



Communication, Cooperation, and Public Participation

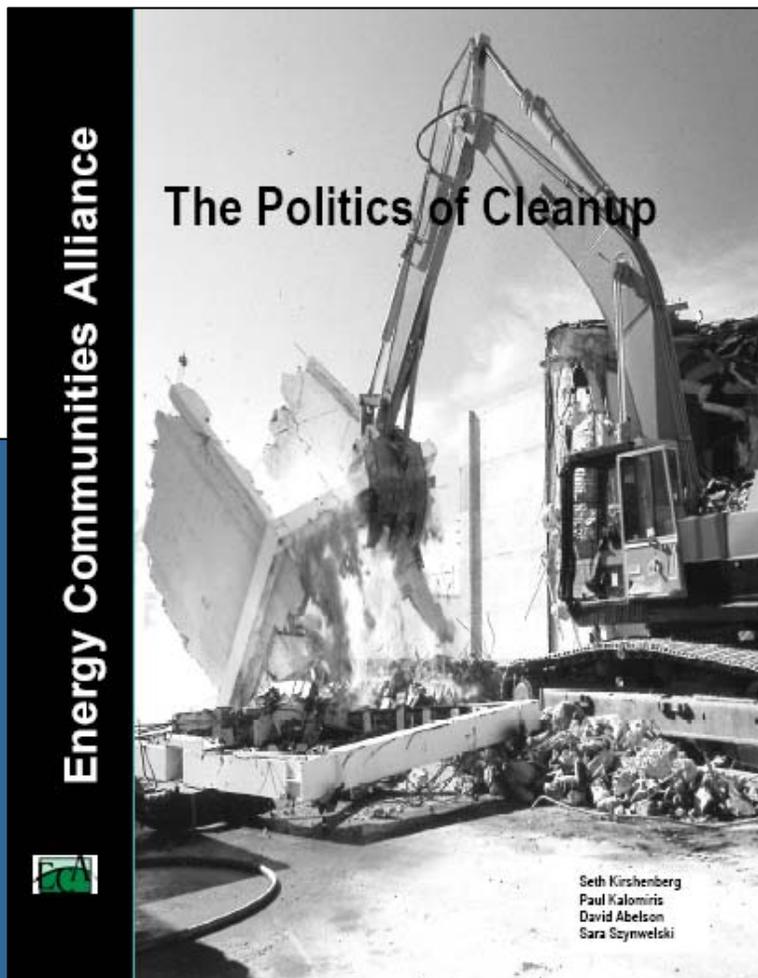
Preparation for EM SSAB Chairs Workshop



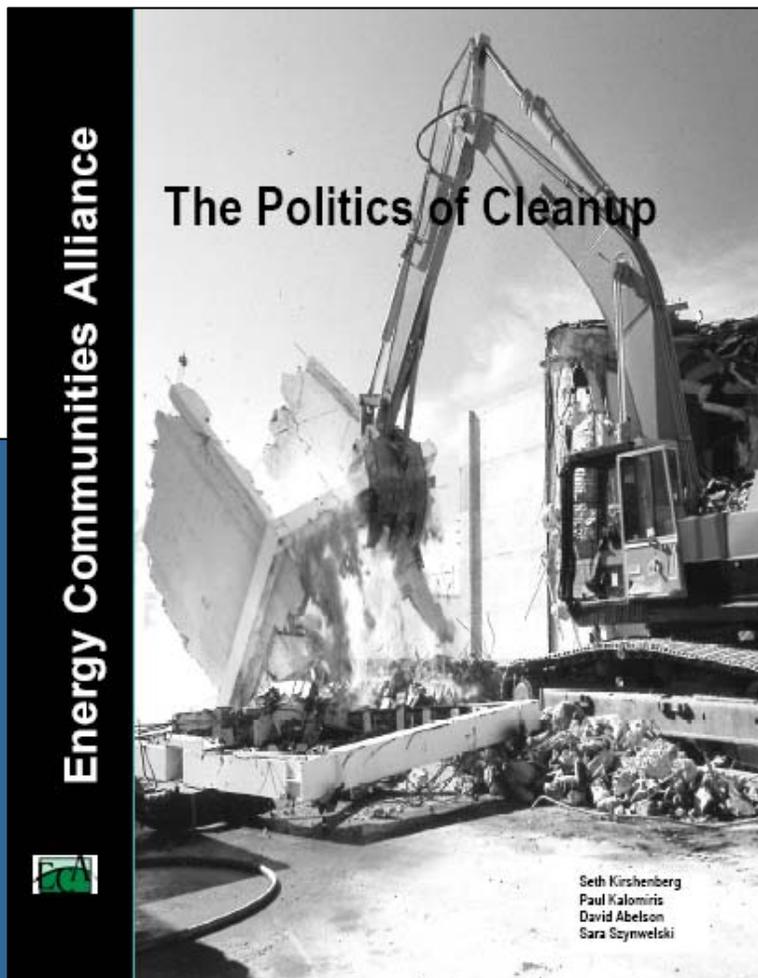
- **Energy Communities Alliance (ECA)** is the organization of local governments that are adjacent to or impacted by DOE activities. Their board members include elected officials and administrators from local governments impacted by DOE.



- ECA's mission is to bring together local government officials in DOE-impacted communities to share information, establish policy positions and advocate community interests in order to effectively address an increasingly complex set of constituent, environmental, regulatory and economic development needs.



- **Research Report Published in February 2007**
- **Series of recommendations on interactions between federal, state, and local agencies concerning cleanup activities**



- **Recommendations are grouped into four categories**
 - **Goals**
 - **Actions**
 - **Communications**
 - **Conflict Resolution**
- **“Communications” section is the topic for fall Chairs meeting.**

III. Communications:

Engaging the Community Through Consultation, Coordination and Ongoing Dialogue

- EM SSAB Chairs Workshop will be led by David Abelson, coauthor
- Round Table Discussion will allow Boards the opportunity to share their activities toward Outreach, Communication, and Public Participation

Recommendation #10

All Parties Must Take Into Account Post-Cleanup Requirements

- Sites rarely remediate to natural background levels
- Ongoing management (long-term stewardship) will be required
- Stewards must be identified, agreed upon and have the funds necessary to implement activities

Recommendation #11

The Parties Must Build a Working Relationship

- Partnerships based on trust, accountability, and openness must be formed
- This is a paradigm shift from Cold War Era, “Umbrella of Secrecy”
- Trust and accountability flow from the program mission and there must be agreement on goals and a clear vision

Recommendation #12

Be Organized

- SSABs benefit DOE by offering continued involvement from a broad range of members from local communities
- SSABs do not always agree with the goals of local elected officials
- Working as a single entity, a coalition can speak with one voice with amplified power and effectiveness

Recommendation #13

Resources Ensure Parties Can Participate

- Federal government must provide regulators and communities with the finances to organize and retain staffing
- States must have staff to work with DOE on cleanup issues, federal funding allows regulators to participate and facilitate the cleanup process
- No one interviewed for this report thought federal funding compromised their independence from DOE

Recommendation #14

Following the Minimum in the Law is Not Enough

- Minimum regulatory requirements are insufficient to support substantive public involvement
- Parties must develop public involvement processes that are tailored to site-specific needs; this process is different from negotiations
- Engaging affected community members improves the decision making framework