



# ERIE COKE REMOVAL SITE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN



**2021  
JANUARY**



# FORWARD

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Dear Reader,

This Community Involvement Plan (CIP) is a “living” document. This means the CIP can be updated or revised as:

- Cleanup progresses.
- Site conditions change.
- EPA receives significant input from the community or other stakeholders on cleanup work.

EPA sets up information repositories to host and share important project information. They are centrally located to provide community members with free and easy access to the information.

The site’s information repositories are listed below:

**Erie County Library (Blasco Memorial Library)**

160 East Front Street

Erie, PA 16507

(814) 451-6900

\* Please call to confirm hours/availability.

**EPA Region 3**

1650 Arch Street – Sixth Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19103

(215) 814-5122

\* Please call to confirm hours/availability.

The CIP is also on EPA’s website: <https://response.epa.gov/eriecokesite>. EPA plans to next update the Erie Coke CIP during the development of the site’s long-term cleanup plan. EPA invites the community to provide input and feedback during its work at the site.

## EPA Wants to Hear from You!

EPA is looking for community feedback about:

- The information in this CIP.
- Your site-related communication needs.
- Concerns and expectations about the cleanup.
- How you prefer to receive information from EPA.

To submit comments, please reach out to Katie Page, EPA’s Community Involvement Coordinator for the site:

**Katie Page**

**EPA Community Involvement Coordinator**

EPA Region 3

1650 Arch Street – 3RA22

Philadelphia, PA 19103

(215) 814-2409

[page.katherine@epa.gov](mailto:page.katherine@epa.gov)



Liberty Park is located near the site. Image used with permission of Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority.

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# INTRODUCTION

Under the federal Superfund program, EPA is overseeing environmental investigations and cleanup at the Erie Coke Removal site.

The site is located at the foot of East Avenue in Erie, Pennsylvania (please see site map on page 4). Some type of industrial manufacturing facility has operated at the Site since approximately 1833. From 1925 to 1987, various owners operated a coke production facility. In 1987, Erie Coke Corporation (Erie Coke) began processing coal into coke on site. In July 2020, EPA determined that the site poses a threat to public health and the environment. EPA began the removal action, or short-term cleanup, in September 2020 after finalizing and signing the site's Action Memorandum.

During the site evaluation, EPA identified hazardous substances stored in tanks, pipes, drums, totes and other containers. These hazardous substances will be characterized, removed and safely disposed of offsite. Due to the size of the facility, the removal action is expected to take more than 12 months to complete.

Throughout the cleanup process, EPA is committed to involving the public and keeping the community informed about cleanup activities and how these activities may affect them. This CIP has been developed to facilitate two-way dialogue between EPA and the community affected by the site and to identify tools that encourage participation throughout the investigations and cleanup. The foundation of this plan has been developed based on input from local government representatives, residents, community organizations, and other stakeholders.



The Erie Land Lighthouse was built in 1967. Image used with permission of Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority.



**WHAT IS COKE?** Coke is a fuel made by heating coal at high temperatures in the absence of air.

## Community Involvement Goals

The primary goals of this CIP are to:

- Provide the community with accurate, timely and understandable information about the cleanup in a manner that is considerate of their preference and culture.
- Facilitate opportunities for public input and ensure community needs and concerns are considered.
- Respect and consider community input and feedback on EPA's process as it is being carried out.

The CIP is the foundation of EPA's community involvement program. It is a reference that the EPA site team often turns to during cleanup to identify useful community involvement activities. Throughout the cleanup process, EPA is committed to involving the public, keeping the community informed of cleanup activities and how these activities may affect them, and helping people understand the ways in which they can participate in decision making.



# Community Involvement at Superfund Sites

The Superfund Community Involvement program aims to advocate and strengthen early and meaningful community participation during the cleanup of contaminated sites. The CIP is EPA's site-specific roadmap for informing and engaging community members in the cleanup process. The CIP:

- Provides general Superfund program information.
- Describes the site and the community.
- Identifies public participation opportunities and options throughout the cleanup process.
- Serves as a resource for EPA and state and local partners.
- Informs new cleanup team members about the community.
- Identifies community needs and concerns.
- Lists community resources for planning meetings and communicating with residents and officials.

The CIP:

- Adopts community involvement tools and practices to use at the site.
- Relies on recommendations from stakeholder interviews about ways to further improve community involvement.
- Identifies existing networks in the area to ensure culturally/linguistically appropriate, effective and efficient outreach methods are in place.



