

RCRA Implementation Plan (RIP): Fiscal Years 1998-1999

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

APR 1 0 1997

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: FY 1998-1999 Consolidated OSWER Guidance

FROM: Timothy Fields, Jr.

Acting Assistant Administrator

TO: Regional Administrators I-X

State Environmental Commissioners

I am pleased to transmit the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response's (OSWER's) FY 1998-1999 consolidated national guidance. This guidance defines national policy, strategic goals, priority activities, and core measures for the OSWER programs. Recognizing our need to transition to the accountability structure in the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993, this guidance is consistent with EPA's national program objectives developed for GPRA, and should be used by Regions, States and Tribes to assist in your grant negotiations.

Since this is the first year that OSWER has issued consolidated national guidance, the guidance cycles for each program do not yet cover the same time periods. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Implementation Plan (RIP) covers FY 1998-1999, while the Underground Storage Tank (UST)/Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) and the Superfund/Oil program guidance cover FY 1998. Both UST/LUST and Superfund/Oil will revise their guidance cycles to coordinate with the two-year cycle. OSWER's goal is to issue one consolidated and streamlined guidance document on a two-year cycle with a brief, clarifying addenda to the guidance issued as needed the following year.

The priorities and core measures for all OSWER programs for FY 1998 are covered in this memorandum and accompanying guidance documents. The only document which is not included in this package, which will be issued separately, is the Superfund/Oil Implementation Manual (SPIM) which is largely a technical manual covering standard operating procedures and accountability for the Superfund/Oil programs. The priorities for these programs are covered in this memorandum.

OSWER will continue to support the cross-cutting themes of Reinvention, Community Based Environmental Protection, and partnerships. We recognize that funding these areas may necessitate a redirection of resources from our program areas. Environmental justice will continue to be a priority throughout all the waste programs to ensure that all people have equal protection and access to healthy and environmentally sound conditions. The waste programs have been an Agency leader in advancing the environmental justice agenda and we will continue to integrate these concerns into our daily business. OSWER will also support the Agency priorities for protecting children, supporting Tribes, and upholding citizen's rights to be knowledgeable about the health of their environment. When Regions are directing resources to meet these crosscutting priorities, I expect the Regional Administrator to initiate contact with the appropriate Regional Superfund or Waste Management Division Director and the program Office Directors in Headquarters to notify them of shifts in resource allocations.

While the attachments provide specific priorities, goals, and performance measures for the RCRA program and UST/LUST program, I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight OSWER's highest priorities for the breadth of the waste programs. These program priorities also emerge in Attachment I which shows the relationship between OSWER's goals, objectives, subobjectives and measures.

Attachment I identifies OSWER's draft core performance measures which are the primary program actions and environmental outcomes used to track program progress and to establish commitments between Headquarters, Regions, and States. Attachment I differentiates between State and EPA generated measures and Attachment II provides additional narrative on the State generated measures. These draft core measures were designed to provide a limited set of measures which reflect OSWER's most important program priorities. Since they were not intended to cover every activity or task that States and EPA do, other types of environmental program and fiscal data will be required as well to maintain effective program management (EPA and the States are also working to reduce these additional reporting requirements as well). These draft core measures will be finalized through a forthcoming EPA/Environmental Council of States (ECOS) process in the near future. We will forward the final measures as soon as they are available.

OSWER will use the core performance measures to track progress toward achieving environmental results and to make decisions about the program adjustments that are needed for greater progress toward these results and our overall environmental goals. Having a mixture of environmental results measures and program output measures facilitates making decisions about changes to program implementation. We need to be able to determine whether we are achieving the environmental results we want, and we need to be able to evaluate accomplishments in order to respond with appropriate changes in program emphasis, direction, and resource allocations. OSWER will continue efforts with our State partners to shift from counting programmatic outputs to measuring progress through a set of environmental indicators. OSWER's programs are particularly challenging in terms of developing environmental measures which encompass our cleanup, prevention, and response activities. However, we will continue working with

ASTSWMO, ECOS, and other State organizations to refine the core measures.

