

Mediation Participant Evaluation (Agreement Seeking)

The U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution requests your assistance in evaluating this process. As a part of this evaluation we ask the various participants who have been involved in this project to provide us with information about their experience. The data compiled will be used to improve future mediation and facilitation processes. The average estimated reporting burden for this questionnaire is 20 minutes. This estimate includes time for reviewing the instructions, gathering the data needed, completing, and reviewing the questionnaire. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Institute.

This questionnaire has an identifying number so that we can track who has responded. The Institute will not report information from this evaluation in a way that respondents or their organizations can be identified. Moreover, the identity of individual respondents will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) number that is displayed on the cover is currently valid and authorizes this collection of information.

1. Which category best describes the interest or organization you represented in this process?

CHECK THE MOST APPROPRIATE BOX ONLY.

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | a. Federal Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | b. State Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | c. Local/Regional Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | d. Tribal Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | e. Environmental/Conservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | f. Recreational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | g. Industrial/Resource Extraction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | h. Business/Commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | i. Community or Private Citizen (e.g., neighborhood association, local resident) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | j. Special Advocacy Interests (Please specify): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | k. Other (Please specify): _____ |

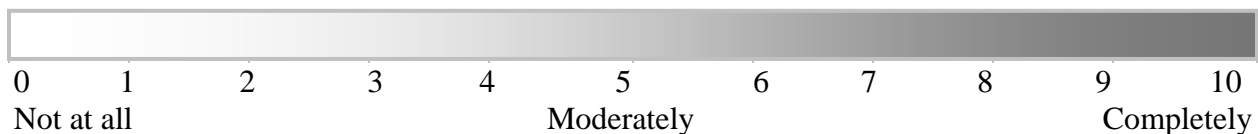
2. Please indicate the extent to which agreement was reached. TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION, THINK ABOUT WHAT IT WAS THAT THE GROUP WAS CHARGED TO COME UP WITH AT THE END OF THIS COLLABORATIVE PROCESS.

The term “**AGREEMENT**” applies to the written or unwritten agreement reached by participants in the process, including plans, proposals/recommendations, procedures, collaborative decisions to work together and settlements.

Check only one

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Agreement reached on <u>all</u> key issues | <i>Use the space below if you would like to elaborate on your response:</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Agreement on <u>most</u> key issues | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Agreement on <u>some</u> key issues | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No agreement on any key issues, but progress was made towards addressing the issues or resolving the conflict. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No agreement, we ended the process without making much progress. | |

Rating Scale



3. Using the scale above, rate the following statement regarding the agreement (as referred to in #2).

PLEASE CHECK HERE IF NOT APPLICABLE (I.E., NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED) OTHERWISE, PLEASE RATE THE FOLLOWING.

Rating

| | |
|-------|--|
| _____ | a. The extent to which you feel the agreement reached takes account of <u>all</u> key interests. |
| _____ | b. The extent to which you feel that the agreement reached takes account of <u>your</u> key interests. |
| _____ | c. The extent to which the agreement reached will effectively solve the problem/resolve the conflict. |
| _____ | d. The extent to which you are confident the agreement can be implemented. |

4. If you had not participated in this collaborative process, what would have been the most likely process for the issues to be addressed or resolved?

Check only one

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | a. Unassisted negotiation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | b. Judicial settlement conference |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | c. Litigation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | d. Lobbying or working to achieve legislative action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | e. Rulemaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | f. Arbitration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | g. Administrative proceeding (e.g., agency appeals process, contested process hearing, agency order) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | h. Wait for a better time to take action. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | i. Don't know |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | j. Other (PLEASE SPECIFY) _____ |

5. Please consider how the collaborative process you completed compares with the alternative that you identified in the previous question, and then check the most appropriate of the following:

Check only one

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I feel the collaborative process was <u>less expensive</u> ...and this level of expenditure was appropriate. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I feel the collaborative process was <u>less expensive</u> ...but additional resources were probably needed. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I feel the collaborative process <u>cost more</u> ... and the extra costs <u>were worth</u> the investment. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | I feel the collaborative process <u>cost more</u> ...and the extra costs were <u>not</u> worth the investment. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Don't know |

