



National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Your Environment. Your Health.

SRP RESEARCH TRANSLATION/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CORE MONTHLY CALL

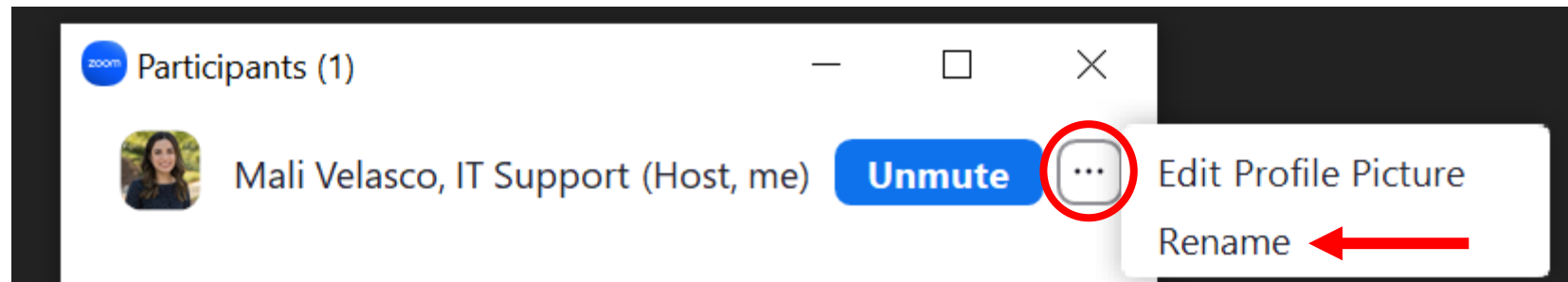
May 11, 2023

Agenda (All times are in EST):

- 2:00–2:05 PM: **Welcome**
- 2:05–2:35 PM: **Lesson Learned Along the Road to Environmental Clean Up,**
Kathleen Vandiver, Massachusetts Institute of Technology SRP Center
- 2:35–2:45 PM: **Breakout rooms discussion**
- 2:45–2:55 PM: **Q&A with Dr. Vandiver**
- 2:55–3:10 PM: **Grantee Updates**
- 3:10–3:15 PM: **SRP Announcements**

Add Your Affiliation After Your Name!

- Make sure your name is formatted **First Name Last Name, Org/Affiliation**
- To rename yourself:



Lessons Learned Along the Road to Environmental Cleanup

➤ **Project Leads:**

Susan M. Pinney (PI), University of Cincinnati P30 Center (P30-ES006096)

Marilyn V. Howarth, University of Pennsylvania P30 Center (P30-ES013508)

Kathleen M. Vandiver, MIT Superfund Research Program (P42ES027707)

➤ **Community Support:** *Adrian Wood, Bob Adams, Sharon Cooke-Vargus, Lisa Crawford, Graham Mitchell, Martha K. Stevenson, and Suzanne M. Sullivan*

➤ **Directors and Producers:** *Kent Meloy, Kayla McGill, and Joyce Bentle*



Superfund Research Program

*Presented by Kathy Vandiver, PhD, MIT SRP CEC Lead
NIEHS SRP CEC Webinar, May 11, 2023*

Purpose

- This resource was created to assist **all stakeholders** involved in hazardous environmental cleanups, providing advice on how to work together:
 1. Community organizations
 2. Government agencies
 3. Industrial corporations

Importance

- Hazardous waste cleanup is often a very contentious issue for affected communities and can foster much confusion, fear, and mistrust.
- Very few educational resources exist to help community groups, government agencies, and industrial corporations work together.