The site is located near Presque Isle Bay and Presque Isle State Park.

# SUPERFUND OVERVIEW

## What is the Superfund Program?

EPA's Superfund program, enacted in 1980 under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and amended in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), is responsible for cleaning up the nation's most toxic hazardous waste sites and responding to environmental emergencies, oil spills and natural disasters.

EPA requires that those entities responsible for contaminating Superfund sites clean up the sites or reimburse the government if EPA cleans them up. At the Erie Coke site, EPA uses money from Congress to clean it up, because the Erie Coke Corporation filed for bankruptcy. EPA coordinates the cleanup with state, tribal and territorial environmental protection and waste management agencies. Once EPA has selected a cleanup plan for a site, state and tribal agencies must comment on and eventually concur with EPA's approach.

Once EPA has been made aware of a site by individuals, local and state agencies, or other parties, EPA follows a step-by-step process to determine the best way to clean it up and protect human health and the environment. If the site poses an immediate threat to public health or the environment, EPA can intervene with an emergency response action (called a "removal action").

### **For more information about EPA's cleanup programs, please visit:**

Basic Information About Superfund Cleanups: [epa.gov/cleanups/basic-information-about-cleanups](https://www.epa.gov/cleanups/basic-information-about-cleanups).

EPA's Role in Emergency Response: [epa.gov/emergency-response/epas-role-emergency-response](https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response/epas-role-emergency-response).



View from the upper-level viewing platform at the Bicentennial Tower located near the site. Image used with permission of Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority.



## What are Removal Actions?

Removal actions are responses to releases that threaten the public health, welfare or the environment of the United States. These actions tend to be swift to address immediate threats from hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants.

Removal actions start when EPA signs an Action Memorandum (action memo). The action memo designates the type of removal action to be conducted. EPA can also use a Special Bulletin to quickly begin removal actions in emergency situations. There are three categories of removal actions:

1. **Emergency Removals** require an immediate response to releases or threatened releases to the environment.
2. **Time-Critical Removals** are situations where EPA determines that a removal is appropriate and on-site removal activities must begin within six months.
3. **Non-Time-Critical Removals** are undertaken when EPA determines, based on a site evaluation, that a removal action is appropriate and there is a planning period of at least six months before on-site activities must begin.



A promontory overlooking Erie's waterfront. Image used with permission of Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority.

Site Overview

Erie Coke has a long history of violations under Pennsylvania’s environmental laws. These violations resulted in neighborhood complaints about air quality, several Notices of Violations issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), penalty assessments, permit denials, and the negotiation and entry into Consent Decrees and Administrative Orders to address conditions at the site.

In December 2019, Erie Coke ceased operations and closed the facility. PADEP directed Erie Coke to address all regulatory issues associated with closure, including removal of all waste and wastewaters from the site. However, only one million dollars was set aside to perform these tasks, and PADEP requested assistance from EPA in May 2020 to conduct a removal site evaluation. The evaluation helped determine if the site met the threshold criteria for an EPA removal action.



Entrance sign at the former Erie Coke Corporation plant.

<b>Around 1833</b>	<b>Industrial manufacturing operations began at the site.</b>
<b>1925 – 1987</b>	<b>Various owners operated a coke production facility.</b>
<b>1987</b>	<b>Erie Coke Corporation began manufacturing coke and storing contaminated substances on site.</b>
<b>December 2019</b>	<b>Erie Coke Corporation ceased operations and closed the facility.</b>
<b>May 2020</b>	<b>PADEP requested EPA assistance in responding to conditions at the Erie Coke facility.</b>
<b>July 2020</b>	<b>EPA conducted a site evaluation and determined that a removal action was necessary.</b>
<b>September 2020</b>	<b>EPA signed an Action Memorandum approving cleanup of contaminated substances at the facility.</b>
<b>September 2020</b>	<b>EPA began cleanup. The removal action is expected to take about 12 months to complete.</b>

EPA began working at the site in September 2020 to locate, categorize, sample and prepare all containers with hazardous substances at the facility for proper disposal.

The next steps at the site are to address about 25 tanks and an estimated 5,000 feet of piping that may contain hazardous substances.



*Please see page 8 for more information about removal actions.*



**ON-SCENE COORDINATOR:** The EPA official responsible for monitoring and addressing immediate threats to human health and the environment.



