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### **Watershed Council as Polymorph: The Changing Nature of Expertise and Expert-Public Communication in Deliberations about Superfund Remediation**

In 1999, the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) named Rhode Island's Centredale Manor an official Superfund site, placing the site on its National Priorities List for remediation. Fifteen years later, the USEPA is still working with a suite of local, state, and federal organizations to remediate the site, and to involve and educate the public in and about its remediation. Central to contentious discussions surrounding the site is the local watershed council, which navigates dual roles with both USEPA and public audiences. In their interactions with local community members, the watershed council serves as both a trusted expert – translating scientific documents; facilitating community meetings; and serving as consultants for state representatives – and a respected community member. Meanwhile, with USEPA, the council serves as a public stakeholder – making recommendations entered into the record of decision that are meant to represent the interests of local stakeholders more broadly – and respected member of the technical advisory committee. In short, the council serves as both the public voice *for* affected publics surrounding Centredale Manor, and the technical voice *to* those same communities. Given ongoing academic interest in public understanding of science, scientific expertise, and environmental justice, Centredale Manor emerges as a site ripe for exploration. The watershed council's savvy navigating of their polymorphic role raises interesting questions about what constitutes community involvement at Centredale Manor and other Superfund sites, and what normative assumptions about the nature of community, local ecological knowledge, scientific expertise, *ethos*, and *phronesis* Superfund community involvement relies upon.