

I. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to examine community participation efforts in ten Environmental Protection Agency-designated National Brownfield Pilot Projects and provide recommendations to the Delaware General Assembly for community involvement in Delaware's efforts to decontaminate and redevelop brownfields in the State. The recommendations are based on our findings regarding "best practices" to stimulate community participation at the ten National Brownfield Pilot Projects researched for this report. The selection of the ten sites was made in consultation with EPA program staff and was limited to those sites that had been awarded funds at least one year prior to the launching of this study. The City of Wilmington is currently in the early stages of implementing a National Brownfield Pilot Project (and a federal Enterprise Community program). With this in mind, it is an important time to learn from the experiences of other National Brownfields Pilot Project Programs that have been successful in promoting community involvement.

The cooperation and advice of the Department of Planning of the City of Wilmington, the Site Investigation and Restoration Branch (SIRB) of the State of Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), and the Environmental Protection Agency's Region III Office are much appreciated. The Center for Energy and Environmental Policy is solely responsible for the findings and recommendations of the the report.