# Site Investigation and Cleanup

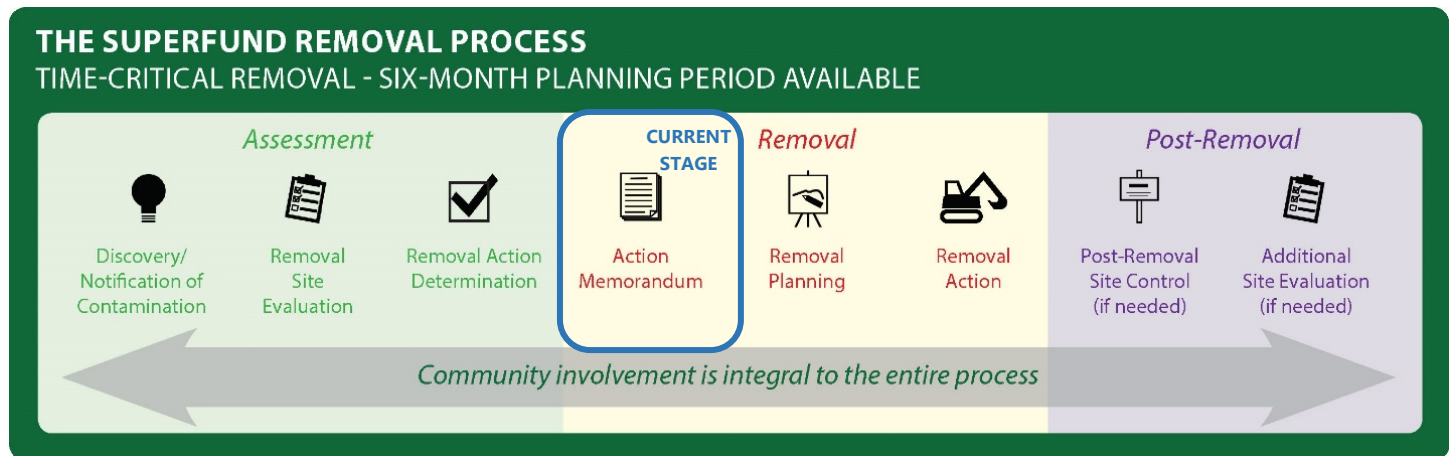
EPA designated the Erie Coke site as a time-critical removal action site.

There are two types of time-critical removals, depending on the expected duration of the removal action:

- **Short-term responses:** on-site activities will be completed within 120 days of the initiation of on-site actions.
- **Longer-term responses:** on-site activities will require more than 120 days.

Removal actions at the Erie Coke site are expected to extend beyond 120 days. The following section describes the general steps in a time-critical removal.

## Superfund Removal Process – Time-Critical Removal



### Assessment

After the contamination is discovered, EPA evaluates if the site poses a threat to people and the environment and whether hazards need to be addressed immediately or additional site information will be collected.

### Removal

The Action Memorandum describes the cleanup method chosen for the site and the reasons for the selection. Removal planning is the phase during which the plans for removal are designed, and then removal action begins.

### Post-Removal

After the removal action, site controls are implemented to protect human health and the environment if needed. Additional site evaluation may take place to determine whether further action is needed.

# ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

## History of the Community

Erie, Pennsylvania, is situated on the southern shore of Lake Erie. The community formed in the 1800s, after Pennsylvania purchased the Erie Triangle, a 300-square-mile area in what is now northern Erie County, from the federal government in 1792. Erie County was named after the Erie Tribe, the area's original inhabitants, who were decimated by disease and conflict in the 1600s.<sup>1</sup> The French were some of the first European settlers in the area and built Fort Presque Isle in 1753, later abandoning it to the English in 1763. The area was open for settlement in 1794 and the city was laid out the following year. In 1801, Erie became a port, and fifty years later, it incorporated as a city. Erie later gained flagship status as the home port of Oliver Hazard Perry, a naval commander who won the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812.

During the mid-19th century, Erie was a major hub for shipbuilding, fishing and railroad travel. These industries produced much needed local jobs. Based on its roots in manufacturing, downtown Erie continued to grow for most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and attracted numerous waves of immigrants for industrial jobs in steel and coal production. The city faced industrial restructuring which moved jobs out of the area. As the need for manufacturing declined, Erie's population began to decrease and move into the suburbs surrounding it.

Today, the community is known for being the State's primary access point to the Great Lakes by way of Presque Isle State Park. The park brings over four million visitors annually to Erie. The region is also a hub for grape growing and boasts the third- largest amount of wine production in the United States.