Rating Scale



6. Using the scale above, how do you think the collaborative process you completed would compare with the alternative that you selected in the question 4? Although it may be hard to know what would have happened with the alternative you chose in question 4, please give us your thoughts on the following:

Check here if "Not Applicable" (i.e., I selected "Don't Know" for question 4)

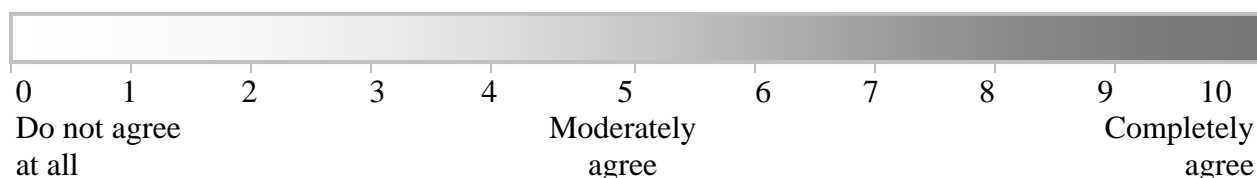
Rating

| | |
|-------|--|
| _____ | a. The results of the collaborative process <i>better</i> served the interests of the participants. |
| _____ | b. The results of the collaborative process are <i>less likely</i> to be challenged. |
| _____ | c. The participants are <i>more likely</i> to be able to work together in the future on matters related to this case or project. |
| _____ | d. The collaborative process we participated in <i>more effectively</i> addressed the issues or resolved the conflict. |
| _____ | e. The collaborative process we participated in led or will lead to a <i>more informed</i> public action / decision. |

7. Using the scale at the top of the page, please rate the extent to which the following conditions were in place (1) when the process began and (2) as a result of the process.

| | <u>Before the process began</u> | <u>As a result of the process</u> |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Rating</i> | <i>Rating</i> |
| a. The participants were able to work together cooperatively. | _____ | _____ |
| b. The participants trusted each other. <input type="checkbox"/> Check if Don't know or no experience | _____ | _____ |

Rating Scale



8. Using the above scale, please rate your level of agreement with the following:

Rating

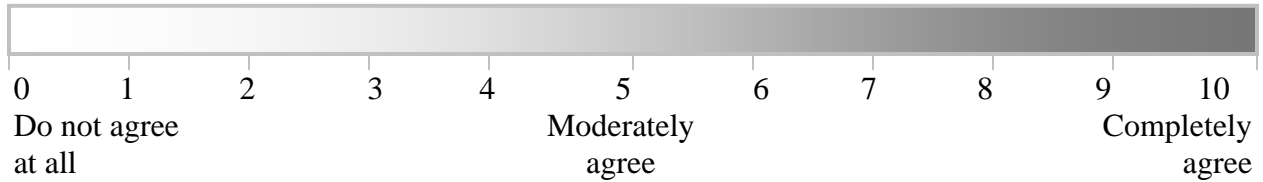
| | |
|-------|---|
| _____ | a. I had the resources (e.g., time, money) needed to participate effectively in the process. |
| _____ | b. The participants, as a group, felt they were appropriately engaged in designing the process. <input type="checkbox"/> Check if “Don’t Know” or “Not Applicable” |
| _____ | c. I was involved as needed in selecting the mediator(s)/facilitator(s). <input type="checkbox"/> Check if “Not Applicable” |
| _____ | d. The participants, as a group, represented all affected concerns. |
| _____ | e. The <u>absence</u> of participants had a <u>negative</u> effect on the collaborative process. <input type="checkbox"/> Check if "Not Applicable" (i.e. no participants were absent) |
| _____ | f. The participants had sufficient authority to make commitments on behalf of their organizations. |
| _____ | g. The participants continued to be engaged so long as their involvement was necessary. |
| _____ | h. The process helped you gain a better understanding of the other participants’ views and perspectives. |
| _____ | i. The process helped you identify and focus on the key issues that had to be addressed. |
| _____ | j. The process helped the participants, as a group, effectively engage to work on the key issues. |
| _____ | k. The participants, as a group, sought options or solutions that met the common needs of all participants. |