Unique Methods

Content:

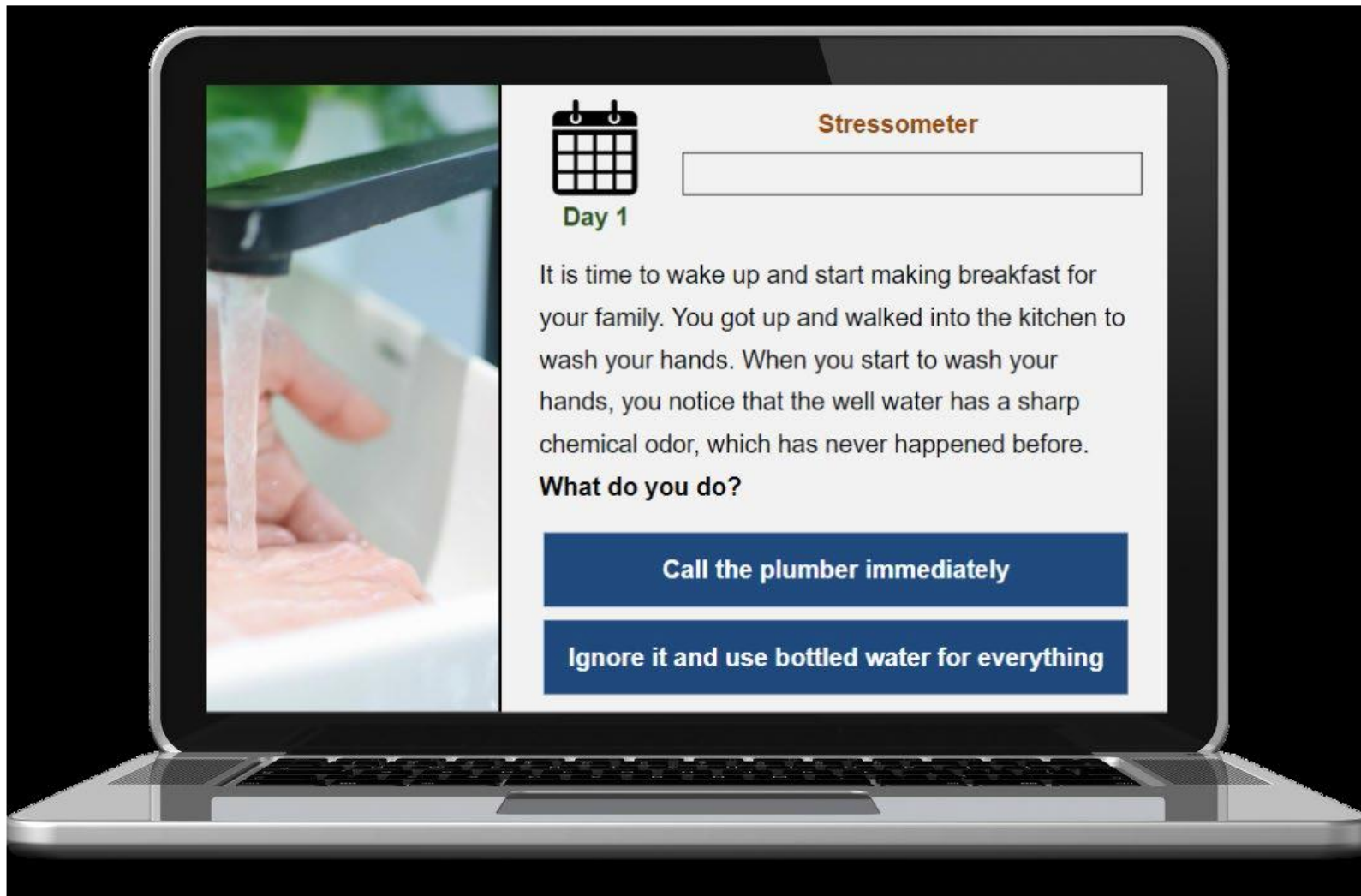
- ▶ We collaborated with innovative professionals in film development.
- ▶ Our “lessons learned” were derived from video interviews with community members and government regulators.

Public Feedback:

- ▶ The modules include questions for reflection and a space to provide feedback online.

Interactive Senarios:

- ▶ Each module includes an interactive feature using **Articulate Storyline**



- ▶ **Articulate Storyline?** It's a way to take you through a simulated experience and to include you in decision-making.

Viewers make choices!!

Group Viewing

- The course takes about 3 hours to do all three modules.
- Viewing each module in separate meeting works well.
- Be sure to view Module 1 first for context on all three sites.

Course Outline: 3 parts

Module 1 – background on three sites where significant exposures occurred.

- **Fernald, OH** radioactive releases into the air.
- **Ambler, PA** asbestos contamination in the soil.
- **Wilmington, MA** chemical contaminants in their drinking water.