Erie is a member of Welcoming America, a networking organization that helps Erie create a stronger community and gain economic advantages for New Americans. Since 2013, the Erie has welcomed 2,580 new U.S. citizens sworn in from 95 countries of origin. During the Schember administration, 758 new citizens have been sworn in from 75 countries of origin. Erie recently established a New American Council to help represent and advocate for new American citizens in the area. Additionally, Erie is in the process of becoming a Certified Welcoming City – the highest designation reserved for cities and counties that meet rigorous requirements set by Welcoming America– defining what it means to be a welcoming community. Erie hopes to connect and include people of all backgrounds and harness the vibrancy that comes from diversity and create a global workforce.



Bicentennial Tower observation deck features panoramic views of downtown Erie, Presque Isle State Park, and Lake Erie. Image used with permission of Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority.

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<sup>1</sup> The Erie Tribe was known by several different names, including Eriechronon, Riquéronon, Erielhonan, Eriez and Nation du Chat.



## Community Demographics

According to the U.S. Census' 2013-2017 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, 137,951 people live in 56,313 households within a 5-mile radius of the site.

<b>One Race</b>	96%
White	80%
Black or African American	12%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.0%
Asian	3.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%
Some Other Race	2.0%
<b>Two or More Races</b>	4.0%
Hispanic or Latino (of Any Race)	6.0%
Population 65 years and older	15%
Households with Income Base Less Than \$50,000	60%
Renter Occupied Units	43%
Population Speaking a Non-English Language at Home	10%



An abandoned oil containing railcar at the site.



**INTERNET CONNECTIVITY:** In Erie, 85.3% of households have a computer, and 76.9% have a broadband internet subscription. Source: U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts 2019.

## EJSCREEN

EJSCREEN is an environmental justice mapping and screening tool. It uses environmental indicators in a community to show potential exposures and demographic factors to show potential susceptibility. An EJSCREEN analysis conducted for the site in 2020 found environmental justice concerns in the surrounding community. Ten indicators were at the 75th percentile or above compared to the rest of the state. For more information about EJSCREEN, please visit [epa.gov/ejscreen](https://epa.gov/ejscreen).



Some community members noted that native bird species are beginning to return to the area after the coke plant ceased operations. Piping Plover nesting birds, above, live in the area near the site.

# Past Community Involvement Activities

EPA commits, throughout the cleanup process, to:

- Involve the public.
- Keep the community informed about cleanup activities.
- Share how these activities may affect them.

The EPA fact sheets below are available to help the community learn more about the site.<sup>2</sup>

Date	Fact Sheet Title/Topic
September 2020	EPA Cleanup at Erie Coke Site
November 2020	Erie Coke Removal Site Update Postcard

## Community Feedback

From November to December 2020, EPA conducted phone interviews with 16 stakeholders in the community, including Erie elected officials and city staff, state staff, representatives from community organizations, and residents. EPA gathered the following community feedback during the interviews.

**ERIE COKE REMOVAL SITE**  
Erie, PA | EPA Region 3

SEPTEMBER 2020

### EPA Cleanup at Erie Coke Site

**Key Facts**

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will clean up hazardous substances at the Erie Coke facility.
- EPA is coordinating with state and local authorities throughout the cleanup.
- EPA is committed to keeping the nearby community updated throughout the cleanup.

**Background**

In May 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) requested EPA assistance in responding to conditions at the Erie Coke facility in Erie, Pennsylvania. The Erie Coke Site is an abandoned coke manufacturing facility located along the shores of Lake Erie. Based on a site evaluation in July 2020, EPA determined that the site poses a threat to public health and the environment and determined that a removal action, or cleanup, is necessary. In September 2020, EPA signed an Action Memorandum which approved the cleanup of hazardous substances at the facility.

**Upcoming Work at the Site**

During the site evaluation, EPA identified hazardous substances stored in tanks, pipes, drums, totes, and other containers. EPA will further characterize the contents of these storage containers before removing them for safe off-site disposal. EPA will also sample for asbestos containing materials (ACM), and remove ACM for safe off-site disposal.

EPA expects to begin on-site cleanup in September 2020. Due to the size of the facility, this removal action is expected to take more than 12 months to complete. This action will focus on the immediate hazards at the facility. During the cleanup, EPA will determine if additional investigation and cleanup are necessary. EPA will continue to coordinate with PADEP and local authorities and keep the community updated.

