

Defense Environmental Restoration Program Public Involvement: Communications, Outreach, and Transparency

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

SLIDES ONLY

NO SCRIPT PROVIDED

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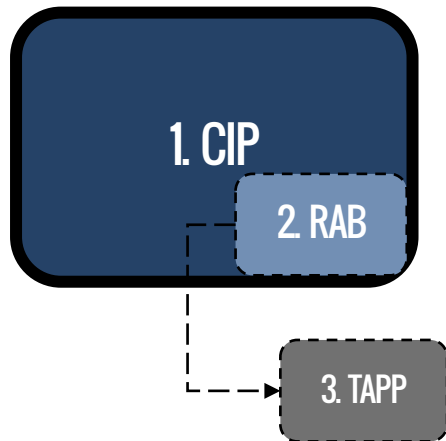
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AGENDA

- Opportunities for community engagement in the cleanup process through the:

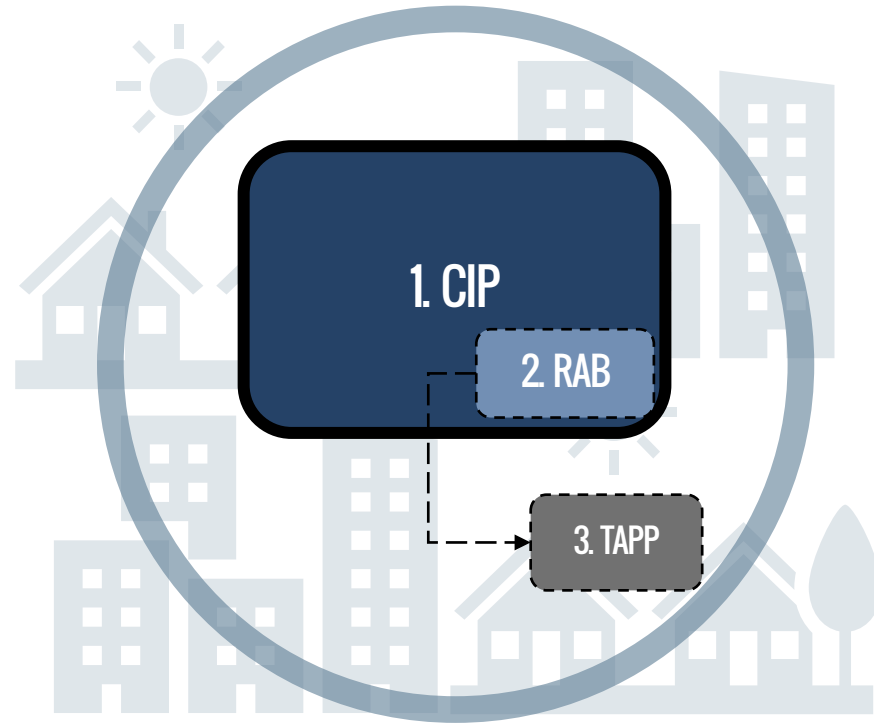


- Community Involvement Plan (**CIP**)
- Restoration Advisory Board (**RAB**)
- Technical Assistance for Public Participation (**TAPP**)

- DoD looking ahead to improve community engagement



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: COMMUNICATIONS, OUTREACH, & TRANSPARENCY



DoD tailors outreach and communication to meet community needs and engage the community throughout the cleanup process

Three main tools promote **community engagement** and maximize transparency, public participation, and collaboration during the cleanup process



DoD values and considers stakeholders' needs and concerns; decisions are more implementable, effective, and accepted



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: KEY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN CLEANUP

Examples of public communication and community involvement in the cleanup process

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT/ SITE INSPECTION	REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION /FEASIBILITY STUDY	PROPOSED PLAN/ DECISION DOCUMENT/ RECORD OF DECISION	REMEDIAL DESIGN/ REMEDIAL ACTION	LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT	SITE CLOSEOUT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact sheets and community meetings to discuss findings • Designate community involvement coordinator • Community interviews to solicit concerns and determine level of community involvement • Establish information repository and administrative record • Establish site mailing list 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public notices, meetings, and comments • Community presentations and briefings to local officials • Create website or social media presence • Media visits • Poster sessions • Workshops on cleanup process • Press releases • Newspaper articles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public notices, meetings, and comments • Community presentations • Fact sheets to explain cleanup process • Cleanup workshops • Prepare written summary of all significant comments (i.e., Response Summary) • Press releases • Newspaper articles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public briefings • Fact sheets • Public meetings • Website or social media posts • Press releases • Newspaper articles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public notices • Five-year review results summary • Press releases • Website or social media posts • Public meetings • Newspaper articles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public notice • Press release • Website or social media posts • Newspaper articles

