

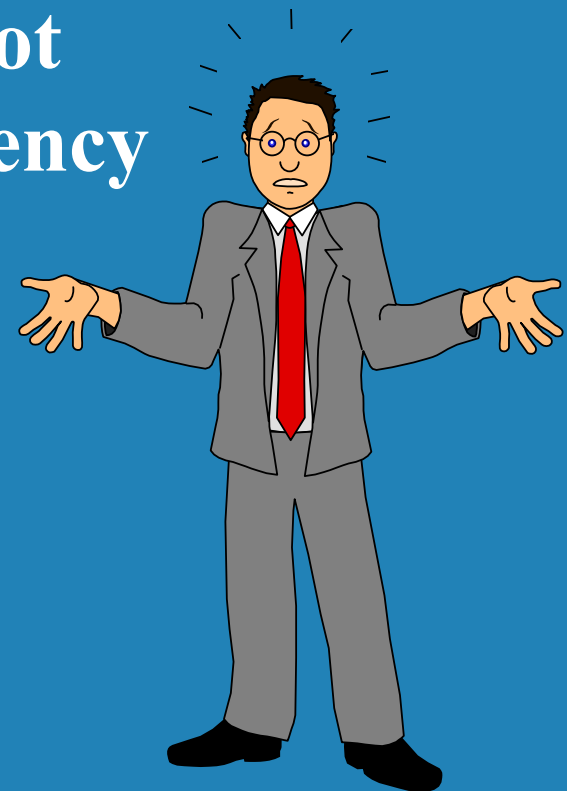
# **A Stakeholder Perspective RCRA Corrective Action Strategy**

**ITRC 2002 Fall Meeting  
Risk in Remediation Session  
November 7, 2002**

**Katherine Owens  
Idaho Water Resources Research Institute  
University of Idaho**

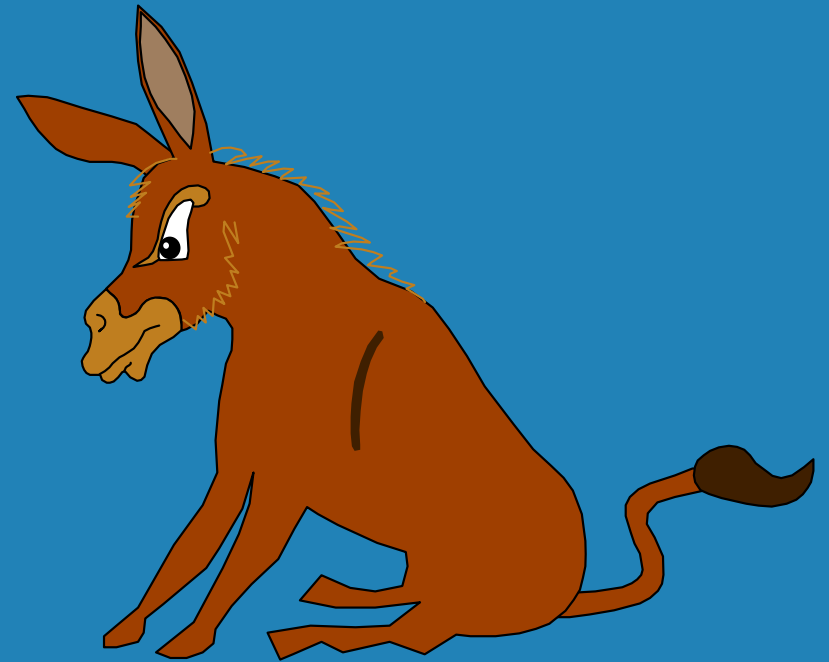
**“Most environmental challenges under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are brought by environmental organizations or third parties who may not have participated in the agency decisions...”**

**(James W. Spensley, Environmental Law Handbook, 1995).**



“Remedial alternatives are likely to meet with opposition if (decision makers) do not consider the political climate of the community (region) in which the site is located...”

Environmental Decision  
Making:  
Conflict and Consensus,  
Colorado Center for  
Environmental  
Management, 1993