Contacta a Katie Page en page.katherine@epa.gov o 215-814-2409 para obtener esta informacion traducida.

### THE SUPERFUND REMOVAL PROCESS TIME-CRITICAL REMOVAL

**ASSESSMENT**

- Discovery/Notification of Contamination
- Removal Action Determination

**REMOVAL**

- Action Memorandum **CURRENT STAGE**
- Removal Action

**POST-REMOVAL**

- Post-Removal Site Control (if needed)

Community involvement is integral to the entire process

EPA shared a fact sheet with the community to provide background information and details on upcoming work at the site in September 2020. It is available online at [https://response.epa.gov/sites/14827/files/Erie%20Coke%20Factsheet\\_Sept%202020.pdf](https://response.epa.gov/sites/14827/files/Erie%20Coke%20Factsheet_Sept%202020.pdf).



A view of Presque Isle Bay near the site. Image used with permission of Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority.

<sup>2</sup> Site-related documents, including fact sheets, are available online at [response.epa.gov/site/doc\\_list.aspx?site\\_id=14827](https://response.epa.gov/site/doc_list.aspx?site_id=14827).



## CLEANUP AND CONTAMINATION



Interviewees are concerned about the contamination that remains on site. Many people expressed apprehension about the materials, if there are unknown pollutants that may still be discovered, whether contaminants have leached into groundwater or Lake Erie and/or affected air quality, and the potential for contaminant migration. Some interviewees mentioned concerns about polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and lead levels at the site. Others shared concerns about the risk of explosion or fire at the site.

Some interviewees asked when cleanup will begin and how long it will take. Some interviewees stated that placing a cap over the site is preferable, and that any pathways for contaminant migration should be cut off. Additional concerns about the cleanup process was that the site receive equitable attention as any other comparable EPA removal site would, not more solely based on media attention or potential waterfront property value.

## HEALTH RISKS



Many participants expressed concerns about the long-term effects of the plant's operations on residents' health. Interviewees said the community has not been informed about the health risks of the exposure to contaminants from the plant, which operated in the community for generations. One interviewee said that people grow their own food in the neighborhood near the site, but their soil has never been tested for contaminants. One person said that some sampling along the south fence line found polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) close to the site. Another interviewee asked why there have never been any substantial health-impact time studies completed.

People expressed concern that there are health issues prevalent in the neighborhoods close to the site. One person shared the concern that when the cleanup finishes, there will be no additional assistance provided to residents.

## REUSE



Nearly all interviewees expressed interest in the productive reuse of the site. Many people shared a preference for green space or recreational use, and others noted that due to the large size of the property, there is potential to be more in addition to any greenspaces. People mentioned fishing, a park with community amenities or an outdoor gathering space, and a nature preserve as potential reuses. Several people said that a green space or park area accessible to people living on the East Side would be preferable, as there is currently little or no easy park access for the neighborhood.

Some people mentioned the Port Authority's Master Development and Facilities Plan. It discusses the reuse of the site and includes some good ideas, such as a mixed-use plan to maximize tax benefits. Many interviewees said that they do not want another Title 5 industrial plant at the site in the future.

Some interviewees mentioned the importance of having local interest and control during the economic development planning phase for site reuse to ensure any investment into the site meets the needs of the community.

## GOVERNMENT



Many people stated that the federal government has a positive reputation in Erie, with some citing the successful cleanup of Presque Isle Bay as creating a good track record for EPA in the area. Several interviewees noted that they are very pleased with the current work of EPA staff at the site. They are confident that EPA overseeing the cleanup will be a positive thing. Some interviewees said that PADEP's interactions with community members had improved recently.

While many interviewees spoke positively of their relationships with government entities, others felt that some people in the community distrust government. Government-community relations could be improved by ensuring that the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) are held accountable, ensuring that transparent and accurate information is distributed well, and increasing communication.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Several people said that community engagement during the cleanup should include a planning process. One person stated that building relationships and talking in an interactive fashion will help foster an inclusive and participatory environment. Another person said that, historically, the neighborhood affected by the site has been overlooked during important decisions. It is crucial to ask for input from residents and ensure that they have a place at the table. Some interviewees suggested connecting with local community organizations and neighborhood groups to increase both breadth and depth of the outreach to community members.