DoD and the community determine the best opportunities for communication and public involvement



1. CIP

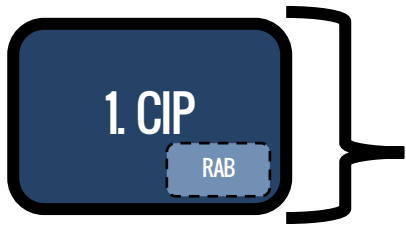
CIP: HOW DOES IT SUPPORT CLEANUP OUTREACH?

CIPs are installation-specific documents **required** at each installation with cleanup sites

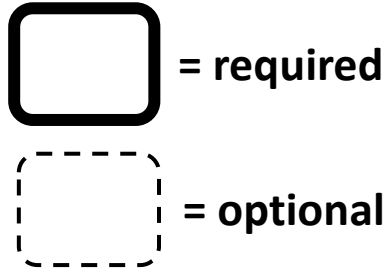
CIPs outline an individualized outreach strategy and communication activities to address community needs, concerns, and expectations

CIP key elements include Site Description, Community Profile, Community Needs & Concerns, and Site Action Plans

CIP benefits include tailoring outreach strategies (e.g., electronic communications) to reflect site-specific conditions, meet communication needs, and reach a broad audience; and educating and facilitating real-time communications



CIP AND RAB: HOW DO THEY WORK TOGETHER?



CIP

Installation-specific documents tailored to community needs that serve as a roadmap for public involvement and communication

May identify a RAB as part of the community involvement strategy if DoD and the community decide it's an effective communication tool

Does not have to include RABs

RAB

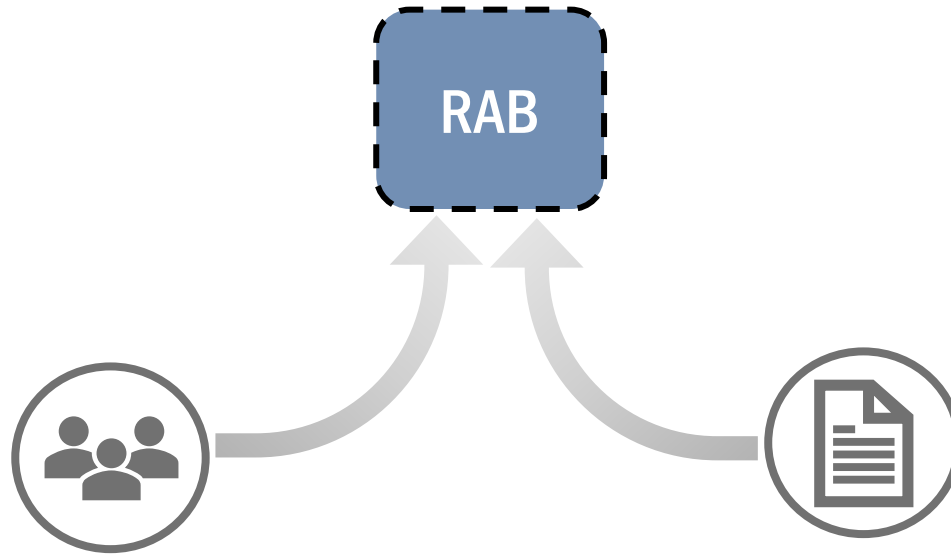
Stakeholder forum for public comment and feedback

Statutorily regulated and process driven

DoD and the community may decide that a RAB is not an effective tool to communicate with the broader community about cleanup



RAB: WHAT MAKES FOR A SUCCESSFUL RAB?