Module 2 – helpful info on forming community groups

Module 3 – helpful info for government agencies and companies.

Module 1. Site Histories

Narratives of the histories

Fernald, OH / Ambler, PA / Wilmington, MA

(Presented here today as slides)

1. Fernald, Ohio

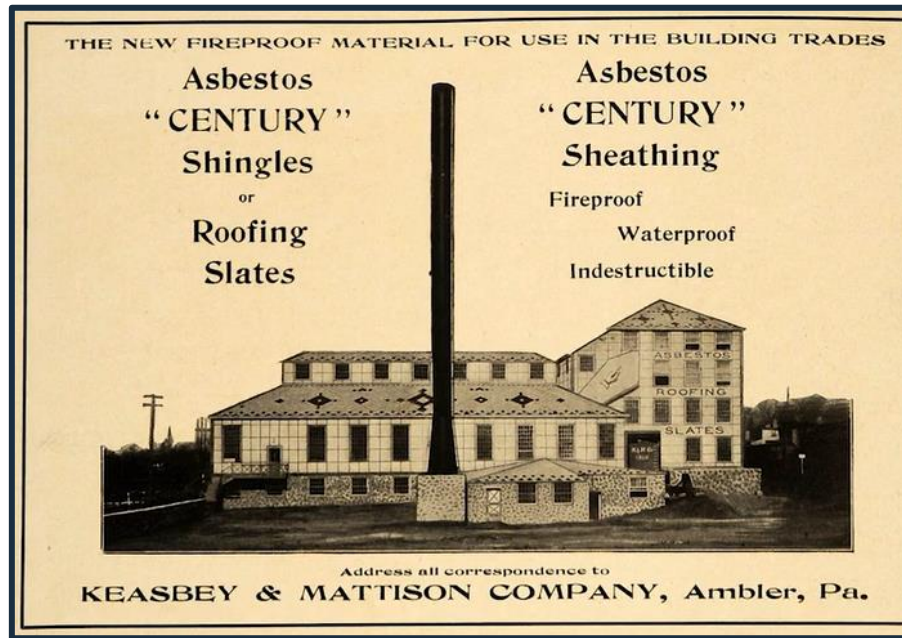
The Atomic Energy Commission's Uranium Refining Plant (called "The Feed Materials Production Center") was a guarded secret. Radioactive uranium cores were processed here and shipped to nuclear reactors during the Cold War (1950s)



Townspeople thought this plant produced Dutch Boy Paint.

Imagine their anger when they learned the plant had released massive quantities of radioactive uranium dust into the air over time.

2. Ambler, Pennsylvania



Asbestos factories in Ambler operated from the 1880s until the 1970s. At its peak, the town was a global leader in the production of asbestos-containing materials. The hazards of asbestos were not well known.

Asbestos waste was dumped in two large sites adjacent to residential, recreational, and commercial areas. The cancers came much later.

