United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Solid Waste and
Emergency Response
(5305W)

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Office of Solid Waste

EPA

Environmental Fact Sheet

NO HAZARDOUS WASTE LISTING PROPOSED FOR 14 SOLVENTS

Background

The Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 obligated the Agency to study and make a hazardous waste listing determination for solvents. In 1980 and 1986, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) listed a total of 30 chemicals as hazardous waste spent solvents. Many of these solvents were widely used in many different industries, and had caused environmental damage at many sites. Although the Agency listed these solvents as hazardous, other solvents that may have been potentially hazardous to human health and the environment were not examined. As a result of a consent decree issued in June 1991, EPA agreed to make hazardous waste listing determinations on wastes generated from the use of 14 chemicals as solvents.

Action

EPA proposes not to amend the regulations for hazardous waste management under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) for wastes generated during the use of certain organic solvents. The Agency proposes not to list as hazardous wastes that are generated from the solvent use of any of the following 14 chemicals: acetonitrile, benzyl chloride, cumene, cyclohexanol, 1,4-dichlorobenzene, epichlorohydrin, ethylene dibromide, 2-ethoxyethanol acetate, furfural, isophorone, 2-methoxyethanol, 2-methoxyethanol acetate, methyl chloride, and phenol.

Based on current management practices and low levels of exposure, the Agency has determined that these solvent wastes pose little or no risk to human health or the environment. Only a few of these chemicals are widely used as solvents, and most either have no significant solvent uses, or have only very specialized solvent uses. The proposal is not a determination that these chemicals are nontoxic. The vast majority of the nonwastewaters residuals generated from solvent uses are, in fact, already regulated as hazardous waste because they exhibit a hazardous waste characteristic. Rather, this is a determination that these specific wastes do not need to be added to the RCRA hazardous waste listings.

More Information

The *Federal Register* (*FR*) notice and this fact sheet are available on the Internet System through EPA Public Access Server at gopher.epa.gov. For additional information or to order paper copies of the *FR* notice, contact the RCRA Hotline. Callers

within the Washington Metropolitan Area must dial 703-412-9810 or TDD 703-412-3323 (hearing impaired). Long-distance callers may call 1-800-424-9346 or TDD 1-800-553-7672. The RCRA Hotline is open Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

Copies of documents applicable to this rule may be obtained by writing: RCRA Information Center (RIC), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Solid Waste (5303W), 401 M Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20460.