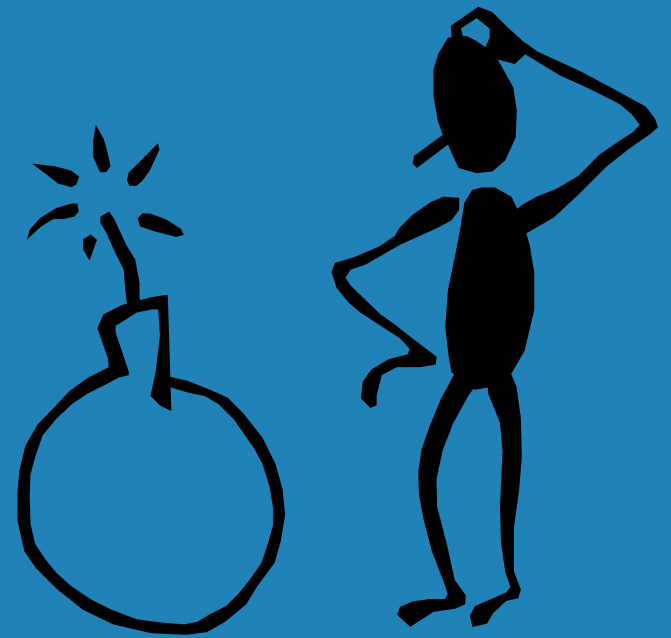


Risk and Risk Assessment is one of the most contentious issues at remedial action sites. Typically, concerned publics are not involved in the risk assessment process; they are given a package of information after the analysis is done.

(Environmental Decision Making: Conflict and Consensus, Colorado Center for Environmental Management, 1993)



Honesty is the best policy;  
that means being clear about  
what is or not known about a  
contaminant or technology.  
Nothing undermines trust so  
thoroughly as a failure to  
acknowledge the limits of  
certainty. The public needs  
to have the best information  
possible and to understand  
the limits of scientific  
knowledge and certainty.



# Rules for Effective Public Participation in the Decision Making Process

- ∩ **Early and consistent public involvement**
- ∩ **Identify Community Concerns**
- ∩ **Honesty**
- ∩ **Explicit Goals and Objectives**
- ∩ **Empowerment**
- ∩ **Risk Analysis**
- ∩ **Technical Expertise**
- ∩ **Decisions in the Field**
- ∩ **Interagency Coordination**
- ∩ **Resources for participation**
- ∩ **Independent “third party” experts**
- ∩ **Effective Communication**

Environmental Decision Making:  
Conflict and Consensus

Colorado Center for Environmental Management, 1993  
DOE Technology & Regulatory Integration Project

# Stakeholder Participation in Risk Based Decision Making

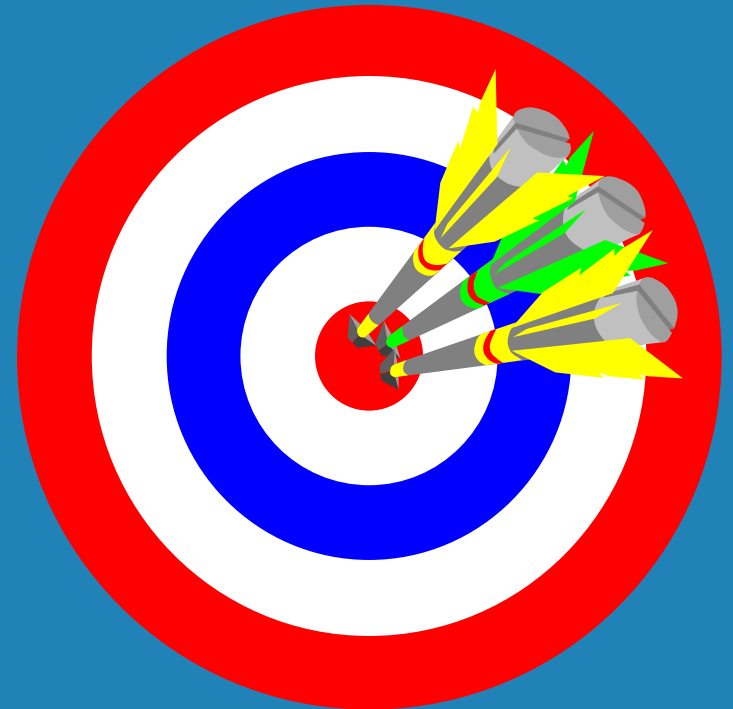
- ∞ **Early**
- ∞ **Ongoing**
- ∞ **Meaningful**
- ∞ **Representative**