3. Wilmington Massachusetts



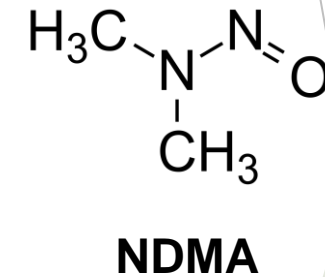
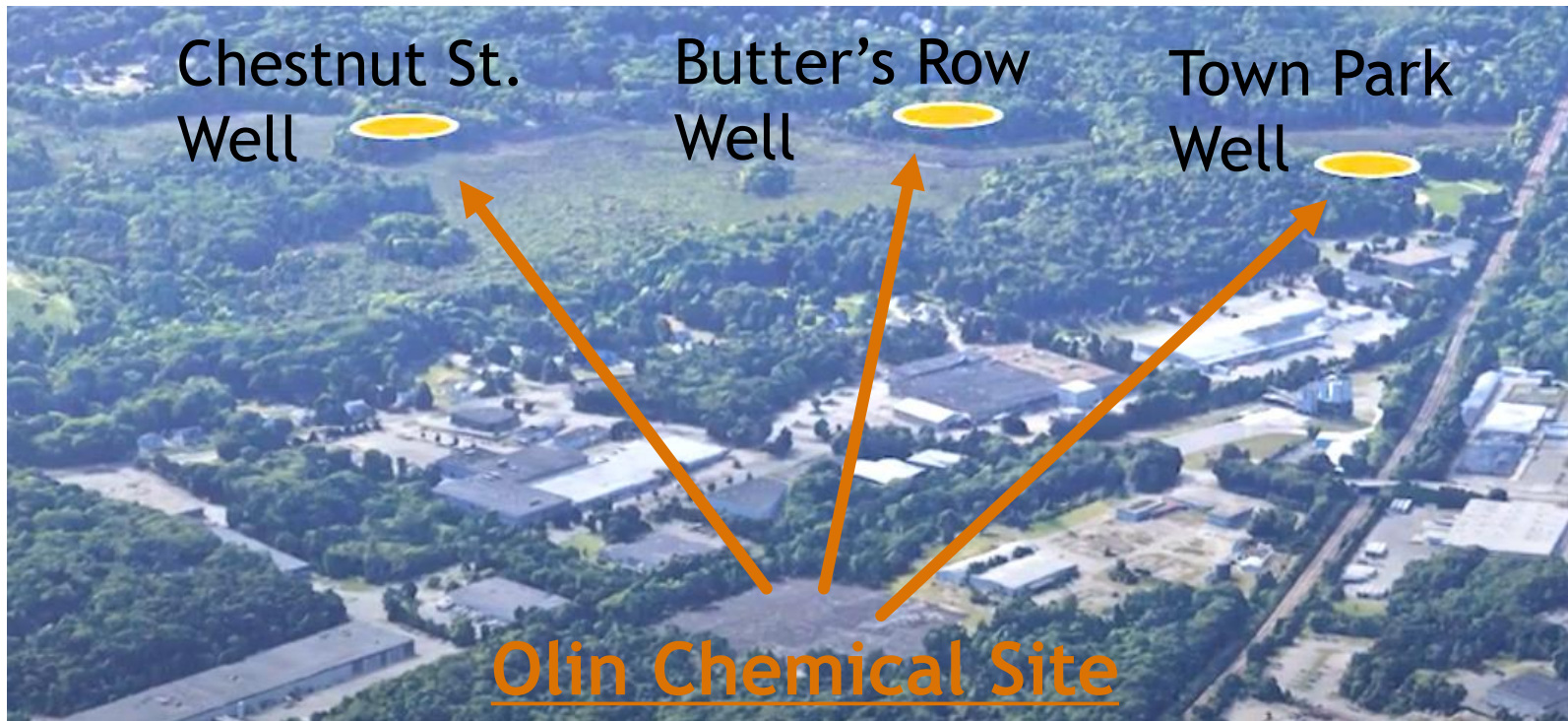
The moms discovered alarming rates of childhood cancer in the town in the late 1990s.

The cause was unknown for several years.



- Community members identified N-nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) as a probable cause of the childhood cancers.

Groundwater contaminated with NDMA from the Olin Chemical site reached the town's well water.



Wilmington, Massachusetts

Module 2. Forming Community Groups

Here's the list of 9 Lessons:

- 1. Channel anger and frustration into positive action**
2. Create an effective community organization.
3. Include all stakeholders regardless of race, gender, economic status, or perspective.
4. Contact and connect with national organization and similar groups at other sites.
5. Obtain guidance from academic and technical professionals.
- 6. Education, education, education!**
7. Hold regular public meetings.
8. Enlist the help of elected officials.
9. Begin building a trusting relationship with the corporation or government.

Module 2. How to form Community Groups and Build Respectful Relationships

Module 2 ADVICE for Communities

Module 3. Building Mutually Respectful Relationships with the Community

Module 3 ADVICE for Govt Agencies and Industry Representatives

<https://superfund.mit.edu/lessons-learned/>

Time for Breakout Rooms!

Facilitators: Please Take Notes

Invite Participants to Comment on the Following 2 Questions:

- 1) What's your "Take-Away" from this viewing of *Lessons Learned* ?
- 2) How would you describe the *Lessons Learned* resource to a community member?

If there is time, we will return for a Q & A with Kathy Vandiver