State agency managers can use core measure information relevant to the State, to explain the program's accomplishments to the public and other parties. EPA will use the core measures information for the same general purpose at both the Regional and national levels. EPA will specifically use the information for the purpose of complying with the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). Therefore, OSWER expects the core measures to be included in State/Regional workplans and related agreements, unless special circumstances dictate otherwise.

If a particular core performance measure does not fit a State's or Region's situation, that measure may be modified as agreed to by both the State and the Region. For example, if a State is in the process of implementing a program and the data needed to report on the related measure are not yet available, the State and the Region can negotiate a modification to the measure that reflects data/information the State is currently able to report.

Program Specific Priorities

OSWER has many related but individual programs for which we are accountable to carry through successfully. OSWER has outlined priority activities to cover the full scope of the waste programs. These priorities are:

RCRA Program — To continue permitting operating land disposal and combustion facilities. To facilitate site cleanups through promulgating tailored standards governing remediation waste, restructuring the RCRA Corrective Action program to expedite cleanups, and using innovative approaches to move cleanups forward. Resources should be provided to States to aid in incorporating hazardous waste minimization into the permitting program. In FY98, the RCRA program will make progress toward its milestones for recycling and source reduction activities in the municipal solid waste program as well as the hazardous waste minimization program. In order to reduce the regulatory burden, RCRA requirements and standards for small generators will be streamlined. OSWER will explore options for eliminating any unnecessary requirements while maintaining protection of human health and the environment. The Agency will continue implementation of the Subpart S rule for streamlining procedures for corrective action at hazardous waste facilities.

Superfund Program -- To continue completing cleanup construction of the sites on the National Priorities List (NPL) while working in partnership with other federal agencies, State, local and tribal governments, the surrounding communities, responsible parties and other stakeholders. To implement the Agency's Superfund Administrative Reforms. Resources are to be redirected to manage existing work to address only the highest risks at waste sites and facilities.

Brownfields Program -- To identify and reduce barriers to the beneficial reuse of

Brownfields sites by continuing to empower state and local partners to assess, cleanup and reuse former contaminated sites. OSWER will provide funding through revolving loan funds for cleanups of those properties in our pilot areas, as well as targeted initiatives for brownfields assessment and initiation of new site assessment pilot projects.

<u>Federal Facilities Program</u> -- To promote site construction completions; empower stakeholders participation through partnership agreements and site-specific/restoration advisory boards; and promote reuse and redevelopment of Federally-owned or managed facilities.

Oil Spills Program -- To focus on inspections and working with regulated communities to ensure they are meeting program requirements. OSWER is working towards significant improvements in area contingency planning for oil spill.

<u>Underground Storage Tanks/Leaking Underground Storage Tanks</u> — To promote early compliance with the December 1998 requirements for upgrading, replacing, or closing underground storage tanks (USTs); to accelerate the process of initiating and completing cleanups of releases; and to increase the number of States approved to operate their own programs in lieu of the Federal program. Regional Offices will continue to implement the UST program in Indian country. Regional Offices should work with States to develop plans for post-deadline enforcement of the 1998 UST requirements. Risk-based decision-making should be incorporated into LUST corrective action programs run by States and (in Indian country) by EPA. Regional Offices should work with non-approved States to help them qualify and apply for State Program Approval.

Emergency Preparedness and Prevention -- To encourage and assist States and Tribes in establishing their own chemical accident release prevention programs. This will enable States and Tribes to deal with the significant requirements of the Clean Air Act and build better prevention programs tailored to local priorities. Recognizing that informed citizens are one of the best tools for continuous improvement, we should concentrate on promoting public access to community right-to-know (CRTK) information, as well as helping local communities incorporate facility risk information into their emergency planning programs.

<u>Technology Advocacy</u> -- With and through state partners, be open in OSWER regulatory and voluntary programs to the deployment of more effective and less costly technologies. Seek opportunities for joint projects with state, industry, and Federal partners to improve the likelihood of acceptance and deployment for field analytic and remediation technologies.

Structure

The RCRA Implementation Plan (RIP) component of this consolidated guidance is organized around two themes. The first addresses areas such as the Tribal Program or Partnerships. These areas cross all aspects of the RCRA program. The second theme presents the

priorities and strategies that directly support the four primary program objectives. These objectives include preventing hazardous waste generation, managing waste safely, cleaning up hazardous waste, and managing nonhazardous waste appropriately.

