

# Alexandria-Pineville, Louisiana: “Working Collaboratively To Make A Visible Difference”

Environmental Justice Summit  
August 10, 2016

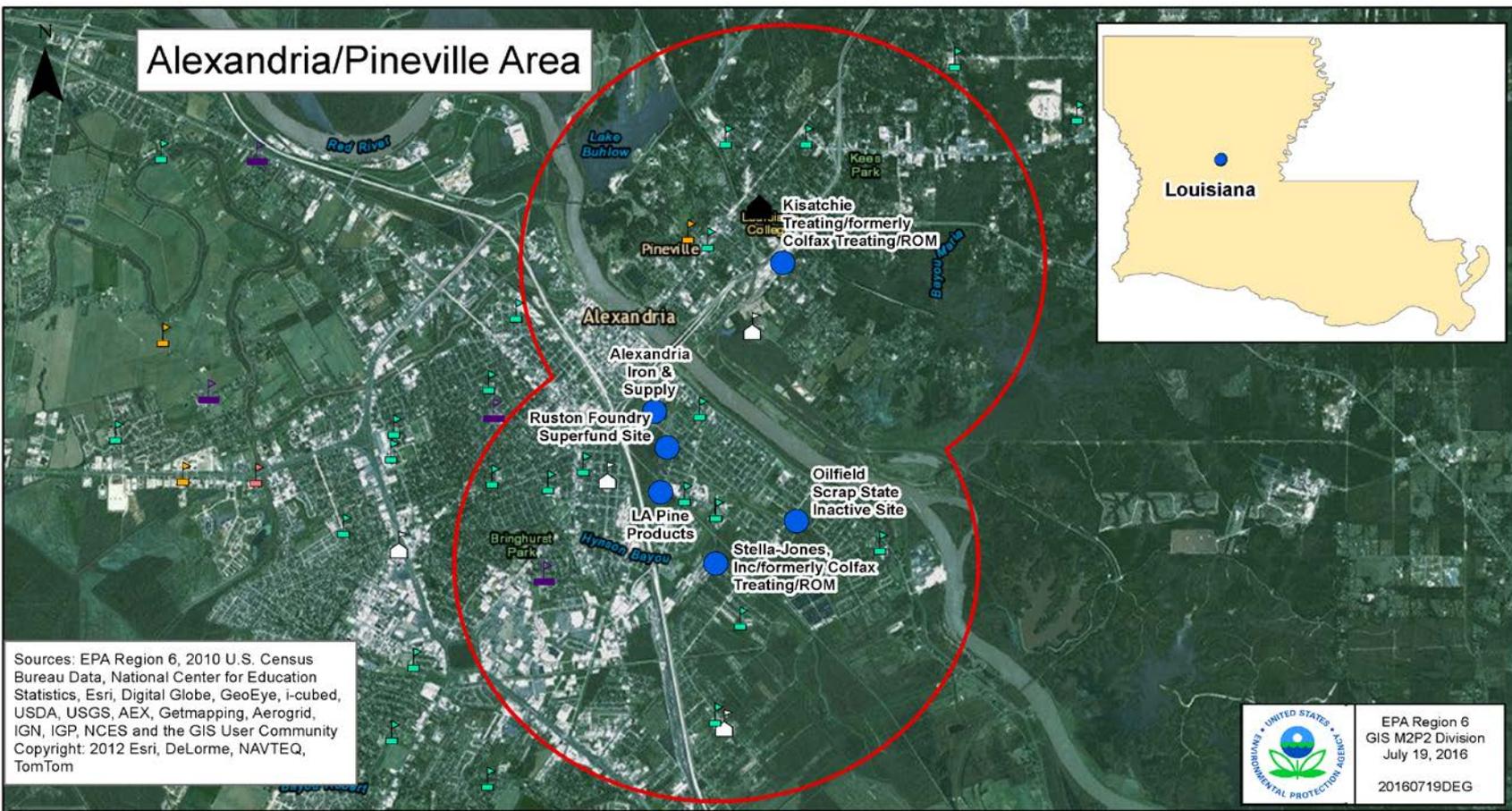
# EPA's Cross Agency Strategy

Working with  
Focus  
Communities

Learning to  
Coordinate and  
Leverage  
Resources

Enhance our Work  
in Communities

