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Public Involvement Plan Victor Mill Brownfields Cleanup and Remediation Project

Prepared for:
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Spartanburg County (County) was awarded a \$200,000 Brownfield Hazardous Substance Assessment Grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to complete a site inventory and, Phase 1 and Phase II Environmental Site Assessment at the abandoned Victor Mill site. In addition, the grant will be used for public outreach, redevelopment planning and programmatic expenses related to Spartanburg County's brownfields program.

This Public Involvement Plan (PIP) was prepared in accordance with EPA guidelines for public involvement on EPA-funded brownfields projects. It was prepared to facilitate education and involvement of stakeholders, and to encourage their participation in Spartanburg County's Victor Mill Brownfields project. It outlines individual steps for public involvement aimed at identifying and addressing public concerns and needs. This plan has been designed to be flexible and responsive to changes in the need for public information and community involvement and may be revised as necessary. This plan is also designed to ensure the project complies with EPA's grant requirements for public involvement.

2.0 GOALS/OBJECTIVES

The goal of public involvement is to provide opportunities for community stakeholders, local, state, and federal government organizations, and private sector interests to participate meaningfully and substantively in the planning and execution of the cleanup of the Victor Mill property.

The goals for this Public Involvement Plan include:

- Broadening the base of involved individuals and groups by identifying stakeholders early in the project
- Building trust by focusing on personal contact, dialogue, and mutual education
- Obtaining meaningful public input during the course of site assessment and remediation

These goals will be implemented by meeting specific objectives, including:

- Educate the public and other key stakeholders about the Victor Mill Brownfields Cleanup;
- Gain an understanding of stakeholder concerns and interests;
- Allow for public input and ensure public needs and concerns are considered in the process;
- Keep interested parties informed of work progress.

3.0 BROWNFIELDS TASK FORCE

A Brownfields Task Force will be established to guide the brownfields revitalization effort and offer recommendations to Spartanburg County. The task force will be comprised of representatives from Spartanburg County, the City of Greer, Concurrent Technologies Corporation, Victor Mill Neighborhood Association, and the H. Mitchell Group. This group will meet on a quarterly basis to discuss the status and schedule for assessment and remediation activities, identify and evaluate reuse alternatives, and discuss suggestions for additional stakeholder involvement in project activities. It is anticipated that Task Force members will fully participate in all meetings conducted. H. Mitchell Group will prepare agendas for each Task Force meeting. A meeting facilitator will be provided as needed. H. Mitchell Group will prepare a meeting summary and follow-up actions after each Task Force meeting.

4.0 PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

A project stakeholders list will be developed as a means of distributing information to all interested parties and providing notification of upcoming meetings, and other opportunities for public involvement. This list will include individuals from the community groups, governmental agencies, the private sector, and the general public, as shown below. The list will be updated on an as needed/as requested basis. Public meetings will include sign-in sheets where individuals can request to be added to the project stakeholders list. E-mail addresses will be requested so information can be provided electronically.

Community Stakeholders

- Neighborhood Groups
- Residents
- Landowners
- Realtors
- Developers
- Lenders
- Citizen groups
- Nonprofits
- Educational institutions
- Local business and industry that support community activities
- General Public

Government Stakeholders

- Local government agencies including Spartanburg County, the City of Greer, and others.
- State government, including the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC).
- Federal government, including the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA).

5.0 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The public involvement process will communicate project status and solicit public input on the direction of the brownfields project from local government, the community, and other stakeholders. Media, such as the internet, newspaper, and radio/television will be utilized to accomplish this task, in conjunction with public meetings, fact sheets, and various other tools. Public outreach will be maximized to inform the public on key issues identified during the brownfields cleanup and reuse planning process.

5.1 INFORMATION SHEETS

Information sheets will be prepared to disseminate information about the brownfields project to the public. It is anticipated that three information sheets shall be prepared during the project period. The initial information sheet will discuss the project basics. Information sheets will be prepared to coincide with topics to be discussed at public meetings and will be available at meetings and posted on the project website. Information sheets are proposed at the following stages of the project:

- Information Sheet #1: Introduce project, key project team members, and contractor chosen for demolition and cleanup
- Information Sheet #2: Interim Progress Report
- Information Sheet #3: Project Summary

Spartanburg County will review and approve the content of each information sheet. It is anticipated that information sheets will be published about every 6 months. When approved, H. Mitchell Group will print ten copies of each information sheet. The County will print additional copies for distribution at public meetings and locations where the public frequents, including the Spartanburg County Administration Building and public libraries. Information sheets will also be e-mailed to individuals on the stakeholders list and posted on the project website.

Additional notifications or letters may be prepared by H. Mitchell Group under the County's direction for distribution to surrounding property owners before demolition or other field work commences. The purpose of this communication would be to inform those in the immediate area of the proposed demolition and cleanup activities, and apprise them of potential noise or other impacts associated with the work.

5.2 PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public meetings shall be held throughout the project as a means to disseminate information about the Victor Mill Brownfields Project and to garner public input concerning the program. The public and stakeholders will be invited to participate in the program, learn of the many opportunities provided, and identify issues or concerns they may have related to the cleanup and remediation of Victor Mill. Governmental representatives, contractors, and consultants will be present to explain the project's objectives and progress. H. Mitchell Group will prepare agendas for each public meeting. Each public meeting will be held at a time which accommodates the Victor Mill community. H. Mitchell Group will prepare a meeting summary and follow-up action items.

5.3 PRESS RELEASES

To increase public awareness of the Victor Mill Brownfields Cleanup and Remediation Project, H. Mitchell Group shall work with the County to provide information to the local news media at specific times during the project. After County review and approval, press releases will be sent to the Spartanburg Herald-Journal, Greenville News, Greer Citizen, local television stations (WSPA—channel 7, WYFF-channel 4, and WHNS- channel 21), radio stations (WORD, WOLT, WPJM, WMUU, WEPR, WSPA), and other forms of media indicated by the County to promote public awareness and participation.

5.4 BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT BROCHURE

In order to engage community developers in the Victor Mill brownfields effort, a brownfields redevelopment brochure will be developed and made available at the County offices. The purpose of the brochure is to enhance awareness of the Victor Mill project and the associated property so that developers considering investment in the area will be aware of the Project so they can potentially consider it for development. The brochure will provide background on brownfields, the types of brownfields present on the Victor Mill property, potential reuse alternatives for the site, and the community benefits of brownfields cleanup and revitalization.

5.5 DOCUMENT REPOSITORIES

The Spartanburg County Library Main Branch, Spartanburg County Library Lyman Branch, and Greenville County Library Greer Branch will be the official repositories for the final versions of all technical documents for this project.