

COMMUNITIES AND VAPOR INTRUSION

Lenny Siegel

Center for Public Environmental Oversight

Responding to Communities:

Communicating the Science of TCE and PCE

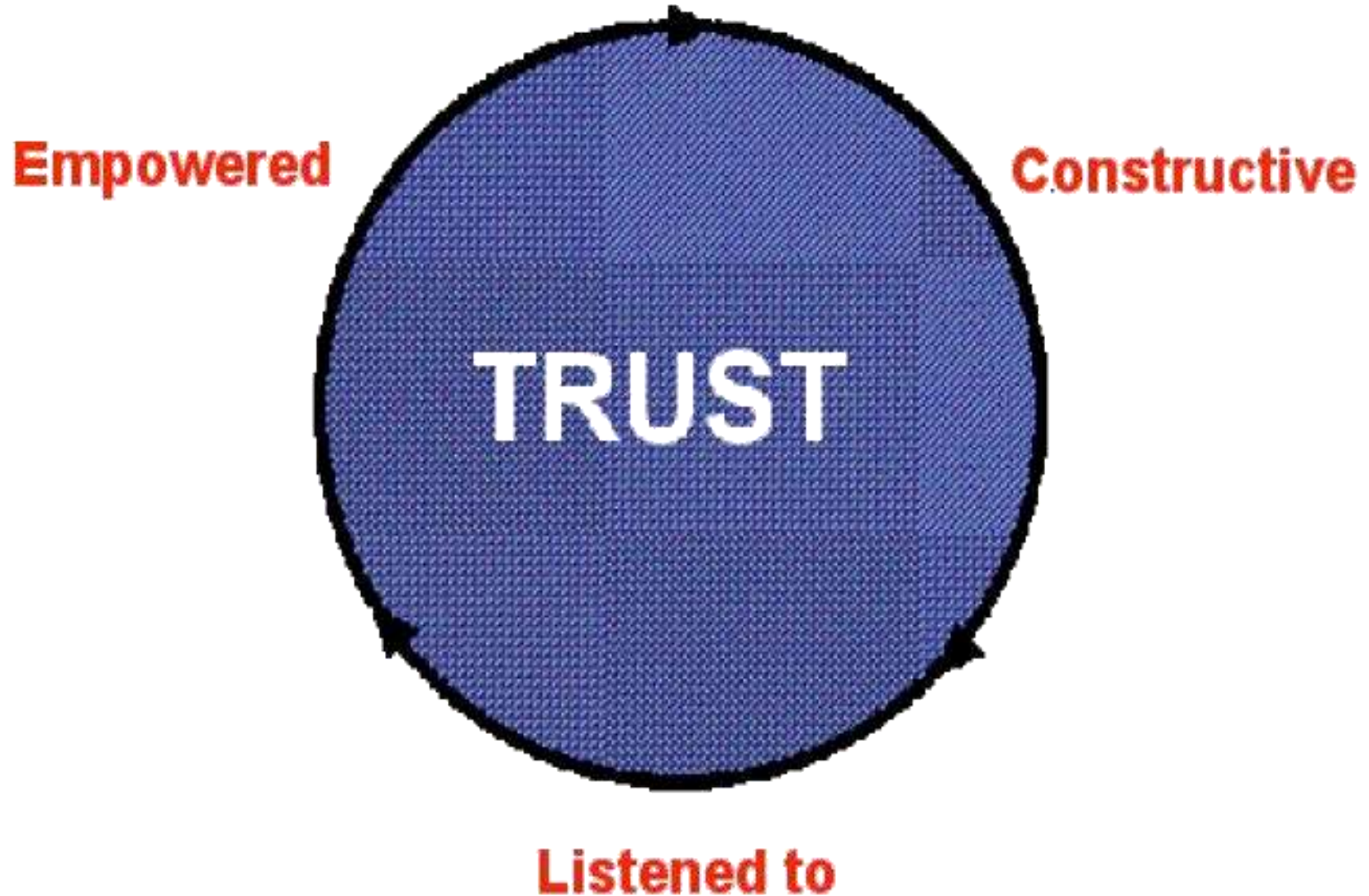
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- Community cooperation is essential.
- Intrusion is an apt term.
- Vapor intrusion is “rocket science.”
- Communities vary.

Engaging the Public

- Build Trust.
- Provide simple but accurate information in plain language.
- Provide opportunities for input (and personal risk management).

The Reinforcing Collaborative Circle



A tale of two schools



Providing Information

- Start with the basics
- Explain the conceptual site model
- Describe the decision-making process
- Avoid jargon and acronyms.
- Be aware of the Internet and social networking.

A church basement in Ohio



Opportunities to take part in decision-making

- Community Advisory Groups
- Technical Assistance Grants
- Cooperation with community-based organizations
- Policy level as well as local
- Personal risk management

“Be alert but not alarmed”

- Vapor intrusion study areas should be larger than areas where there is unacceptable risk.
- Unacceptable risk doesn't mean everyone will get sick.
- Mitigation works because it reverses the upward vapor flow.

Evacuation

- Rarely justified by chronic risks, such as cancer
- Interim solutions may help.
- Pregnant women exposed to TCE are a special case.
- Never delay informing building occupants!

E-mail me if you want to join CPEO' s free
Brownfields Internet Forum and/or *Military
Environmental Forum* newsgroup.

Lenny Siegel

Center for Public Environmental Oversight
c/o PSC, 278-A Hope St., Mountain View, CA 94041 USA
+1-650/961-8918

lsiegel@cpeo.org — <http://www.cpeo.org>

Toxicity assessment
is political.

TCE vs. PCE