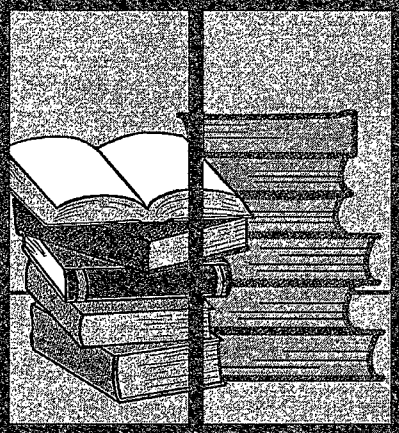
United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

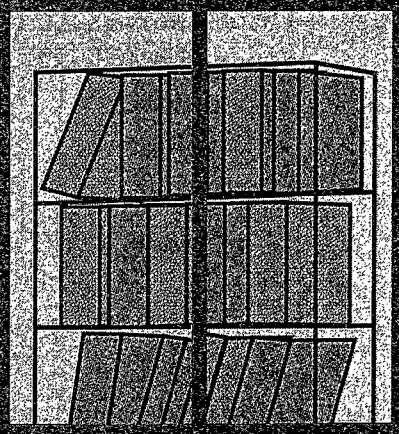
EPA530-F-98-015
September 1998
www.epa.gov

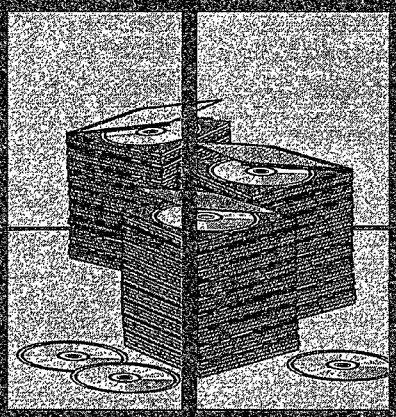
Solid Waste and Emergency Response (5305W)

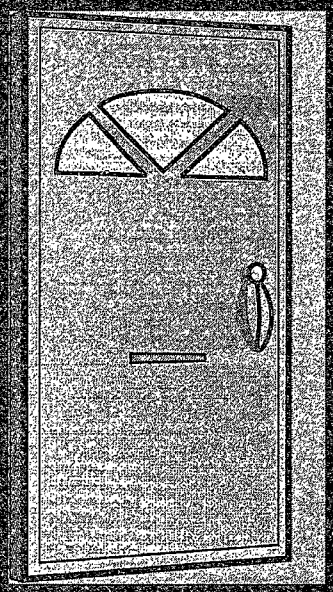
EPA

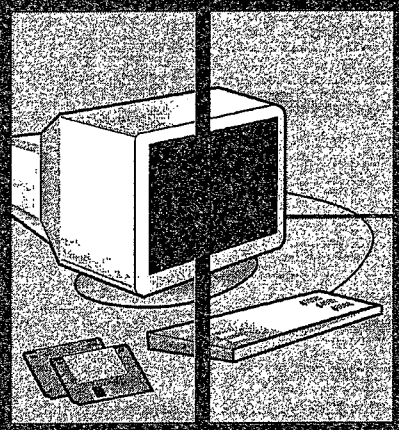
The RCRA Information Center









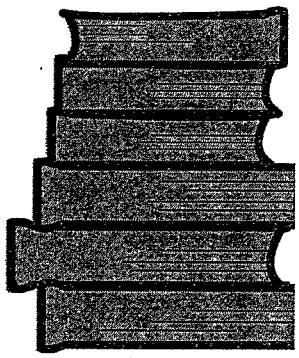


Printed on paper that contains at least 20 percent postconsumer fiber.

Congress passed the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) in 1976 to create a framework for the proper management of hazardous and nonhazardous solid waste. The act is continuously evolving as Congress amends it to reflect the nation's changing solid waste needs.

For each modification to the act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) develops regulations that spell out how the act's broad policies are to be carried out. The RCRA Information Center (RIC) was formed to house documents used in writing these regulations as well as EPA Office of Solid Waste (OSW) publications produced for public guidance on solid waste issues.

The documents stored in the RIC are divided into two basic categories: 1) documents involved in various stages of rulemaking, and 2) general documents discussing the various aspects of recycling, treatment, and disposal of hazardous and solid waste.



Rulemaking Dockets

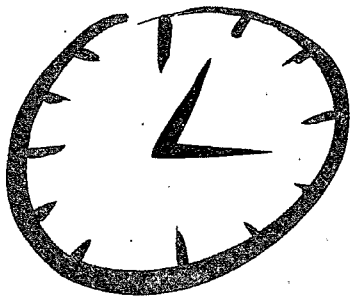
- Docket files generated from RCRA-related rulings. Each file is composed of two sections: 1) technical support documents that were used by EPA in the development of the particular rule, and 2) comments from companies, individuals, environmental organizations, and various levels of government.
- Reprints of *Federal Registers* containing RCRA-related issues.
- Administrative Records, which are rulemaking dockets that have undergone litigation.

