

Summary: Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP)

The Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) is a Department of Defense (DoD) program aimed at giving community members of Technical Review Committee (TRCs) and Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs) access to independent technical consultants using government funds. The TAPP program is designed to help community members understand scientific and engineering issues pertinent to the installation's environmental restoration activities.

TAPP Funding

The Army funds TAPP projects from the installation's allocation of Environmental Restoration funds for program management. TAPP is not a grant or direct funding to RABs or TRCs, nor is it a blank check to use at RAB's or TRC's discretion.

Current policy limits TAPP expenditures for each allocation with a RAB or TRC to \$25,000 annually or one percent of the cost to complete restoration activities, whichever is less, and a lifetime maximum of \$100,000 per installation.

TAPP Process

The policies and procedures for the Army to accept and evaluate TAPP applications to procure the assistance desired by community members of RABs and TRCs, and to manage the TAPP program are set forth in 32 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 203.

- **TAPP Application:** When a TAPP project has been defined, the RAB or TRC community members must prepare and submit a formal application (DD Form 2749) specify the type of assistance required and, if possible, one or more sources for it. The installation co-chair reviews the application to ensure that it is complete, describes an eligible project, or is likely within budget.
- **Approval:** The installation Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) Manager considers the TAPP request and approves or denies the application. As part of the approval process, the installation DERP Manager determines whether the proposed project conforms to eligibility requirements, the community has sought other avenues of assistance before applying for TAPP, and funding is available.
- **Procurement:** Approved TAPP request is forwarded to the installation procurement office to award the contract on the basis of competitive bid to the selected assistance provider (of contractors registered in the Central Contractor Register) and manages the contract.
- **Finding a Potential Assistance Provider:** The RAB or TRC community members may nominate potential assistance providers for the proposed TAPP project on the application, or the installation procurement office may locate potential providers. Potential assistance providers must have:
 - Knowledge of hazardous substances issues and laws
 - Academic training in a relevant discipline
 - The ability to review, understand, and put technical information into terms understandable to lay persons.

Source: *U.S. Army Restoration Advisory Board and Technical Assistance for Public Participation Guidance*, October 2009. Located on the Internet at <http://aec.army.mil/usaec/cleanup/rab-tapp.pdf>