# Alexandria/Pineville Area



Sources: EPA Region 6, 2010 U.S. Census Bureau Data, National Center for Education Statistics, Esri, Digital Globe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, NCES and the GIS User Community  
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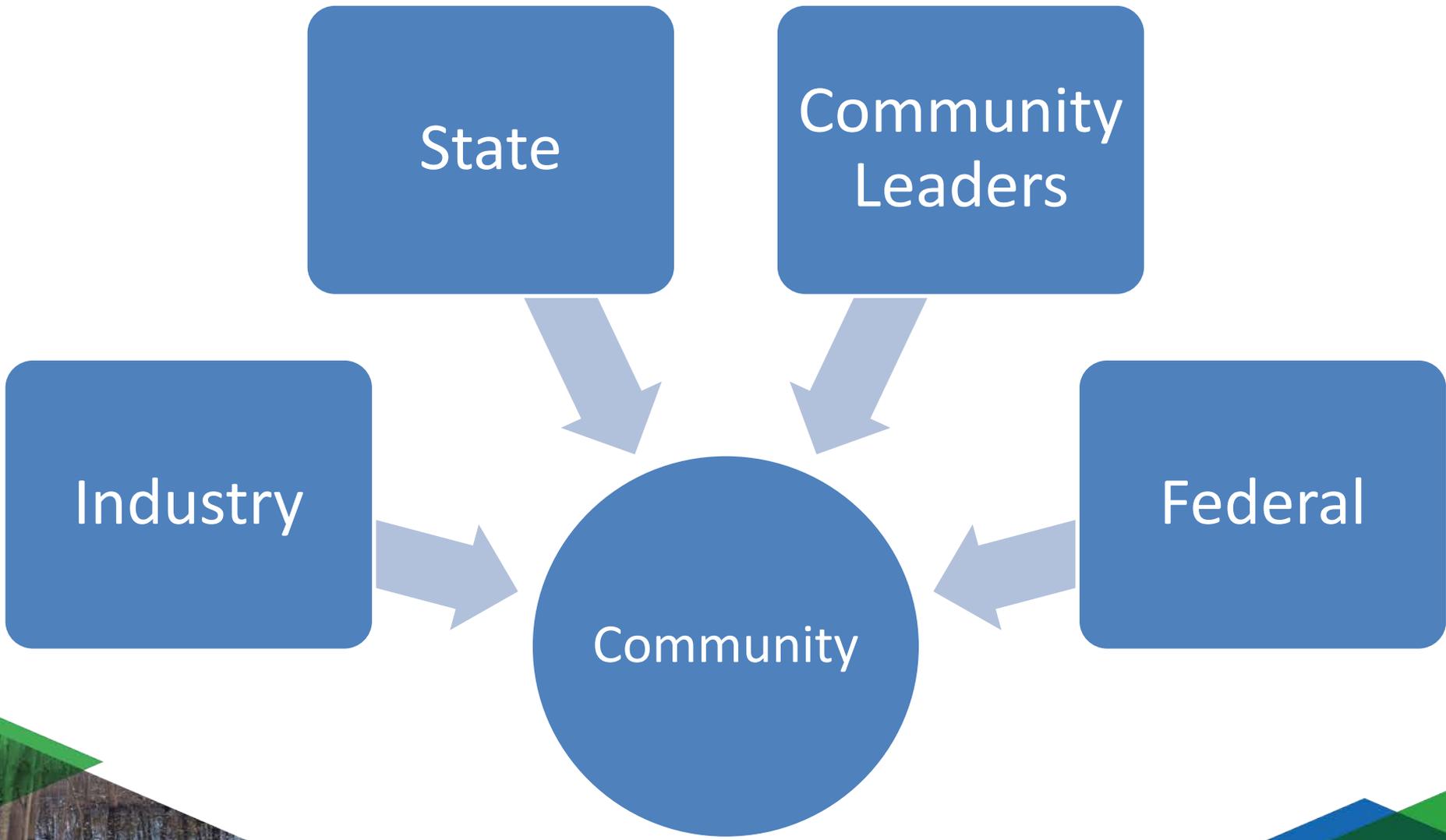
EPA Region 6  
 GIS M2P2 Division  
 July 19, 2016  
 20160719DEG



