

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF GREATER OMAHA
1941 South 42nd Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68105**

April 5, 2004

Debbie Kring
Community Involvement Coordinator
USEPA- Region 7
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

RE: Community Involvement Plan for Omaha Lead Superfund Site

In regards to Section 5.0 Community Involvement Program, I expected to find more specificity; i.e., Goals and Objectives that were outcome related stating how EPA intended to involve the community.

Section 5.3 Key Messages includes nothing related to community residents input into decisions made regarding the site. It is important to recognize that good communication is a two way process. A key message should be the importance of having the input from community residents.

Section 5.5 Community Involvement Activities as 5.3 does not include any activities that involve communication from the community to EPA. EPA's Residential Site Handbook includes education activities in section 2.1 which recognizes that EPA does not generally conduct the majority of education activities. Education activities should include those related to the Superfund process and progress being made. Informed community organizations, churches and others could be a good mode for providing information to the affected community. This could relate to Section 5.13 Other Sources of Information and include the CAG.

Section 5.14 does not state how EPA will evaluate the Community Involvement Program. Section 5.15 has no timelines nor does it indicate responsibility for implementation of activities.

In addition, I was quite surprised that the LSOC was the only community group listed in Appendix A. Perhaps this limited outreach to the community has contributed to problems in involving the community in a meaningful manner. I would suggest that this Community Involvement Plan be revised to be more specific and indicate how the community is involved in the process besides listening to presentations by EPA.

Sincerely,

Jonah M. Deppe, Director of Natural Resources