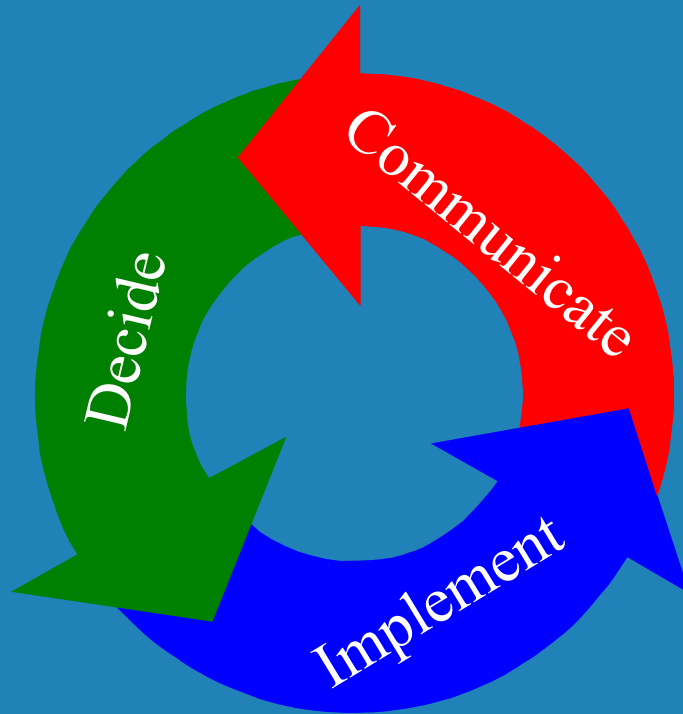
# Stakeholder Participation in Risked Based Decision Making

## Ω Early Participation

- Identify problem
- Address Community Concerns
- Establishing goals
- Defining uncertainties
- Data Quality Objectives
- Development of Conceptual Site Model



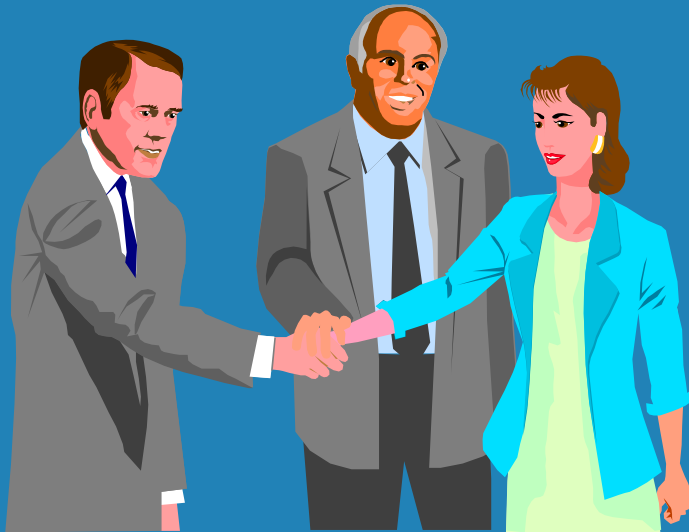
# Stakeholder Participation in Risked Based Decision Making



## ∞ Ongoing Participation

- **Communication**
  - Progress reports
  - Periodic meetings
  - Technical expertise
  - Third-party experts
- **On-site (field) decisions**
- **Implementation of Conceptual Site Model**

# Stakeholder Participation in Risked Based Decision Making



## Ω Meaningful Participation

- Team approach
- Educational
- Interagency Cooperation
- Honesty
- Risk Management

# Stakeholder Participation in Risk Based Decision Making

## ☞ Representative

- **Local Community**
- **Regional**
  - Intrastate
  - interstate
- **Special interest groups**
- **Indian Tribes**
- **Government Agencies**

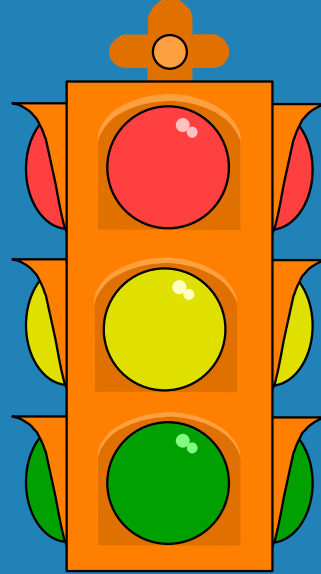




# How Does EPA Region 6 Corrective Action Strategy Measure Up?

- ✓ **Early and consistent public involvement**
- ✓ **Identify Community Concerns**
- ✓ **Honesty**
- ✓ **Goals and Objectives**
- ✓ **Empowerment**
- ✓ **Risk Analysis**
- ✓ **Technical Expertise**
- ✓ **Decisions in the Field**
- ✓ **Interagency Coordination**
- **Resources for participation**
- **Independent “third party” experts**
- ✓ **Effective Communication**

**CAUTION...**



**DO NOT** become complacent with scoping meetings. Genuine public participation is an ongoing function integral to the project and must have appropriate representation as part of the project team.

# Conclusion

Ω **EPA Region 6 Corrective Action Strategy utilizing Risked Based Decision Making provides for early, ongoing, and meaningful public participation through**

- **Goals & objectives**
- **Remedy Proposals**
- **Performance Standards**
- **Conceptual Site Model**
- **Risk assessment and management**
- **Communication strategy**

