Brownfields/Land Re-Use and Public Health

Tools for Towns

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Environmental Epidemiology and Occupational Health Program

Keeping Connecticut Healthy
DPH
Connecticut Department of Public Health

In a national survey*, only 17% of local health agencies reported being involved in local land re-use decisions.

*National Association of County and City Health Officials, 2006

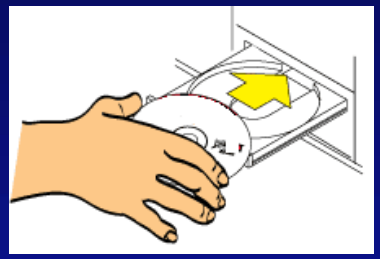
LHD involvement is important

- Increase community trust in redevelopment
- Identify environmental data gaps
- Prevent exposures
- Address community health concerns
- Risk communication (real and perceived)
- Identify & document public health benefits

How can Local Health Departments increase their capacity for involvement at brownfields/re-use sites?

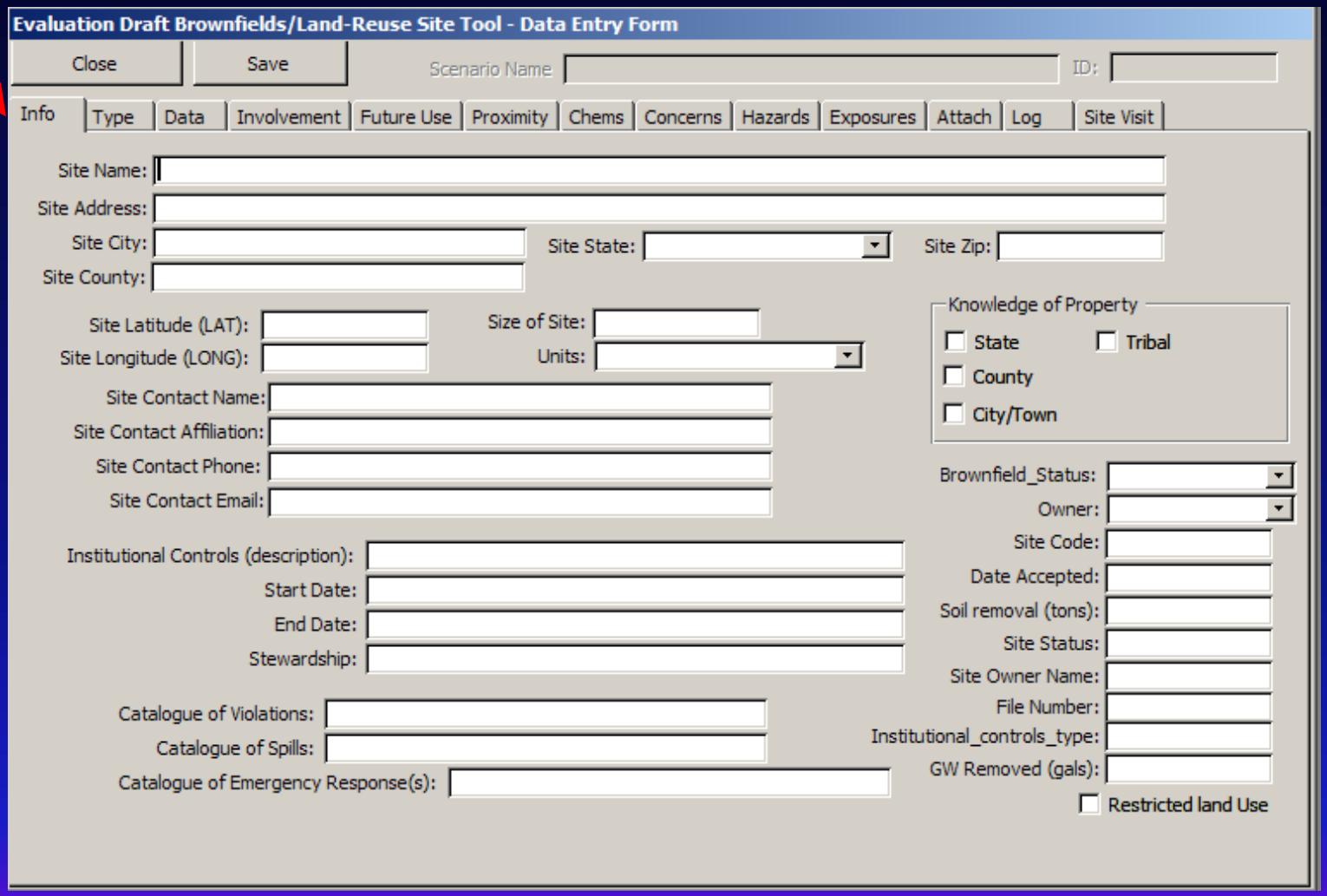
Overview

- Tools/Resources
  - ATSDR Brownfields/Land-Reuse Site Tool
  - Public Health Monitoring $
  - ATSDR Action Model
- Environmental Data Gaps

