tony O'Leary
City of Akron Municipal Building
166 South High Street
Akron, Ohio 44308

(216) 375-2345

U.S. EPA REGION V OFFICES

Michael Strimbu
Deputy Project Officer
Emergency Response Section
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11th Floor
230 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

(312) 353-2102

Ralph Dollhopf
On Scene Coordinator
Emergency Response Section
Eastern Response Unit
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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Grosse Ile, Michigan 48138-1697

(313) 675-3680

William Reynolds
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230 South Dearborn Street
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STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES

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Environmental Scientist
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
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2110 East Aurora Road
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087

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Affiliation: David A. Meeker &
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Patricia Ann Monroe
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1042 Stanwood Avenue
Akron, Ohio 44314 (216) 745-6656

Monsanto Company
c/o Tom Adolph
2689 Wingate Avenue
Akron, Ohio 44314 (216) 745-1641
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John Mosser
565 Stevenson Avenue
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Affiliation: City of Akron

Northeast Ohio Four County Regional
Planning & Development Organization
969 Copley Road
Akron, Ohio 44320 (216) 836-5731

Phil Hillman
Fish Management Supervisor
Division of Wildlife
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
912 Portage Lakes Drive
Akron, Ohio 44319

(216) 644-2293
ext. 13

Dr. C. William Keck
Director
Akron Department of Public Health
177 South Broadway
Akron, Ohio 44308

(216) 375-2960

Scott Swearingin
Disaster Services Coordinator
Summit County
175 South Main Street
Akron, Ohio 44308

(216) 379-2558

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, AND RESIDENTS

George L. Austin
262 Trigonía
Akron, Ohio 44302
Affiliation: Summit Equipment & Supplies
employee

(216) 762-5251

Bruce and Robin Cramer
2772 Pikes Avenue
Akron, Ohio 44314

(216) 745-6268

Jim Crawford
2685 Shoreline Drive, #B-5
Akron, Ohio 44314

(216) 848-2753

Melanie L. Gahres
2005 Gregg Road, Apt. B
Akron, Ohio 44314
Affiliation: Summit Equipment & Supplies
employee

(216) 724-2430

Dennis H. Griffin
1417 Holly Avenue
Akron, Ohio 44301
Affiliation: Union Local 1094
Works at Hamlin Steel,
Wingate and Ivor Avenues

(216) 773-2583

Ohio Public Interest Campaign
155 North High Street, Suite 220
Columbus, Ohio 43215 (614) 224-4111

Michael Perrine
2881 Denman Avenue
Akron, Ohio 44319 (216) 644-5480
Affiliation: U.A.W. Local 1094

Peggy Reiley
927-A Snowfall Spur
Akron, Ohio 44313 (216) 928-7654
Affiliation: Akron Water Pollution
Control Laboratory (216) 928-1164

Kenneth Rumble
4151 Melton Avenue
Akron, Ohio 44319 (216) 645-6232

Mark Rumble
2383 East Turkeyfoot Lake Road
Akron, Ohio 44312 (216) 699-5363

Melvin B. Sayre
341 Dennison Avenue
Akron, Ohio 44312 (216) 733-9039

Michael D. Seals
543 West Lake Avenue
Barberton, Ohio 44203 (216) 848-4541
Affiliation: Summit Equipment & Supplies
employee

Rev. Dale D. Smith
Sherwood Park Baptist Church
814 Carnegie Avenue
Akron, Ohio 44314 (216) 753-9241

William A. Stewart
963 Winston Street
Akron, Ohio 44314 (216) 745-2302

Robert and Pamela Sigman
825 Carnegie Avenue
Akron, Ohio 44314 (216) 745-5933

William G. Wamsley
861 Tampa Avenue
Akron, Ohio 44314 (216) 753-8179

Jerry R. Welch
1150 McIntosh Avenue
Akron, Ohio 44314
Affiliation: Ohio Earth First!

(216) 848-1979

NEWSPAPERS

Beacon Journal
44 East Exchange Street
Akron, Ohio 44328

(216) 375-8070

TELEVISION

WAKR-TV (Channel 23, ABC)
853 Copley Road
Akron, Ohio 44320

(216) 535-7831

RADIO

WAKR-AM
853 Copley Road
Akron, Ohio 44320

(216) 535-7831

WSLR-AM/WKDD-FM
Fairway Center
1867 West Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44313

(216) 836-4700

ATTACHMENT B

**SUGGESTED LOCATION FOR INFORMATION
REPOSITORY AND PUBLIC MEETING**

INFORMATION REPOSITORY

Kenmore Branch, Akron Public Library
2200 14th Street S.W.
Akron, Ohio 44314

Contact: Judith Rosenberg

(216) 379-0414

PUBLIC MEETING

Kenmore High School Auditorium
2140 13th Street S.W.
Akron, Ohio 44314

Contact: Harry Jordan, Principal
Cost: \$20 per hour

(216) 848-4141