U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Legacy Management

Fact Sheet

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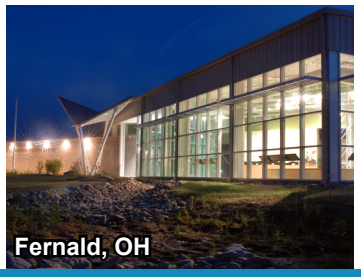
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# PUBLIC OUTREACH

*This fact sheet provides information about the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management public outreach principles and approaches.*

## What Is the Office of Legacy Management?

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) established the Office of Legacy Management (LM) in December 2003 to manage DOE's post-closure responsibilities and to ensure the future protection of human health and the environment at more than 100 sites across the country. LM's responsibilities include long-term surveillance and maintenance, records management, benefits continuity, property management, land use planning, and stakeholder relations.

## LM's Public Outreach Principles

LM's goal is to ensure that stakeholders are adequately involved in the process and informed of LM's plans and actions.

LM recognizes that it cannot successfully achieve its mission without input from state and local governments, affected tribes, and stakeholders. Thus, LM will pursue credible, effective public participation in program operations, plans, and decision-making.

## Why Is Public Outreach Important?

DOE is dedicated to protecting human health and the environment from residual hazards and to meeting its commitment to the environment, stakeholders, and our workers—past and present. DOE will carry out its responsibilities to former workers and affected communities following the completion of site remediation and closure. Continued public participation and involvement is an important part of these responsibilities.

## Public Outreach During Site Transition

LM will communicate regularly with affected stakeholders, tribes, and local governments regarding the status and plans for transition of sites. During the site transition period, LM's communication approach includes informal conversations, written communication, website postings, scheduled meetings and workshops (e.g., participation in local stakeholder organization meetings), and legally required hearings. In addition, LM will take these specific actions:

- The LM manager responsible for overseeing transition, will participate in local stakeholder meetings to communicate the status of transition activities, plans, and issues.
- Stakeholder Relations staff will provide timely interaction with stakeholders, tribes, and local governments.

## Public Outreach at Post-Closure Sites

Once the site is transferred to LM, the extent of public outreach will be appropriate for the level of decision-making at the site.

LM will ensure that public concerns are addressed by taking the following measures:

- The site Long-Term Surveillance and Maintenance Plan will include information about the approach to public involvement at the site following transfer to LM.
- LM will provide local access to the site Administrative Record, if there is one.

- LM will provide other site information relevant to site conditions. For example, the LM website provides links to GEMS, our geospatial environmental mapping system, for current and historical environmental data and also provides access to site-related documents.
- LM will also provide information on its regular inspections at LM sites to the public through stakeholder meetings.

## How Does LM Communicate with the Public?

LM's communication with the public includes:

- The LM website at http://energy.gov/lm.
- Fact sheets that describe LM's activities, sites, and policies.
- Scheduled meetings and workshops.
- Maintaining a current mailing list of interested parties.
- A quarterly newsletter, the LM *Program Update*, highlights LM's activities for the previous quarter and is distributed to all addressees on LM's mailing list.
- Communication with tribes, stakeholder organizations, state and local governments, national and local organizations, and individuals.

## How Do I Communicate with LM?

There are a variety of ways in which you may communicate with LM, including:

- Participate in the public participation processes and meetings.
- Sign up to be included on the mailing list by emailing lm@hq.doe.gov so that you can be informed about upcoming public meetings and opportunities to provide comments on draft planning documents.
- Contact an LM representative by emailing lm@hq.doe.gov.

## Stakeholder Contacts

For additional information, contact:

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