### Legend

<b>SchoolLevel</b>	 Special education school	 2 Mile Buffer around Creosote Facilities
 Elementary (highest is 6th grade)	 Combined (grades as low as K and as high as 6)	
 Regular school	 Vocational school	
 Secondary (nothing younger than 7th grade)	 Alternative/other school	
	 Universities	

# Making a Visible Difference



# Listening to Community Concerns

## Community Meetings

- 2014 - 2015

## Webinars

- March – April, 2015

## Scoping Sessions

- August 24, 2015
- February 1, 2016

# Projects

Project Goals	Projects
Improve Health of Community – Outreach	Health Survey, Healthy Homes, Healthy Schools
Assess Environmental Conditions	Air Sampling, Groundwater Data Review, Sediment and Surface Sampling
Improve Communication	Community Sustainability Network, Community Sustainability Initiative

# Improve Health of Community - Outreach

## Health Survey

- Colleges/Underserved Communities Partnership Program (CUPP) began in Region 4 by Mike Burns and Deanne Grant
- LSU-Alexandria's Allied Health program
- Stations at local churches
- Diana Greiner and Joyce Stubblefield

## Healthy Homes and Schools

- Focus on children's health
- Training provided by the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSU) and EPA staff
- Charlotte Runnels and Paula Seltzer

# Assess Environmental Conditions

## Air Sampling

- LDEQ's Mobile Air Monitoring Lab collected 2013 to 2015 near creosote facilities
- Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH)
- Lisa Schaub

## Groundwater Data Review

- Ensuring contaminant plume is adequately defined
- Nancy Fagan, Ada – Steve Acree and ORD – Ed Barth

# EPA Soil and Sediment Sampling

## February 1 – 5, 2016



# Community Sustainability Initiative



\*\*\*\*\*

 **COOPERATIVE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE  
DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT** 

between the

United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 6  
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  
and  
Colfax Treating LLC  
for the  
CenLa Community Sustainability Network (CSN)

This COOPERATIVE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE ("CSI") is entered into by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 ("EPA"), Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), and Colfax Treating, LLC, (Colfax) as follows:

**A. PURPOSE**

Colfax voluntarily enters into this CSI in an effort to facilitate a sustainable community in the cities of Pineville and Alexandria, Louisiana. Colfax plans to define specific voluntary actions to achieve this purpose. This effort to facilitate a sustainable community involves conserving natural resources and biodiversity, improving resource efficiency, and enhancing community health and well-being for future generations.

**B. GOAL**

This CSI is a multifaceted, collaborative endeavor by Colfax Treating in conjunction with local businesses and state and local government, facilitated by EPA to achieve functional improvements to the Alexandria and Pineville community with initial goals achieved by the summer of 2017. This CSI is expected to serve as a foundation for long-standing local partnerships between all participating entities for the future of the Alexandria and Pineville communities.

**C. AREAS OF COOPERATION AND COMMITMENT**

Colfax voluntarily commits to:

- Pursue the delineation and proper remediation of affected areas in the Chatin Lake Canal tributary as part of the off-site cleanup under the LDEQ RCRA permit
- Continue the development of sustainable best management practices (BMPs), as applicable to remediation efforts
- Assist with other community engagement projects, including a *Community Sustainability Network*, to provide educational outreach to, and receive informational input from, the local community.

