



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 04 2016

OFFICE OF  
SOLID WASTE AND  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

NOW THE  
OFFICE OF LAND AND  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** RCRA Public Participation Manual, 2016 Edition – Public Comment Period

**FROM:** Barnes Johnson, Director  
Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery

**TO:** RCRA Directors, Regions I-X

Attached is a draft of the *RCRA Public Participation Manual, 2016 Edition* that, when finalized, will replace and supersede the 1996 *Public Participation Manual* (EPA 530-R-96-007). We developed the *Manual* with input from a national workgroup that included members from OLEM, OECA, OGC and Regions. The Agency is now seeking public comment on the draft *Manual* from August 9, 2016, through September 9, 2016. Along with the draft *Manual*, we are posting a document, *RCRA Public Participation Manual: Advantages of Public Involvement* that briefly describes the *Manual* and poses a set of questions to prompt comments.

The new *Manual* is intended as a “user’s manual.” It explains how public participation works in the RCRA permitting process (including corrective action), and how community members, tribes, regulators, and industry can collaborate to make it more effective. The *Manual* reviews regulatory requirements, and provides policy guidance to help implement the RCRA program. In addition, the updated *Manual* describes a wide assortment of activities to enhance public participation, highlights the use of digital and social media, provides a guide to integrate public participation into the permit modification process, and incorporates lessons learned and best practices.

The *Manual* represents EPA’s commitment to engage stakeholders in the decision-making process of the RCRA hazardous waste management program. It adopts a community involvement approach similar to the one expressed in the Superfund Community Involvement Handbook - that trust, transparency, and a commitment to addressing community concerns are key elements of successful community involvement programs.

Both documents are available at: <https://www.epa.gov/hwpermitting/resource-conservation-and-recovery-act-rcra-public-participation-manual>. Please share the link for the draft *Manual* with your stakeholders and notify them of the public comment period. If you have any questions, please contact Michaelle Wilson at (703) 308-8790 or ([wilson.michaelle@epa.gov](mailto:wilson.michaelle@epa.gov)), or Toshia King at (703) 308-7033 or ([king.toshia@epa.gov](mailto:king.toshia@epa.gov)).

We look forward to receiving comments on the draft *Manual* and I would like to offer a big thanks to the many people who have contributed to this effort over the past year.

Attachment

cc: Dania Rodriguez

Executive Director, Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials