

**IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AIR FORCE APPROACH
TO
PUBLIC OUTREACH AND STATE REGULATORY INVOLVEMENT**

Background: The Department of Defense, in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency, implemented policies designed to expand community support and understanding of environmental restoration programs in the early 1990s. These policies adopted the form of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), a group comprised of community stakeholders from various socioeconomic backgrounds representing the diversity of the local and regional populous.

Status: All Air Force bases with an active restoration program maintain RABs within the local regions they reside. The boards have been in existence at some facilities for nearly ten years and continue to greatly benefit both the Air Force and the community.

Impact: The Air Force restoration program has greatly benefited from the RAB concept by garnering public concerns related to the restoration effort and projecting the Air Force commitment to protecting human health and the environment. Continued commitment to active RABs and revitalization of those boards with lesser participation is critical to the sustained success of the Air Force program as the complexity of many cleanup efforts increase.

Suggested by: EPA Region VII

Prepared by: AFCEE/CCR-D