# Community Sustainability Network (CSN)

- Bring together community stakeholders
- Encourage dialogue
- Build trust
- Leverage resources for stronger, lasting solutions
- Empower community





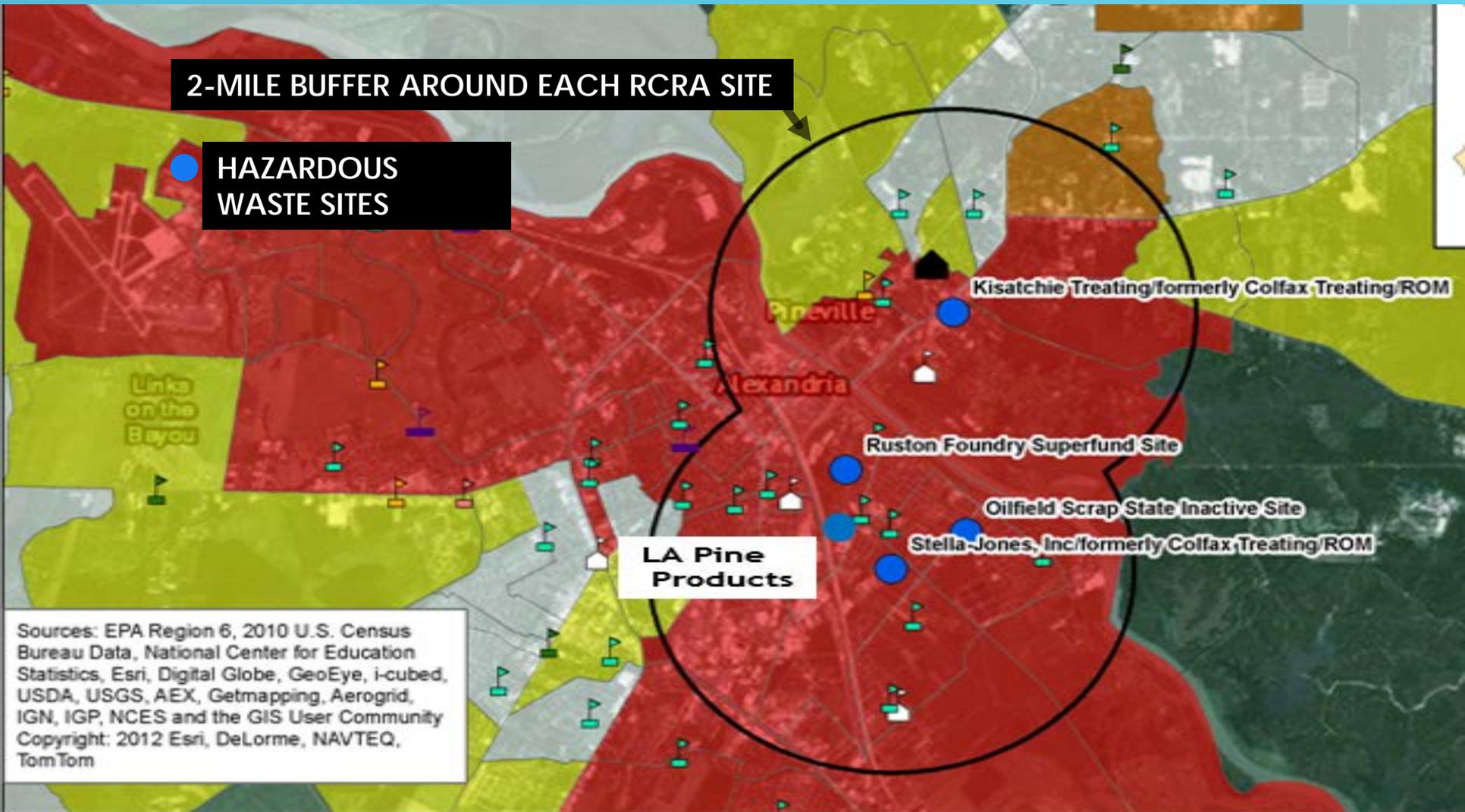
# Alexandria/Pineville, LA Community Focus Project