Some interviewees talked about the types of outreach that they would like to see regarding the site. For content, they mentioned a preference for fewer words and more graphics. For type, they mentioned social media posts, press coverages, informational short videos, postcards, fact sheets, and in-person meetings, if possible.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



Several people said that the area near the site is an environmental justice neighborhood that has lived with negative impacts from the plant for generations. Interviewees shared the concern that neighborhood residents may feel as though their needs and priorities have been disregarded. They said that extra care and outreach are necessary to reach and engage these residents effectively.

## SITE OWNERSHIP CONCERNS



Several people asked about the current ownership of the site, whether the bankrupt owner could still sell it to a new industrial buyer, and what effect that could have on the cleanup. Interviewees asked questions about money set aside for cleanup by the owners, a scrubber unit that was purchased, and the owner's business interests in China. One person asked about litigation related to the site and the current status of the associated investigations.

## ADDITIONAL CONCERNS



One person expressed interest in learning about the resources that site cleanup contractors would need. Another person noted that the property is not secure and could be accessed from several different sides. Some interviewees voiced concerns about needing a balance between building up a tax base for the community in addition to increasing greenspace access.



## Community Members Tell EPA How to Reach Them

Most interviewees expressed interest in regular updates on the site's status and cleanup. Suggestions for frequency of communication included weekly or monthly updates and quarterly meetings. Although many people had not received anything directly from EPA before, they were able to access the information they needed from webpages, news outlets and other sources. Several interviewees said they were already in contact with EPA staff.



Cascade Creek's restoration reduced erosion and provided wildlife habitat near the site. Image used with permission of Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority.

Interviewees mentioned several techniques for conducting outreach with residents, including being willing to talk to them, and ensuring that public participation is a priority alongside compliance and cleanup. EPA should ensure that there is equity and access to information for residents, as low-income communities and communities of color may not have the technical background needed to understand site documents. One interviewee said that posting information on a website may not be an effective method for reaching the affected community. Additional steps may be necessary, such as building relationships by identifying key local organizations and attending their meetings.

These community organizations, as identified by the interviewees, include:

- Erie Housing Authority
- Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Association (PLEWA)
- Eastside Grassroots Coalition
- Bayfront East Side Task Force
- Hold Erie Coke Accountable (HECA)
- Jefferson Educational Society
- Erie City Council
- UPMC-Hamot
- Save Our Native Species (SONS) of Lake Erie Fishing Club
- Community centers (Martin Luther King Center, Booker T. Washington Development and Education Center, Quality of Life Learning Center/Urban Erie Community Development Corporation [UECDC])
- Area schools, churches, and cultural social clubs
- Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership

Interviewees said that there are several groups of residents that may need additional support in order to understand and participate in the cleanup process. These groups include the environmental justice community nearby, seniors who may not have access or the ability to use the internet, residents of the nearby Pennsylvania Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, subsistence fishermen who frequent the pier and may be eating fish that are unsafe, and the large population of immigrants that make up the New American community. Interviewees noted that reaching out to these groups will require document translation into several languages, door-to-door outreach, and additional assistance with understanding the site-related responsibilities of government agencies.

Interviewees suggested working with the following organizations to reach these groups of residents:

- Quality of Life Learning Center/UECDC
- Erie Housing Authority
- Hamot Health Foundation
- New American Council
- Multicultural Community Resource Center



Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority operations near the site. Image used with permission of Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority.

Interviewees suggested the Port Authority, the Multicultural Community Resource Center, and area community centers, churches and libraries as good places to hold meetings.

Interviewees suggested sharing information through:

- Email and physical mailings
- Social media
- Local news websites and media
- Email alerts when new information is posted
- Newspapers and radio stations
- Phone calls with EPA
- Community meetings (both online and in person)
- A press conference with the mayor
- Short videos

Most people recommended layering and combining these methods. Several interviewees said that all of the methods are good and EPA should use all of them. Some people said getting information electronically works well. Some interviewees said local newspapers, radio and television are useful resources for sharing site information, and residents often access local news websites.



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

EPA believes that an engaged public benefits the cleanup process. EPA is committed to providing and encouraging public participation so that the people whose lives have been impacted by the site and its cleanup have a say in how it is cleaned up. EPA will strive to maintain a consistent community presence and build relationships with the community and local, state and other federal government agencies.

The Community Involvement Action Plan (action plan) highlights EPA's key objectives, methods and timelines for keeping residents, community stakeholders and local officials informed and involved throughout the cleanup process. The activities and their frequency relate to the stage of cleanup. They also reflect the level of interest expressed by the community. EPA based the action plan on several factors, including the needs, concerns and recommendations identified in the community interviews.

