

Technical Assistance for Public Participation is a new Department of Defense (DoD) program that provides a mechanism for community members of Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs) and Technical Review Committees (TRCs) to obtain technical assistance to help them understand and provide input into DoD's environmental restoration program.

The Department of Defense provides Technical Assistance to help TRCs and RABs better understand the scientific and engineering issues underlying an installation's environmental restoration activities.

Status

A final rule was published on February 2, 1998. During 1997, in preparation for the rule's publication, DoD trained over 100 of its employees from around the country in the TAPP process. RABs may now request this TAPP training through their DoD Co-Chair.

How Does TAPP Work?

The community members of RABs or TRCs decide on a task that will help them participate more effectively in the environmental restoration program at an installation and apply for assistance through the DoD Co-Chair. DoD takes care of the administrative end -- preparing a Statement of Work and procuring a technical assistance provider.

TAPP at a Glance

- ◆ Community members design project and aide in selection of provider
- ◆ Government purchase orders procure technical assistance
- ◆ Maximum of \$25,000/year, or 1% of the total restoration cost, whichever is less. There is a limit, over the life of the restoration efforts, of \$100,000.

The community members of the RAB or TRC may be called upon to support the procurement process by reviewing and providing comment on potential providers should more than one meet the established criteria. Because the TAPP program takes advantage of an accelerated procurement procedure using purchase orders, support should be available within a very short time of establishing the need.

What TAPP is...

A way for the government to obtain alternative support for those RABs and TRCs that desire technical assistance.

A means for RABs and TRCs to better understand the IRP.

A government program using purchase orders to obtain support for community members of RABs or TRCs

What TAPP is not...

A requirement for RABs or TRCs to abandon existing working relationships or methods of obtaining meaningful technical support.

A grant to RABs or TRCs, nor a blank check to use at their discretion.

A means for RABs or TRCs to perform sampling or other functions which should be carried out by the installation.

Eligible Projects

- ◆ Review of restoration documents
- ◆ Review of proposed remedial technologies
- ◆ Interpreting health & environmental effects
- ◆ Participating in relative risk evaluations
- ◆ Certain types of technical training

Ineligible Projects

- ◆ Generation of new primary data
- ◆ Reopening final DoD decisions
- ◆ Epidemiological or health studies, such as blood or urine tests
- ◆ Litigation or underwriting legal actions
- ◆ Community outreach efforts
- ◆ Political activity or lobbying

How Can You Get Involved in a RAB?

Most installations that have cleanup programs also have established RABs. This is especially true at closing installations. For more information about forming or participating in a RAB, please contact the Public Affairs Office at your local installation or consult the Directory of Restoration Advisory Boards, available on the World Wide Web at:

<http://www.dtic.mil/envirodod/rab/intro.html>

For further information, please contact the DoD Environmental Cleanup Office at (703) 697-5372