9. Using the scale above, please rate your level of agreement with the following:

Rating

| | |
|-------|---|
| _____ | a. We worked effectively to identify information needs. |
| _____ | b. All participants had full access to relevant information they needed in order to participate effectively in this collaborative process. |
| _____ | c. The quality of the information used was good enough for the outcomes of the process. |
| _____ | d. Relevant information was effectively integrated into the process (e.g., a project web site was used to share information, spatial analysis and decision support tools were used). |
| _____ | e. The agreement(s) reached were improved as a result of information integrated into the process. <input type="checkbox"/> Check if "Not Applicable" (i.e. no agreement was reached) |

Rating Scale



10. Using the scale above, please rate the following for each of the mediators/facilitators (if more than one) involved in this process:

Please identify each mediator/facilitator by placing their initials in the space provided, and then rate each statement for each mediator/facilitator. Please use the margins to rate additional mediators/facilitators if needed.

| Initials of Mediator(s) / Facilitator(s) | | | Mediator/Facilitator Skills and Practices |
|---|---------|---------|--|
| 1. ____ | 2. ____ | 3. ____ | |
| <i>Ratings</i> | | | |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | a. On reflection, this was the right mediator(s)/facilitator(s) to guide the process. |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | b. The mediator(s)/facilitator(s) kept us on track and proceeding in a timely manner. |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | c. The mediator/facilitator helped us manage technical discussions efficiently. <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Check if Not Applicable</i> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | d. The mediator(s)/facilitator(s) dealt with all the participants in a fair and unbiased manner. |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | e. When things got tense, the mediator(s)/facilitator(s) was able to help us find ways to move forward constructively. <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Check if Not Applicable</i> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | f. The mediator(s)/facilitator(s) made sure that the views and perspectives of all participants were considered in the process. |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | g. The mediator(s)/facilitator(s) made sure that no one dominated the process or other participants. |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | h. The mediator(s)/facilitator(s) helped the participants test the practicality of the options under discussion. |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | i. The mediator(s)/facilitator(s) was helpful in documenting our agreement(s). <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Check if Not Applicable (e.g. no agreement)</i> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | j. The group could not have progressed as far without the help of the mediator(s)/facilitator(s). |

11. Think back to the start of the process and please rate the following using the scale from the prior page:

CHECK HERE IF NOT APPLICABLE (I.E., I WAS NOT INVOLVED AT THE START OF THE PROCESS)

Rating

| | |
|-------|--|
| _____ | a. At the start of the process, I was willing to work cooperatively with other participants in this process. |
|-------|--|

12. Using the scale from the prior page, please rate your agreement with the following statements:

Rating

| | |
|-------|--|
| _____ | a. I would recommend this type of process to colleagues in a similar situation without hesitation. |
| _____ | b. We could not have progressed as far using any other process of which I am aware. |

13. At this point in time, in very general terms what did this collaborative process accomplish?

Check *all that apply*

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | a. A potentially costly or divisive dispute was <i>likely</i> avoided. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | b. An impasse (stalemate) was broken. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | c. A crisis was averted. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | d. Conflict didn't escalate. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | e. Costly or protracted litigation was avoided. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | f. Relationships among parties in this process were improved. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | g. The process resulted in timely decisions and outcomes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | h. Nothing was accomplished. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | i. The process made the issues or dispute worse. |

14. What is your top suggestion on how this collaborative process could have been improved?

PLEASE WRITE "NONE" IF YOU FEEL THIS PROCESS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN IMPROVED.

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
| | |

15. From your perspective, what will be the effect (e.g., impacts or benefits) of the agreement reached or progress made? PLEASE WRITE “NONE” IF NOT APPLICABLE, OTHERWISE PLEASE IDENTIFY EFFECTS IN THE CATEGORIES LISTED BELOW AND/OR ADD YOUR OWN CATEGORIES AS APPROPRIATE.

| | <i>Effects</i> of the agreement reached or progress made |
|--|--|
| Natural resources and environmental conditions | <hr/> <hr/> |
| Historic and cultural resources | <hr/> <hr/> |
| Community and social conditions | <hr/> <hr/> |
| Economic conditions | <hr/> <hr/> |
| Recreational uses | <hr/> <hr/> |
| Other, please specify | <hr/> |
| | <hr/> |

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.
 Your assistance in providing this information is *very* much appreciated.