



# FACT SHEET

## Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP)

---

---

### Background

The Department of Defense (DoD) established the Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) program to assist Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) and Technical Review Committee (TRC) community members in interpreting scientific and engineering data related to environmental restoration. The goal of the program is to enhance the public's ability to participate in the decision-making process by improving their understanding of overall conditions and response activities. The Department of the Navy (DON) has issued the following guidance for TAPP requests at Navy installations.

### TAPP Funding

The Chief of Naval Operations manages the Navy's TAPP program, which is funded from the Environmental Restoration, Navy (ER,N) account for active bases, and from the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) account for closing bases. Eligible RABs or TRCs may obtain up to \$25,000 per year or one percent (1%) of the total cost of completing environmental restoration at an installation, whichever is less. There is a limit of \$100,000 over the life of the environmental restoration program at an installation.

### Who Qualifies for TAPP Assistance?

In order to qualify for TAPP assistance, the RAB/TRC must be comprised of at least three community members, and recognized by the DON as a RAB/TRC. The majority of members must approve of the request for assistance, and agree on the type of assistance that would most enhance their ability to participate effectively in the restoration program.



### What Projects Qualify for Technical Assistance?

The most common barrier to receiving a TAPP grant is eligibility of the request. Eligible projects include:

- Interpreting of technical documents – review of installation restoration site investigations, decision documents, and engineering plans. Examples include site characterizations, alternative remedy analyses, and human health and ecological risk assessments.
- Assessing technologies – assistance to community members in understanding the functions, tradeoffs and implications of technologies proposed to investigate or clean up sites.
- Participating in relative risk site evaluations – assistance to community members in understanding and contributing to DoD's relative risk site evaluation process.

# Technical Assistance for Public Participation

---

- Understanding health implications – assistance to community members in interpreting the potential health risks of site contaminants, exposure scenarios, cleanup levels or remedial technologies
- Technical Training – providing technical training on specific restoration issues where the community needs supplemental information, e.g., evaluating alternative technologies, risk assessment procedures and sampling plans.

## Are all projects eligible for TAPP funding?

Certain projects do not qualify for funding under the TAPP program. Examples include:

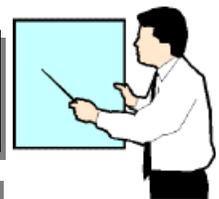
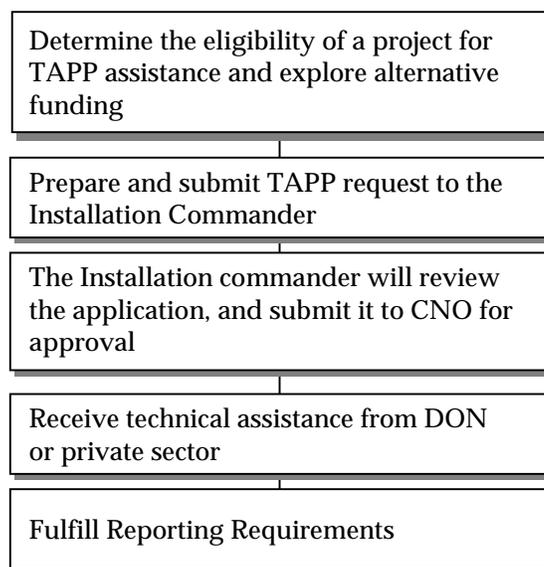
- Payment of attorney's fees, preparation for litigation or underwriting of any legal actions
- Political activity or lobbying
- Generation of new data, including split sampling
- Reopening final DON/DoD decisions, or conducting disputes
- Epidemiological or health studies such as blood and urine testing
- Community outreach activities
- Environmental compliance issues

## Applying for TAPP Assistance

Once members of a RAB or TRC have agreed that TAPP assistance for a specific project is needed, and have determined its eligibility, the RAB must complete the following steps:

1. Explore alternative sources of funding. Assistance may be available from volunteer services, state and local organizations, the Installation's restoration contractor, or from other grant funding such as EPA's TAG Program. If none are available or suitable, community members may seek TAPP assistance.

## Overview of the TAPP Process



2. Community members must complete a TAPP application with the assistance of the DON RAB co-chair, specifying the type of assistance requested. The DON RAB co-chair will submit the application to the

## Technical Assistance for Public Participation

---

Installation Commander, who will evaluate whether the proposed project meets the eligibility criteria.

3. The Installation Commander will submit the completed, endorsed TAPP application package accompanied by a detailed scope of work and government cost estimate, with a request for approval and release of funds to the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO).
4. Upon approval from CNO, the installation will procure assistance for the RAB/TRC community members.
5. The technical assistance provider will work with the RAB/TRC to provide the requested assistance.
6. The DON RAB co-chair will submit an annual report on the use of TAPP funding to CNO.