RAB members play a critical role in ensuring cleanups are successful by:

- Sharing questions, concerns, and ideas
- Reviewing and commenting on cleanup documents and activities
- Exchanging information about the schedule, type, and status of cleanup activities

Policy & Guidance ensure the establishment and operation of successful RABs:

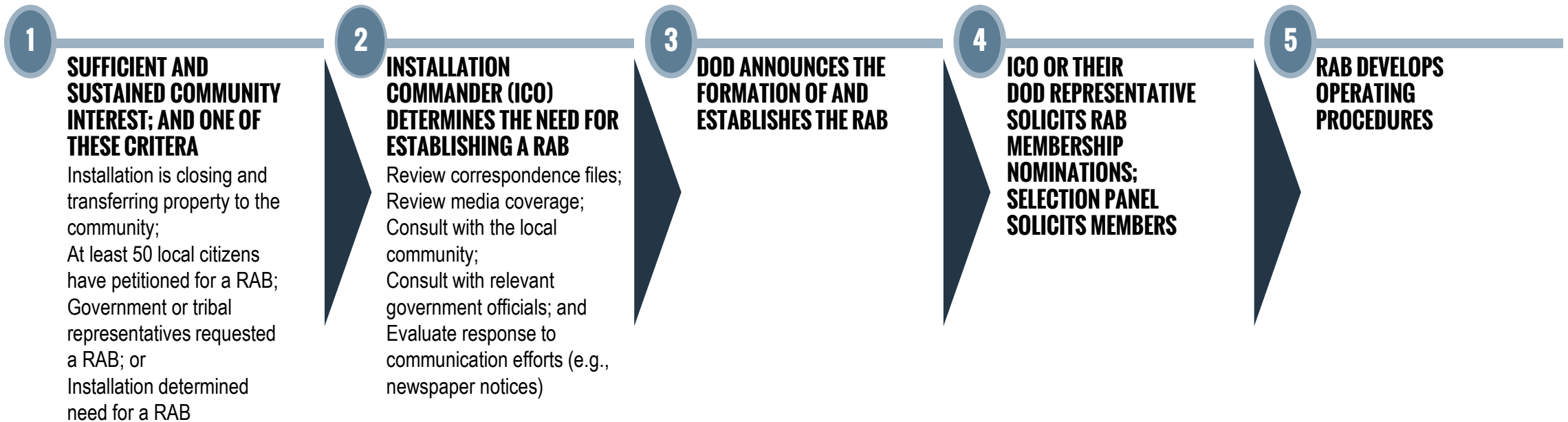
- Requirements to establish and operate a RAB are included in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 32 Part 202
- DoD's RAB handbook guides installations and communities in establishing successful RABs



RAB: WHAT IS THE PROCESS TO ESTABLISH A RAB?

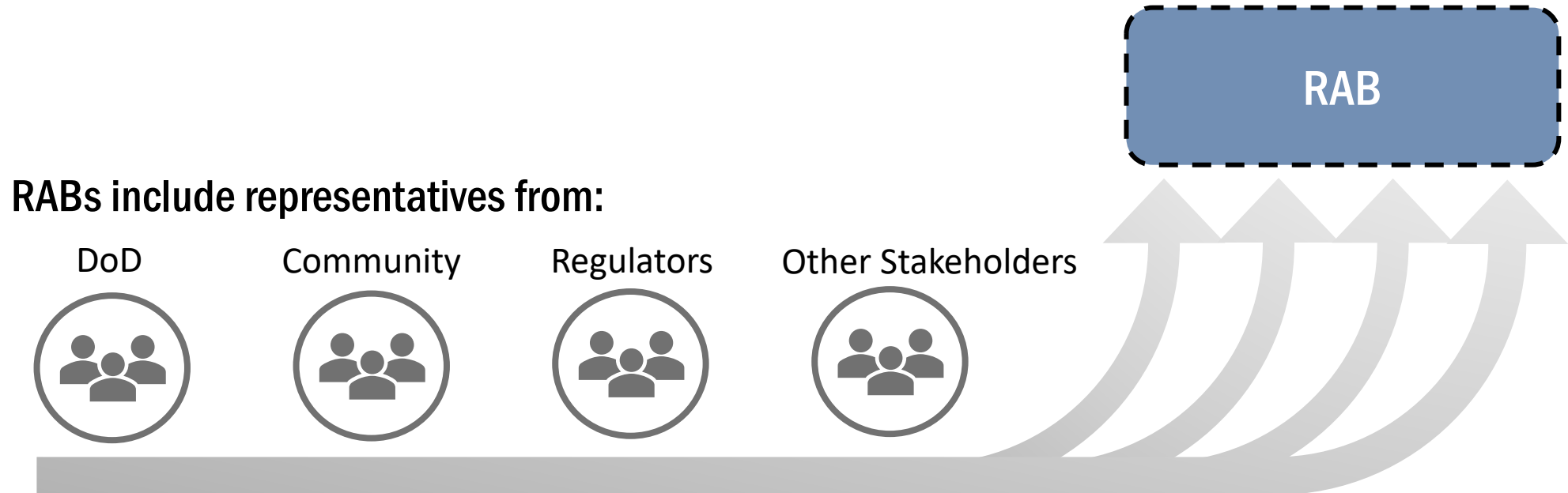
Structured and specific process for establishing a RAB; not instantaneous

