



On May 10, 2007, we held our first Hazardous Waste Forum in Jefferson City. Over one hundred people attended the Forum, either in-person or by telephone conference call. The Forum was designed to start or enhance communication between citizens, industry, organizations, and the Hazardous Waste Program regarding various guidance documents, policies, rules, and other appropriate topics. This Hazardous Waste Forum is an opportunity for us to share with you what we are doing on existing or emerging topics, as well as an opportunity for you to share with us any new topics of concern.

In addition to the presentations we provided on a series of topics we are working on, we proposed several questions to consider, such as: what parts of the playing field are not level that we should be concerned with, what or how can we do a better job of keeping people informed and what challenges or success stories do you want to know about? Together we can develop the appropriate means to address them. We want to understand our impact on groups, communities, and organizations through open, honest, and ongoing dialogue. Hopefully through this effort we can create a better future that neither of us could have accomplished alone. When we identify and walk in the shoes of industry or the communities impacted by current or former industries, or even local school officials, it helps us better understand and improve our actions; or at least recognize where challenges exist. Our goals are sustainable communities that include thriving businesses and a healthy environment.

We recognize that not everyone interested in these topics or these discussions was able to participate in the first forum. We will use various means to encourage the necessary dialogue, in addition to the forum. This Web site will serve as a key component of the forum and will be updated and expanded as the forum grows. I encourage you to review it completely. We realize our expectations must be based on where we are now and what results we can accomplish over any given amount of time.

We hope you were able to participate in the first forum and will consider helping us in the future as we continue to address the numerous issues and challenges we face. I also encourage you to complete the electronic evaluation survey to help us meet these goals. As always, if you have comments or suggestions, please let us know. We will send out an invitation and agenda for the next forum via e-mail, which we plan to hold this fall.

Thank you,

Robert Geller
Director
Hazardous Waste Program