

# HOW TO EXPLORE EPA SUPERFUND SITES AS POSSIBLE MODEL AIRCRAFT FLYING FIELDS

An extensive search of government agencies for assistance in obtaining model airplane flying sites led the AMA to the Environmental Protection Agency.

There, Melissa Friedland, National EPA Program Coordinator for Superfund Development, supported by Michael B. Cook, Director for Superficial Remediation Technology Innovation, recognized the great win-win opportunity that could result from the reuse of EPA superfund sites as model aircraft flying fields.

Through their efforts in Washington, D.C., a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on February 10, 2005. The MOU creates an alliance between the EPA and AMA. This alliance will link communities with superfund sites to the expertise of the AMA in evaluating their sites for potential reuse as flying fields.



February 10, 2005  
Michael B. Cook, Director, greets Joe Beshar, AMA Flying Site Assistance Coordinator



View of the Washington conference meeting. (L to R): Michael B. Cook, Joe Beshar, Bruce Giumara (AMA volunteer flying site assistant), Melissa Friedland and Dr. Elizabeth Southerland, Director, EPA Assessment Div



Director Michael B. Cook signs the Memorandum of Understanding between the AMA and EPA. The document was then co-signed by Joe Beshar.

Here is the actual Memorandum of Understanding:



## ACADEMY OF MODEL AERONAUTICS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH EPA AND SUPERFUND COMMUNITIES

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to set forth certain understandings between the Academy of Model Aeronautics ("Academy"), an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and the Environmental Protection Agency, ("EPA"), an agency of the United States government.

The Academy's mission is to make aeromodeling the foremost sport/hobby in the world through promotion, development, education about, and general advancement of modeling activities. The Academy's priorities include:

- Representing more than 170,000 members nationwide from every walk of life, economic background, and age group. The Academy is open to anyone interested in building and flying model airplanes;
- Chartering more than 2,500 model airplane clubs across the country. The Academy offers its chartered clubs official contest sanction, insurance, and assistance in getting and keeping flying sites;
- Organizing the annual National Aeromodeling Championships in Muncie, Indiana, the world's largest model airplane competition;
- Sanctioning more than 3,000 model airplane competitions nationwide each year, and certifying official model flying records on a national and international level; and
- Providing liaison between local chartered clubs and the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Communications Commission, and other government agencies, in addition to local governments, zoning boards, and parks departments.

The MOU between the Academy and EPA is an alliance which links Superfund communities interested in hosting aeromodeling activities on their Superfund sites with the expertise and resources of the Academy. The Superfund sites should be open environments that have very few obstacles for model aircraft and are normally surrounded by an uninhabited buffer zone (e.g., closed or capped landfills). The Academy will offer no-cost services to participating Superfund communities, in order to examine and facilitate the integration of Superfund sites with aeromodeling activities. Those services are as follows:

- Mowing and maintaining the landscape surfaces on the portions of Superfund sites that the Academy is utilizing; and
- Maintaining fences located on the portions of Superfund sites that the Academy is utilizing.

EPA agrees to provide the Academy with appropriate publicly available information about the Superfund cleanup process and the Superfund Redevelopment Initiative that the

Academy may use to facilitate interaction with communities at identified sites, and will consider aeromodeling activities as a possible suitable future use at appropriate points in the remedy selection process.

EPA will provide publicly available information to the Academy about Superfund sites that have physical characteristics identified by the Academy as suitable for aeromodeling and will provide appropriate contact information for EPA, State, and local representatives for the sites.

It is understood and agreed by the Academy that neither EPA nor any of the respective communities have any obligation to host aeromodeling activities and/or utilize the Academy services cited above. It is also understood and agreed by the Academy that any other sport or recreational entity may offer similar types of programs to EPA and/or the Superfund communities.

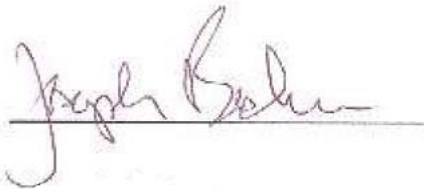
### **Limitations**

All commitments made by EPA in this MOU are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and each agency's budget priorities. Nothing in this MOU, in and of itself, obligates EPA to expend appropriations or to enter into any contract, assistance agreement, interagency agreement, or incur other financial obligations. The Academy agrees not to submit a claim for compensation for services to EPA or any Federal agency for activities it undertakes in connection with this MOU.


Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties to this MOU will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures, and will be subject to separate subsidiary agreements that will be effected in writing by representatives of both parties.

EPA may not endorse the purchase or sale of products and services provided by the Academy or any private organizations that become partners in this effort. The Academy may make factual statements regarding its cooperation with EPA in this effort but these statements must not imply that EPA endorses any fund-raising activities by the Academy.

This MOU does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity against the Academy or EPA, their officers or employees, or any other person. This MOU does not direct or apply to any person outside the Academy and EPA.



Joseph Beshar  
Flying Sites Coordinator  
Academy of Model Aeronautics



Michael B. Cook, Director  
Office of Superfund Remediation &  
Technology Innovation  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

To view the MOU document in pdf format, go to the EPA web site:  
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/recycle/pdfs/modelair.pdf>  
You will need Adobe Acrobat reader to view this file.

# **HOW TO LOCATE A SUPERFUND SITE IN YOUR AREA**

1. Visit the EPA web site [www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/index.htm)  
In the left side bar:
  - A. Click: "Locate NPL Sites"
  - B. Click: "Construction Completions at National Priorities List (NPL) Sites by State"
  - C. Click: Your state
2. Choose a site of interest. Write down its CERCLIS ID number. Visit and inspect the site to be sure it is suitable for a flying field.
3. If you want to pursue the superfund site as a possible flying field, email Joe Beshar at [joebeshar@juno.com](mailto:joebeshar@juno.com) or by snail mail at 198 Merritt Dr., Oradell, NJ 07649. Include the following information:
  - A. The site ID number from the EPA web site.
  - B. The superfund site's state and city location
  - C. Your club name and contact person's name, phone number and address.You can also call Joe Beshar at 201-261-1281
4. We will follow up with the EPA for possible acceptance.