## EPA Community Resources

For more information on available community resources, please visit the EPA Superfund Community Involvement Website: [epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement](https://epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement).



The Erie Maritime Museum opened in 1998 and provides information on Erie's maritime heritage. Image used with permission of Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority.

# Community Involvement Action Plan

EPA will continue to coordinate with city and state staff, elected officials and area organizations to ensure that important site updates and information are shared with the community. EPA will use different activities to share information and speak with community members, such as:

## Fact Sheets and Flyers

EPA will continue to develop and distribute fact sheets on the cleanup. The fact sheets will be clear and easy to read. EPA will share them via email, mail and in coordination with local entities. They will include contact information to enable direct access to EPA staff.

## Community Meetings

EPA will host public meetings for community members to learn about the site and cleanup efforts. The meetings will also provide an opportunity to ask questions. In-person meetings will be held at a central location that is easily accessible, such as those on page 20.

EPA may host meetings virtually, in coordination with the community. For virtual meetings, EPA will provide an option to participate by phone for people unable to connect online. Meeting materials will be shared in advance so people unable to view them electronically can follow along.

## Briefings with Local Officials

EPA will brief Erie city staff and city council on request. EPA will coordinate with additional elected officials as requested. Please see page 19 for contact information for federal, state and local elected officials.

## Media

EPA will use the *Erie Times-News* to publicize important information and to give public notice related to the site. EPA may also use the local radio station WQLN 93.1 FM to provide information to the community. More media outlets are listed on page 20. EPA will also coordinate with the City of Erie and local organizations to use social media to reach the public.

## Mailing List

EPA will continue to maintain and update the site mailing list. To be added to the mailing list, please send a request by email, telephone or standard mail to EPA (see page 19 for contact information).

## Website

EPA will continue to maintain a web page where site-related documents are available for viewing at <https://response.epa.gov/eriecokesite>.

## Information Repositories

EPA has established information repositories where the community can review site documents. Please see page 21 for locations.



Former coal storage area (looking Southwest).



## Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>ACS</b>	American Community Survey	<b>PAH</b>	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon
<b>CAG</b>	Community Advisory Group	<b>PCB</b>	Polychlorinated Biphenyl
<b>CERCLA</b>	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act	<b>PRP</b>	Potentially Responsible Party
<b>CIP</b>	Community Involvement Plan	<b>SARA</b>	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
<b>EPA</b>	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	<b>TAG</b>	Technical Assistance Grant
<b>NPL</b>	National Priorities List	<b>TASC</b>	Technical Assistance Services for Communities
<b>PADEP</b>	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	<b>VOC</b>	Volatile Organic Compound

## Resources for the Community

EPA offers many opportunities and resources for community members to engage with EPA throughout the Superfund cleanup process. The tools used and the frequency of activities reflects the community's level of interest. For a comprehensive list of available resources and opportunities, visit EPA's Superfund Community Involvement site: [epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement](https://epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement).

### Get Involved and Get Support

<b>Community Advisory Group (CAG)</b>	<b>Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)</b>	<b>Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Program</b>
<p>A CAG is a self-governing stakeholder group that meets regularly to learn about EPA's cleanup process, discuss issues and concerns, and provide feedback to EPA. EPA can provide support to the CAG by attending meetings, making presentations, procuring meeting rooms, advertising meetings and providing copies of site-related documents.</p> <p><a href="https://epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-advisory-groups">epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-advisory-groups</a></p>	<p>A TAG provides funding for community groups to contract their own technical advisor to interpret and explain technical reports, site conditions, and EPA's proposed cleanup proposals and decisions.</p> <p><a href="https://epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-grant-tag-program">epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-grant-tag-program</a></p>	<p>TASC provides independent educational and technical assistance to communities affected by a site. This assistance helps communities better understand site issues and participate in the decision-making process.</p> <p><a href="https://epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-services-communities-tasc-program">epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-services-communities-tasc-program</a></p>

### EPA Region 3 CAG, TAG and TASC Coordinator:

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# Key Contacts

## EPA AND OTHER AGENCY CONTACTS

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## LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