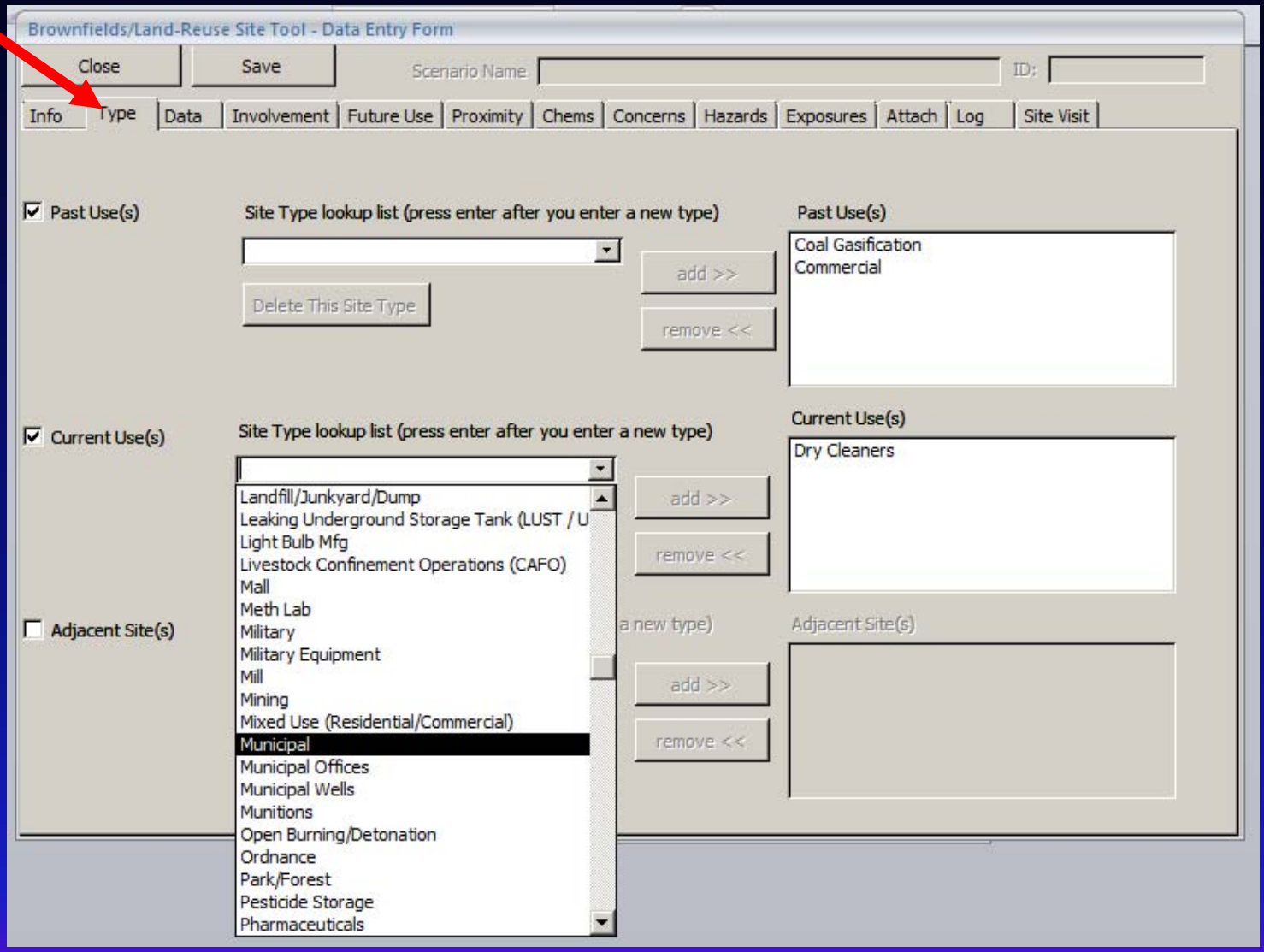


- Requires Microsoft® Access®
- Free! ATSDR Offers Training!
  - http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/brownfields/site_inventory.html
- Site Inventory
- Dose Calculator

