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# Superfund Accelerated Cleanup Bulletin

## Presumptive Remedies for Municipal Landfill Sites

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### The Presumptive Remedy Selection Initiative

Since Superfund's inception in 1980, the removal and remedial programs have found that certain categories of sites have similar characteristics, such as the types of contaminants present, past industrial use, or the environmental media that are affected. Based on a wealth of information acquired from evaluating and cleaning up these sites, Superfund is undertaking an initiative to develop **presumptive remedies** that are appropriate for specific types of sites, contaminants, or both. This initiative is part of a larger program, known as the **Superfund Accelerated Cleanup Model (SACM)**, which is designed to speed all aspects of the Superfund clean-up process.

The objective of the presumptive remedies initiative is to use clean-up techniques shown to be effective in the past at similar sites in the future. The use of presumptive remedies will streamline removal actions, site studies, and clean-up actions, thereby improving consistency, reducing costs, and increasing the speed with which hazardous waste sites are remediated.

### The Municipal Landfill Pilot Project

Superfund kicked off a new pilot project designed to expedite the site investigation and remedy selection process for municipal landfills with a visit to Region V on March 18-20, 1992. Superfund anticipates that remedy selection may be streamlined for municipal landfills because they typically share similar characteristics and because containment and ground water cleanup frequently is the appropriate remedy for these sites.

An existing EPA manual, *Conducting Remedial Investigations/Feasibility Studies for CERCLA Municipal Landfill Sites*, outlines streamlining techniques for municipal landfills. The goal of the initiative is to aid the Regions in implementing the manual, so that site characterization, the baseline risk assessment, and the number of alternatives considered will be streamlined at every municipal landfill site.

Albion Sheridan Township landfill, a municipal landfill in Michigan, was the first site to participate in the pilot project. A team of Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) from several Regions and experts on landfill construction met with the site RPM in Grand Rapids, Michigan to develop the site strategy. As a result of the meeting, site characterization will be conducted in a phased approach, with

criteria established for when additional sampling will occur. Streamlining of the baseline risk assessment will depend upon data obtained in the first phase of sampling.



Four other Superfund municipal landfill sites have been identified as candidates for participation in the project: Lexington County Landfill, Lexington County, South Carolina (Region IV); BFI/Rockingham, Rockingham, Vermont (Region I); Sparta Landfill, Sparta Township, Michigan (Region V); and Beulah Landfill, Pensacola, Florida (Region IV).

The review team anticipates meeting with the RPMs for these sites during April, May, and June 1992.

RPMs who participate in the project and implement the municipal landfill manual at their sites will become members of the team and will be available to assist other RPMs in developing streamlined RI/FSs. These RPMs will be a resource for their Regions, providing assistance in streamlining remedy selection at all future municipal landfill sites.

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