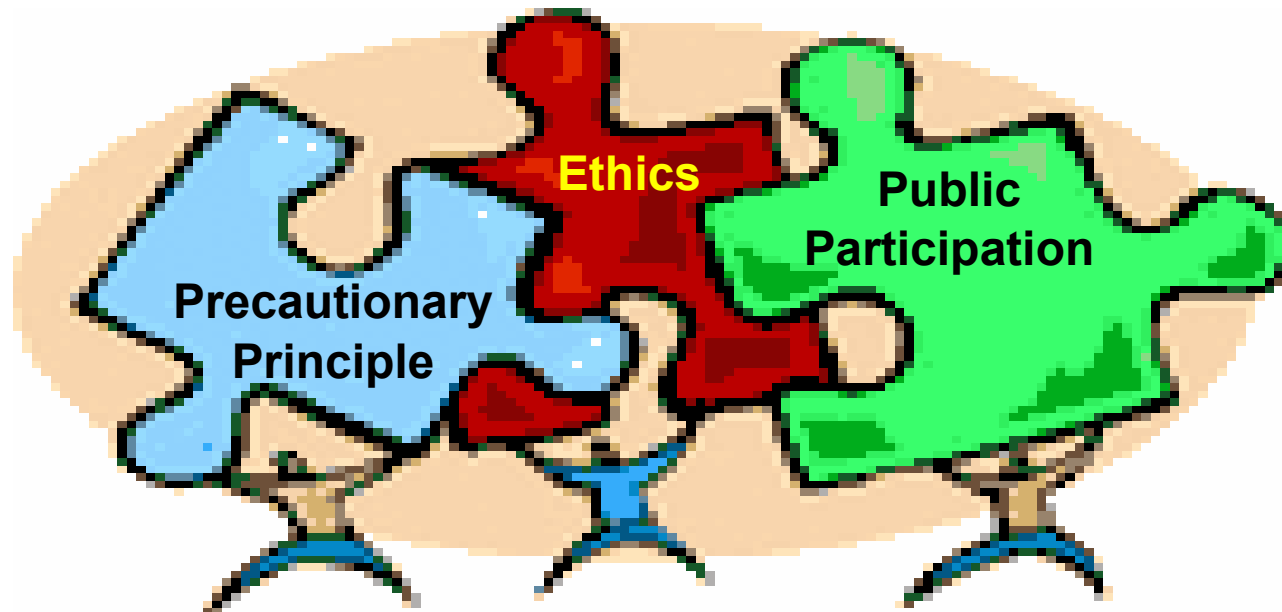


Responding to a Community-Wide Environmental Health Issue: Pu-Contaminated Sludge in Livermore





Background

- Plutonium releases from LLNL to sanitary sewer
- Sewage sludge available to public/agencies (1958-1976)
- No community knowledge of Pu in sludge
- Plutonium levels in sludge given to public unknown (gross alpha levels measured)
- Sludge locations in community unknown



Typical approach used to address contaminants in environment

- Use existing data to estimate exposure level
- Compare to an “acceptable” level
 - Regulatory standards (process based on health, ability to remediate, cost)
 - Regulatory standards = Safe ?
- Limited community involvement or input in the decision making process



Why use a different approach for sludge issue?

- Gaps in sludge monitoring data
- Scientific uncertainty on “safe” or “acceptable” level for plutonium
- Community “right-to-know”

What do you think is best way to address sludge issue?