***Making a Visible Difference in the Community***

**Ms. Agnes Francisco  
Concerned Citizens of Alexandria, LA**

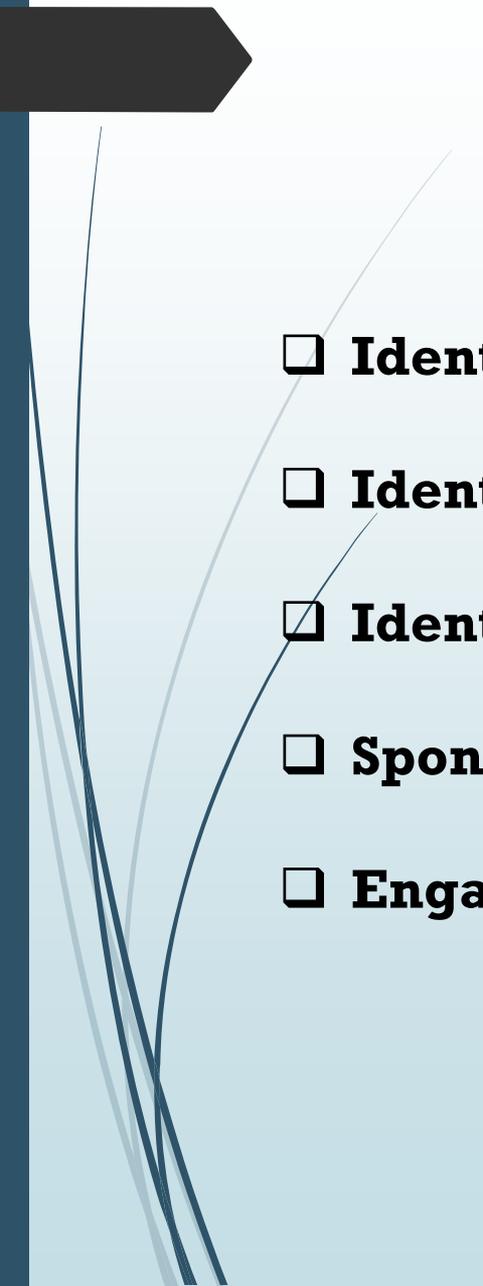
2-MILE BUFFER AROUND EACH RCRA SITE

HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES



LA Pine Products

Sources: EPA Region 6, 2010 U.S. Census Bureau Data, National Center for Education Statistics, Esri, Digital Globe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, NCES and the GIS User Community  
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## **COMMUNITY ACTIONS**

- Identified Multiple Environmental Impacts**
- Identified Environmental and Health Concerns**
- Identified Cancer Related Deaths in Community**
- Sponsored Community Meetings**
- Engaged environmental advocates**

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## DEATHS IN NEIGHBORHOODS

**A record total of 113 deaths occurred in a 9-month period in my neighborhood from 1-1-2013 to 9-10-2013.**



**TREATED TIMBERS STORED NEXT TO  
NEIGHBORHOOD DRAINAGE DITCH AT  
ACTIVE RCRA CREOSOTING FACILITY**

□ Sediment samples taken by LDEQ personnel and analyzed by the EPA Houston laboratory revealed levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (pahs) above residential screening standards.







# CREOSOTE CONTAMINATION

**Report:** Furon Blood Lipid and Attic Dust in Populations Living Near Four Wood Treatment Facilities in the United States



# EPA Region 6 Environmental Justice Summit

Overview and Perspective

Making a Visible Difference Community Focus Project

Alexandria-Pineville, Louisiana

Working Collaboratively to Make a Visible Difference

Presentation by: Wilma Subra

August 10, 2016

Crowne Plaza Hotel

Dallas, TX



**Louisiana Environmental Action Network**

*Helping to make louisiana safe for future generations.*

[www.leanweb.org](http://www.leanweb.org)