General Documents/Collections

- *Catalog of Hazardous and Solid Waste Publications*, which lists the RIC's most popular documents. The catalog is updated annually.
- Guidance documents, which provide directions for implementing the regulations for disposal and treatment of hazardous and solid wastes.
- Brochures, booklets, and executive summaries of reports concerning waste reduction and disposal issues surrounding solid and hazardous wastes.

- An historical collection of OSW documents.
- Selected OSW correspondence written by EPA officials in response to questions from organizations and individuals concerning hazardous and solid waste regulations.
- Health and Environmental Effects Profiles and Health and Environmental Effects Documents.

Hours and Location



- The RIC is open to the public Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., eastern time
- The RIC is located at:
  Crystal Gateway 1, First Floor
  1235 Jefferson Davis Highway
  Arlington, VA
- It is recommended that visitors make an appointment so the material they wish to view is ready when they arrive.
- Patrons may call for assistance at 703 603-9230, send a fax to 703 603-9234, or send an e-mail to <rcra-docket@epa.gov>.
- Patrons may write to the following address:
  RCRA Information Center (5305W)
  U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
  401 M Street, SW
  Washington, DC 20460
  (Please note that this address is for mailing purposes only.)

Photocopies and Microfilm

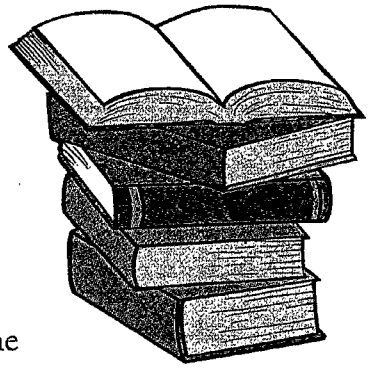
Many documents are available only as originals and, therefore, must be photocopied. Patrons are allowed 100 free photocopies. Thereafter, they are charged 15¢ per page. When necessary, an invoice stating how many copies were made, the cost of the order, and where to send a check will be issued to the patron.

Documents also are available on microfilm. The RIC staff helps patrons locate needed documents and operate the microfilm machines. The billing

fee for printing microfilm documents is the same as for photocopying documents.

Patrons who are outside of the Washington, DC, metropolitan area can request documents by phone, fax, or e-mail. The photocopying and microfilm printing fee is the same as for walk-in patrons. If an invoice is necessary, the RIC staff will mail one with the order.

Additional OSW Sources of Hazardous and Solid Waste Information



RCRA, Superfund, and EPCRA Hotline

Phone: 800 424-9346
TDD: 800 553-7672 (hearing impaired)
For Washington, DC, and outside the United States: 703 412-9810
TDD: 703 412-3323 (hearing impaired)
Hours: Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., eastern time
Web site: www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/infoserv.htm#hotline

Answers questions concerning technical aspects of RCRA and provides clarifications of sections of the *Code of Federal Regulations* that pertain to RCRA. The hotline also takes requests and makes referrals for obtaining OSW publications.

Groundwater Information Tracking Systems/ Static Software (GRITS/STAT) Technical Support

Phone: 703 448-6415
E-mail: grits@pcengineering.com
Web site: www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/ca/gritsstat/gritsstat.htm

Widely used at waste management facilities implementing ground-water monitoring requirements under the RCRA Subtitle C (hazardous waste) and RCRA Subtitle D (municipal waste) programs. GRITS/STAT can be used at sites conducting ground-water monitoring to store, analyze, and report ground-water data and to conduct statistical tests to determine if regulatory thresholds have been met or exceeded. GRITS/STAT, version 5.0, and its associated documentation were updated in July 1997 and are available at the Web site. Users with general questions about GRITS/STAT

also can call Hugh Davis at 703 308-8633 or contact him via e-mail at <davis.hugh@epa.gov>.

OSW Methods Information Communication Exchange (MICE)

Phone: 703 821-4690
Fax: 703 698-6101
E-mail: mice@lan828.ehsg.saic.com
Web site: www.epa.gov/sw-846

Answers questions and takes comments, via phone or e-mail, regarding test methods used on organic and inorganic chemicals. These methods are discussed in the OSW methods manual, *Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste—Physical/Chemical Methods* (EPA SW-846). Patrons can call or e-mail MICE 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and listen to prerecorded messages over the phone or leave a message stating their name, organization, phone number, and requested information. Responses to information requests are usually provided the next business day.