### City of Erie

**Mayor Joe Schember**  
1301 State Street  
Erie, PA 16501  
(814) 923-4540  
[joeschember.com](http://joeschember.com)

### Erie County Council Members

**Andre Horton, District 2**  
Erie County Council  
140 West Sixth Street, Room 114  
Erie, PA 16501  
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**Mary Rennie, District 3**  
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140 West Sixth Street, Room 114  
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**Carl Anderson III, District 4**  
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140 West Sixth Street, Room 114  
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(814) 451-6303  
[cjanderson@eriecountypa.gov](mailto:cjanderson@eriecountypa.gov)

## FEDERAL/STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

### State

**Governor Tom Wolf**  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
(717) 787-2500  
[governor.pa.gov](http://governor.pa.gov)

**Senator Dan Laughlin, District 49**  
1314 Griswold Plaza Suite 101  
Erie, PA 16501  
(717) 787-8927  
[senatorlaughlin.com](http://senatorlaughlin.com)

**Senator Michele Brooks, District 50**  
99 Erie Street, Suite 1  
Edinboro, PA 16412  
(814) 734-2783  
[senatorbrooks.com](http://senatorbrooks.com)

**Representative Patrick Harkins**  
460 East 26th Street  
Erie, PA 16504  
(814) 459-1949  
[pahouse.com/harkins](http://pahouse.com/harkins)

### Federal

**Senator Bob Casey**  
17 South Park Row, Suite B-150  
Erie, PA 16501  
(814) 874-5080  
[casey.senate.gov](http://casey.senate.gov)

**Senator Pat Toomey**  
17 S Park Row # B120  
Erie, PA 16501  
(814) 453-3010  
[toomey.senate.gov](http://toomey.senate.gov)

**Representative Mike Kelly, 16th District**  
208 E. Bayfront Parkway, Suite 102  
Erie, PA 16507  
(814) 454-8190  
[kelly.house.gov](http://kelly.house.gov)



# Media Outlets

## NEWSPAPERS



### Erie Times-News

205 West 12th Street  
Erie, PA 16534  
(814) 453-4691  
(800) 352-0043  
[goerie.com](http://goerie.com)

### Erie Reader

1001 State Street  
Erie, PA 16501  
(814) 314-9364  
[eriereader.com](http://eriereader.com)

## RADIO STATION



### WZTE

10912 Peach Street  
Waterford, PA 16441  
(814) 796-6000  
[talkerie.com](http://talkerie.com)

### WICU-Happi 92.7

1229 State Street  
Erie, PA 16501  
814-454-0927  
814-455-4545  
[happi927.com](http://happi927.com)

### WXKC-FM

471 Robison Road  
Erie, PA 16509  
814-868-5355  
[classy100.com](http://classy100.com)

## TELEVISION STATION



### Erie News Now

WICU, WSEE, CW, MeTV  
3514 State Street  
Erie, PA 16508  
(814) 454-5201  
[erienewsnow.com](http://erienewsnow.com)

### WJET / WFXP

8455 Peach Street  
Erie, PA 16509  
(814) 864-2400  
(814) 868-3041  
[www.yourerie.com](http://www.yourerie.com)

## Potential Meeting Locations

### Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority

1 Holland Street  
Erie, PA 16507  
(814) 455-7557  
[porterie.org](http://porterie.org)

### Multicultural Community Resource Center

554 East 10th Street  
Erie, PA 16503  
(814) 455-0212  
[mcrerie.org](http://mcrerie.org)



Former coal storage area (looking Northwest).



Dobbins Landing is a tourist area in Erie located near the site. Image used with permission of Erie-Western Pennsylvania Port Authority.

## Information Repositories

### LOCAL REPOSITORY

#### **Erie County Library (Blasco Memorial Library)**

160 East Front Street

Erie, PA 16507

(814) 451-6900

[catalog.rielibrary.org/polaris/default.aspx](http://catalog.rielibrary.org/polaris/default.aspx)

### EPA OFFICE

#### **EPA Region 3**

1650 Arch Street – 6th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19103

(215) 814-5122

## Additional Resources

Erie Coke Removal Site Webpage

<https://response.epa.gov/eriecokesite>

EPA's Superfund Program

[epa.gov/superfund](http://epa.gov/superfund)

Superfund Community Involvement

[epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement](http://epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement)

This is Superfund: A Community Guide to EPA's Superfund Program

[semsub.epa.gov/src/document/HQ/175197](http://semsub.epa.gov/src/document/HQ/175197)



# **ERIE COKE REMOVAL SITE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN**

**2021  
JANUARY**

**<https://response.epa.gov/eriecokesite>**