Sufficient and sustained community interest is necessary to establish a RAB





RAB: WHO CAN PARTICIPATE AND HOW DOES IT OPERATE?



Minimum requirements for a RAB include:

- ✓ Develop operating procedures with input from the community
- ✓ General public participation and public communication
- ✓ Develop and distribute meeting minutes
- ✓ Select or replace co-chairs and RAB members
- ✓ Review of public comments and responses on cleanup documents



RAB: WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR FUNDING?

DoD Components plan, program, and budget resources to support RAB activities

DoD supported 240 RABs on 257 installations and obligated over \$3M to support RAB efforts in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021



ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES



INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

RAB establishment	Transportation costs
Membership selection	Compensation for volunteer time
Meeting announcements	Meals and beverages at meetings
Mailing list maintenance and distribution	RAB member business cards
Meeting agenda materials	Office/business materials



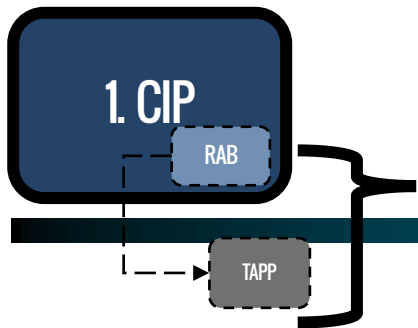
RAB: ADJOURNMENT FAQs

Questions

- ❓ When does a RAB adjourn or dissolve?
- ❓ Can DoD reestablish my RAB?
- ❓ Where do I get information if I no longer have a RAB?

Answers

- A** If cleanup activities at an installation end; land transfers; insufficient interest in the RAB; or RAB members agree it is no longer productive
- A** If the community shows interest and cleanup activities are ongoing, or newly identified releases increase public interest after cleanup is complete
- A** Reach out to the installation point of contact or public affairs office to get updates and information generated as part of the CIP



RAB AND TAPP: HOW DO THEY WORK TOGETHER?

RAB

Members may not have the required cleanup knowledge or experience

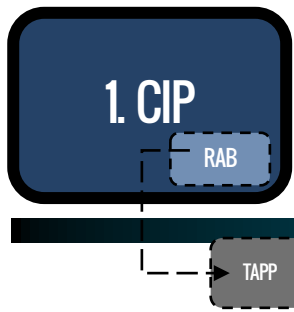
Provide in-house technical expertise when technical capabilities exist

TAPP

Funding for community RAB members to hire independent technical expertise

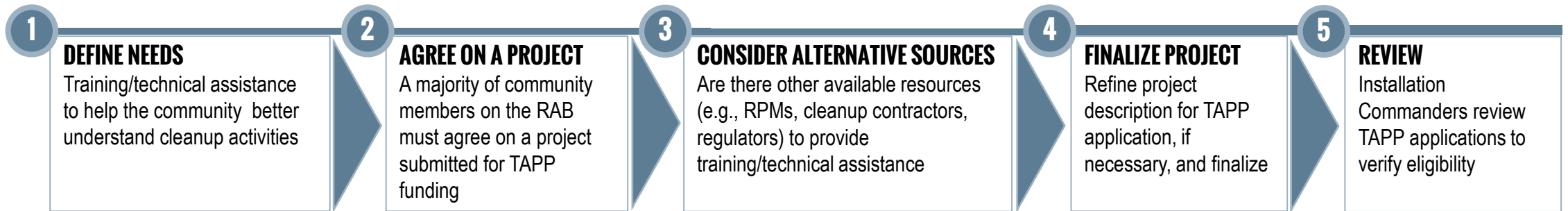
Existing technical capabilities do not support community acceptance of planned actions

Improve RAB members' understanding of scientific and engineering issues of cleanup activities



TAPP: WHAT IS THE FUNDING PROCESS?