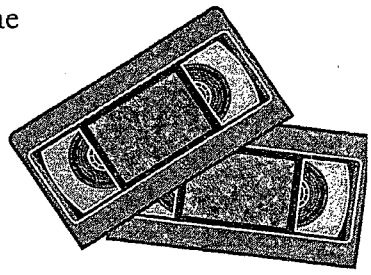
Pay-As-You-Throw Helpline

Phone: 888 EPA-PAYT (372-7298)
Fax: 781 674-2851
Address: U.S. EPA Pay-As-You-Throw
110 Hartwell Avenue
Lexington, MA 02421-3136
Web site: www.epa.gov/payt

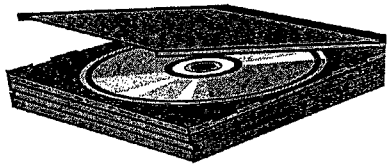
Allows patrons to order specific pay-as-you-throw products, including the tool kit, fact sheets, guidebook, and testimonials through a 24-hour automated system. The helpline also answers callers' questions and provides general background information on pay-as-you-throw.

WasteWise Helpline

Phone: 800 EPA-WISE (372-9473)
Hours: Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., eastern time
Web site: www.epa.gov/wastewise



Answers questions and distributes publications about the WasteWise program and responds to partners' specific technical assistance questions. Helpline staff have access to an extensive library containing information on municipal solid waste reduction practices nationwide.



WasteWise is a voluntary EPA program through which businesses, governments, and institutions reduce waste, benefitting their bottom lines and the environment. Partners set their own goals and report their accomplishments in the following three areas: waste prevention, recycling, and buying and/or manufacturing recycled products. Currently, more than 700 partners receive technical assistance and recognition for their municipal solid waste reduction efforts. More than 60 endorser organizations promote the program to their members. The WasteWise program, started in 1994, is an initiative in the President's Climate Change Action Plan because waste reduction activities can reduce the harmful effects of global warming.

Additional EPA Resources

Underground Storage Tank Docket

Phone: 703 603-9231
Hours: Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., eastern time

Provides rulemaking dockets pertinent to RCRA's Subtitle I (the Underground Storage Tank program). For publications, contact the RCRA, Superfund, and EPCRA Hotline.

Superfund Docket

Phone: 703 603-9232
Hours: Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., eastern time

Provides rulemaking material pertinent to the Superfund program and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

Hazardous Waste Ombudsman Program

Phone: 800 262-7937
202 260-9361
Contact: Robert Martin

Assists private citizens and organizations that have been unable to voice a complaint or resolve problems through normal channels in coping with the complexities of hazardous waste and Superfund legislation. Each region has an ombudsman representative. For more information, call the RCRA, Superfund, and EPCRA Hotline or the contact cited above.

Small Business Ombudsman Hotline

Phone: 800 262-7937
202 260-0490
Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., eastern time

Helps small businesses comply with environmental laws and EPA regulations.

Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse (PPIC)

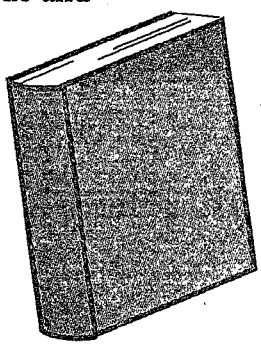
Phone: 202 260-1023
Fax: 202 260-4659
E-mail: ppic@epa.gov
Web site: www.epa.gov/opptintr/library/libppic.htm

Serves as a distribution center for EPA documents and fact sheets dealing with source reduction and pollution prevention. PPIC also provides a reference and referral service for pollution prevention questions.

EPA Headquarters Information Resources Center (IRC)

General information: 202 260-5922
Reference desk: 202 260-8674
Interlibrary loan desk: 202 260-9368 or 260-2289
Infoterra: 202 260-5917
Fax: 202 260-6257
E-mail: library-hq@epa.gov
Web site: www.epa.gov/epapages/natlibra/hqirc
Hours: Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., eastern time

Provides a contact to the public for distribution of some general, nontechnical environmental information. Some materials not available at the IRC can be ordered and sent to the requestor. The IRC also is the reference library for EPA Headquarters. It offers a broad range of environmental information, including reports from various EPA offices, and trade and environmental journals. Interlibrary loans, Internet services and in-depth research requests are offered for EPA staff. Electronic resources are available at public access Internet terminals. The library also features a Hazardous Waste Collection department and Infoterra department, which accommodates foreign patrons' requests. The IRC is available to the general public and staff by phone, mail, e-mail, fax, or walk-in.



EPA

United States
Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, SW (5305W)
Washington, DC 20460

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