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The Nature of Superfund Sites

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THE NATURE OF SUPERFUND SITES



Background information

- Superfund sites are the most hazardous locations in the United States that require a long term clean up made by the federal government
- This was initiated in 1980 by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)
- The program supposedly cleans up sites based on their severity
- As of 2020 only **25 percent** of Superfund sites have been cleaned up and deleted from the list since 1982

Methods

- The focus was on BEC Trucking (taken off the list) and Endicott Village Well Field (still on the list)
- Looked into documents by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Read and analyzed scholarly journals
- Interviewed a program manager of the EPA
- Interviewed the Public Affairs Specialist of the EPA

WHAT THE EPA SAYS

- The EPA has said that the timing of a site's cleanup is due to the characteristics of the site
- This is shown in their process of cleanup called the remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study where they determine how contaminated a site is, the cost, the methods/ technologies they could use to treat the site
- They would hypothesize that its the sites that are the easiest and least costly will be finished first and the most toxic will take more time and effort to repair

What Makes One Superfund Site Cleaned Faster Than The Other?

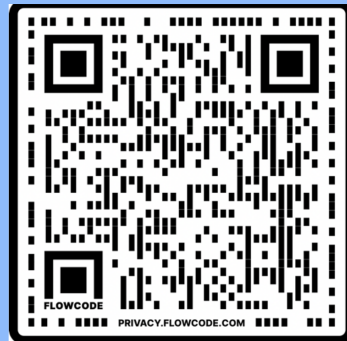
- All the hypothesis I looked into are correct on some form
- Both interviews discussed the importance of how the EPA cleans superfund sites
- Each site is different and it will not have the same reasons for being cleaned faster
- Other factors such as community involvement does play a part in the clean up however it is not the main reason

WHAT I THOUGHT

- I hypothesized that superfund sites would be cleaned based on the pressures brought out by the community and politics
- These pressures would bring about some sites to be focused on more than others causing them to be cleaned faster and more efficiently

INFORMATION GIVEN BY PROGRAM MANAGER

- He explained that it is more "technical rather than ethical" for the cleanup of superfund sites however he mentioned things that could drive the process
 - Higher income areas= more noise
 - Politicians who call frequently get more aid
 - Organizations who are liable put in more funding
- It won't change the remedy approaches and how the site is cleaned



INFORMATION BY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

- Community involvement is a part of the process because the community's interests drive how much effort they put into the sites
 - If they want a park or a store in that area it influences
 - The design for a site cleanup is based on community interest
 - The community brings technical expertise and new perspectives