TAPP applications must comply with eligibility requirements for TAPP funding (Part 203, Section 2705, Title 10, U.S.C.)



ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Technical assistance to interpret scientific, technical, and engineering issues



INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Compliance, training workshops, and health studies



TAPP: FUNDING FAQs

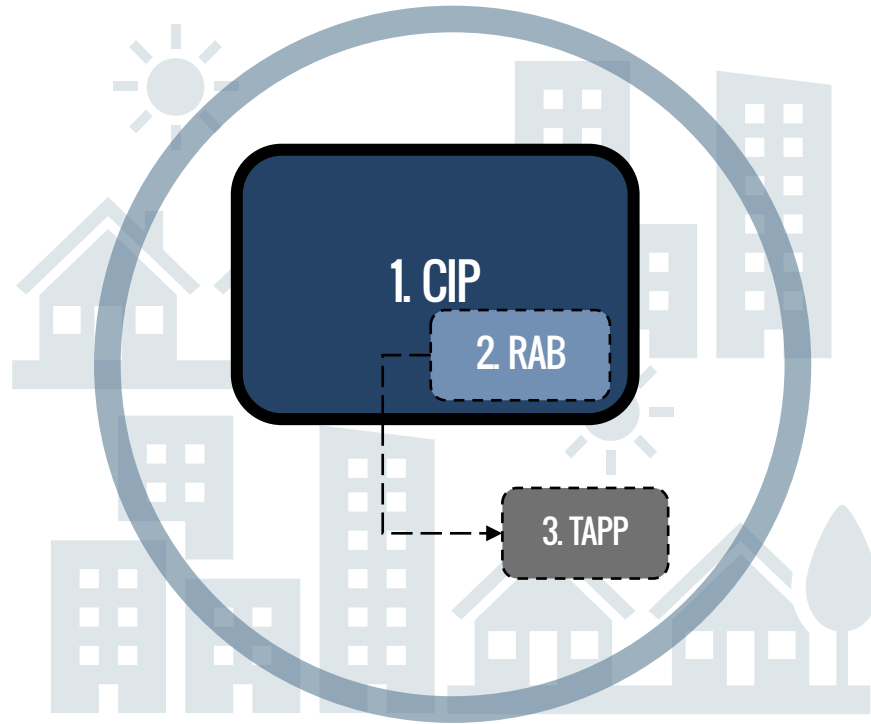
Questions

- ❓ Who funds TAPP requests?
- ❓ How does DoD fund TAPP?
- ❓ Are there limitations to TAPP funding?

Answers

- A** DoD provides TAPP funding; community is not required to contribute
- A** DoD contracts with selected TAPP provider using funds from the DoD Components' environmental restoration or BRAC accounts; no dedicated funding for TAPP grants
- A** DoD has annual and lifetime TAPP fund limits. Additionally, planning, programming, and budgeting may impact TAPP funding availability

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: **LOOKING AHEAD**



Solicit and integrate public feedback

- Quarterly public outreach events
- Community interviews
- Centralized mailbox

Improve communication

- Promote communication tools
- Revise the RAB Handbook
- Develop RPM training

Process improvement

- Assess existing CIPs and RABs
- Track TAPP funding requests
- Assist TAPP application process



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- DoD Form 2749, TAPP Application: <https://www.esd.whs.mil/directives/forms/>
- DoD Instruction 4715.07, *Defense Environmental Restoration Program*, May 21, 2013: <https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodi/471507p.pdf>
- DoD Manual 4715.20, *Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) Management*, March 9, 2012: <https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodm/471520m.pdf>
- Title 10 U.S. Code (U.S.C.) 2705(d)(2)(A), *Notice of Environmental Restoration Activities*: <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/10/2705>
- [32 CFR Part 202, Department of Defense Restoration Advisory Boards](#)
- 32 CFR Part 203, *Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) in Defense Environmental Restoration Activities*: <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/32/part-203>
 - Section 203.10, *Eligible Activities*: <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/32/203.10>
 - Section 203.11, *Ineligible Activities*: <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/32/203.11>
- DoD PFAS Website: <https://www.acq.osd.mil/eie/eer/ecc/pfas/index.html>