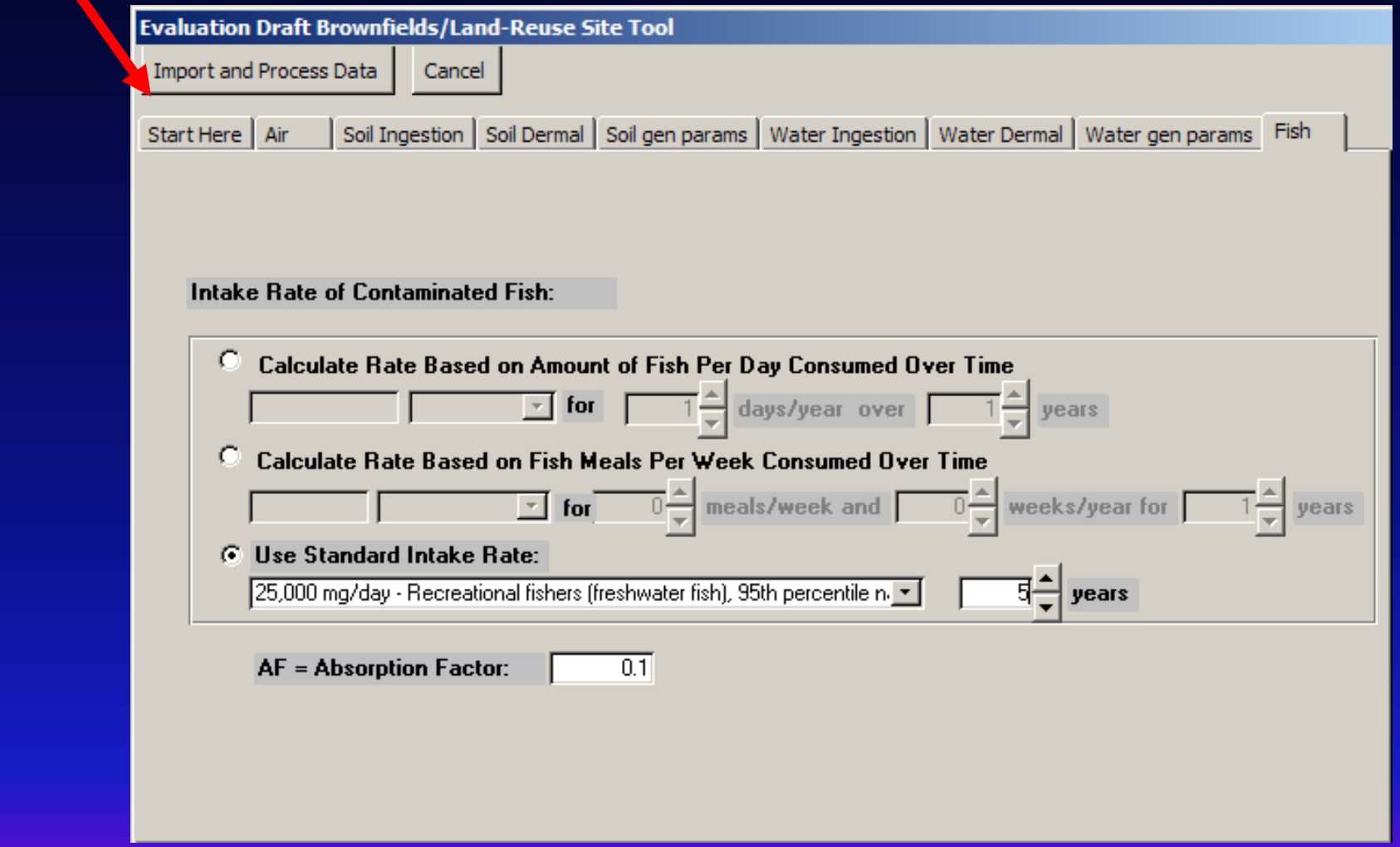
Enter, Import and Query Site Information



Past, Current, Future Use, Adjacent Properties



Evaluate Exposures, Calculate Doses, Statistics



Public Health Monitoring $

- Up to 10% of EPA Brownfields Grant
- Health Monitoring is Broad! Examples…
  - Survey of community concerns, health status
  - Visioning for future property use
  - Fish testing in local water body
  - Air testing during brownfields cleanup
  - Signage, addressing trespassing issues
  - Inventories: sites, parks, housing, health care access…

ATSDR Action Model

- 4-Step Framework - integrates “public health” into redevelopment
  - What are the community issues of concern?
  - How can redevelopment help?
  - What are community benefits?
  - Identify indicators to measure public health improvement

Land Re-Use: Data Gaps

- Industrial Building Interiors
  - Residual Chemicals
    - Dust, Indoor Air, Walls, Floors, Ventilation System
- Vapor Intrusion
- Outdoor Dust
  - Construction/Demolition
  - Soil Remediation
- Former agricultural land

Vapor Intrusion - Case Study

- Former Defense facility
- VOC groundwater plume on site
  - VOCs > CT soil & GW volatilization criteria
  - Vapor Intrusion in some buildings
- Town wants to lease space for offices
- DoD: all spaces okay because VOCs in air meet OSHA standards
- LHD requests DPH review
- DPH reaches different conclusion

Former Farmland - Case Study

- Warehouse construction on former farmland
- Pesticides in soil > CT Standards
- Residents concerned about dust
- Project has correct DEEP Permits
- Site NOT in any DEEP remediation program

Farmland Case Study - LHD Actions

- DEEP “consistency review” of Plan
- DPH review – health protectiveness of Plan
- DEEP fugitive dust regulations
  - 860-424-3436 or deep.aircomplaints@ct.gov
- DPH review of dust control/monitoring plan
  - Dust control procedures adequate?
  - Dust monitoring needed? Dust action levels appropriate?

Questions?