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# Overview and Perspective

## Making a Visible Difference Community Focus Project

### Alexandria-Pineville, LA

**Located in the heart of Central Louisiana on either side of the Red River –  
Known as CENLA**

<b>Population</b>	<b>Alexandria</b>	<b>Pineville</b>
Total	47,723	14,555
African American	57%	30%
Hispanic	1%	2%
Asian	1%	2%
Native American	1%	

Total Alexandria-Pineville EJ Population 55%

Primary Sources of Pollution that Cause Odor Events  
and  
Negatively Impact the Health of the EJ Community Members

**Alexandria**

Wood treating facilities (since 1926), Federal and State Suprefund sites

**Pineville**

Wood Treating facility (since 1948)

# Wood Treating Chemicals

The wood treating facilities currently and historically use creosote, pentachlorophenol (PCP) , and chromate copper arsenate(CCA) to treat railroad crossties, telephone poles and piling.

The chemicals released from the wood treating facilities and contaminate the air, surface and ground water, soil and sediment consist of:

- creosote
- phenol
- pentachlorophenol
- polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
- arsenic
- chromium
- copper
- lead
- dioxins

## Dioxins in Human Bodies and Environment of the EJ Communities Alexandria and Pineville

The Dioxin impurities in the Pentachlorophenol used to treat the wood products have resulted in Dioxin bioaccumulating in the blood of individuals living within a 2 mile radius of the wood treating facilities.

### Blood Dioxin

Alexandria	3.6 times the national average
Pineville	7.8 times the national average

### Attic Dust Dioxin

Alexandria	155 times EPA Dioxin Soil Standard
Pineville	174 times EPA Dioxin Soil Standard

The largest Dioxin congener present in the blood and attic dust consist of 2,3,7,8-TCDD, the most toxic of the Dioxin congeners.

## EPA Actions in Response to Community Concerns and Request Associated with Community Negative Impacts

### Air Sampling

As a result of citizen odor complaints, EPA and LA DEQ performed a number of air sampling events around the wood treating facilities. Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) were detected in the air samples from the wood treating facilities in Alexandria and Pineville.

Alexandria PAHs exceeded the Toxic Equivalent Quotient Risk by 7.9 times

Pineville PAHs exceeded the Toxic Equivalent Quotient Risk by 11.7 times

# Surface Soil and Sediment Sampling for Chemicals of Concern

Community members expressed concerns of contaminated soils and sediments in recreational and school areas in close proximity to the wood treating facilities and the superfund sites.

EPA conducted surface soil and sediment sampling at Hunter Park and Chatlin Lake Canal in Alexandria and Slocum School and Pineville Soccer Park in Pineville.

Creosote benzo(a)pyrene contaminated soil in Hunter Park and contaminated sediment in Chatlin Lake Canal were identified. EPA is working with the responsible parties to address remediation of the contamination.

Slocum School soil was identified as being contaminated with benzo(a) pyrene and PAHs. Additional testing was required, the children playing in the contaminated areas should wash their hands after returning inside the school and grass cover should be maintained.

- Evaluate Ground Water Contamination to Insure Adequately Defined Ground Water Plumes
- Health Survey Being Performed by LSU Alexandria
- Community Sustainable Initiative and Network – interaction between community stakeholders and industry

## Hopeful Outcomes - Community Focus Project

EPA has extensively engaged the impacted communities as well as a host of community partners, state, parish and local environmental, health, regulatory, government agencies and industries operating in the area in order to address the concerns and issues identified by the Environmental Justice communities of Alexandria and Pineville.

Working together, the Environmental Justice communities in Alexandria and Pineville should see a great improvement in their health as well as their quality of life.

# Guest Speakers

- **Diana Greiner, EPA Region 6**
- **Agnes Francisco, Concerned Citizens of Alexandria, LA**
- **Wilma Subra, Louisiana Environmental Action Network**
- **Matt Johns, Rapides Area Planning Commission**
- **Jeff Hall, Louisiana House of Representatives – District 26**