The Superfund Program Implementation Manual (SPIM) will be structured in a similar manner focusing on our GPRA objectives and subobjectives. The manual highlights Superfund's efforts to focus program activities on direct site cleanup efforts to meet the President's goal of 900 site completions by the end of calendar year 2000. Other themes focus on expansion of the Brownfields program, continued implementation of Superfund Administrative Reforms, and support of State/Tribal programs. These efforts support the Agency's Abandoned Site Cleanup GPRA objective. It should be noted that the SPIM will be sent under separate cover by August 1997.

I look forward to working with you towards successful implementation of the OSWER programs to achieve our national goals and priorities. If you have any questions regarding this new consolidated guidance process, please contact David Nicholas at (202) 260-4512.

Attachments

CC:

Assistant Administrators
Deputy Regional Administrators

OSWER Office Directors

Regional Superfund and Waste Management Division Directors

OSWER Planning Contacts State Environmental Directors Tom Kennedy, ASTSWMO

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FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999

RCRA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

FOR THE

HAZARDOUS AND SOLID WASTE PROGRAMS

February 1997

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FISCAL YEARS 1998-1999 RCRA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE HAZARDOUS AND SOLID WASTE PROGRAM

I. INTRODUCTION

The RCRA Implementation Plan (RIP) is a guidance document developed for the U.S. EPA, for States authorized to implement the RCRA Program, and for Tribes. The RIP defines the national policy and strategic goals and priority activities for the RCRA solid and hazardous waste programs. In the past the RIP has been structured around traditional areas such as Permitting and Corrective Action. While these areas are still program priorities, we recognize a need to begin the transition to the performance structure found in the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) of 1993. As a result, the structure of the RIP is organized to be compatible with the Agency's National Objectives developed for GPRA. These Objectives are included under the Safe Waste Management goal and include:

- · Reduce or control risks to human health and the environment,
- Manage facilities according to practices that prevent releases to the environment,
- Have the capability to successfully respond to all known emergency actions to reduce risk to human health and the environment,
- Decrease the quantity and toxicity of waste generated,
- Make formerly contaminated parcels of land available for residential, recreational, commercial, or industrial reuse.

However, it is important to note that EPA's and OSW's development of GPRA Goals, Objectives, and Subobjectives is a dynamic, ongoing process.

In addition to these priorities, OSW continues to be committed to the enhancement of Region, State, and Tribal partnerships, environmental justice, and overall Tribal programs. Specifically, in the area of environmental justice, OSW has assisted OSWER in developing an Action Agenda which forms a strategy for addressing key environmental justice issues. The overall strategy makes a concerted effort to identify explicit actions which can be taken by HQ and the Regions to address State and Tribal environmental justice issues, and the Agenda should be used to form the basis of Regional strategies for site specific activities. Environmental justice concerns during RCRA permitting activities continue to be a priority for the Agency and Regions should continue to pursue implementation of RCRA-related environmental justice pilots.

II. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

This chapter presents a number of guiding principles for managing the RCRA Program. The principles discussed and activities presented in this chapter are those that support and cross all program goals and objectives, and as such are essential to the effective implementation of

the Objectives and Subobjectives listed in Chapter III. Sections within this chapter include;

- A. Partnerships
- B. Authorization
- C. Tribal Programs
- D. Information Management
- E. Beginning of Year Plan

PARTNERSHIPS

Relationships between the Agency and its State and Tribal counterparts are changing. States are taking on increased responsibility as prime implementors of the RCRA program, and Tribes, with the support of the Regions, are taking on greater roles within Indian Country. If we are to be successful in attaining RCRA goals and objectives, we must continue to pursue partnerships with States and Tribes. With resources remaining constant or decreasing, we must jointly look for more innovative approaches toward the use of limited Federal, State, and Tribal funds. A past example of such an approach has been work sharing which utilized State and Tribal resources to assist the Agency at RCRA facilities, and in doing so, helped build capacity and capability for State and Tribal programs. As the program moves forward, HQ and the Regions must continue to look for partnership opportunities through activities such as technical assistance, training, and types of work sharing in delegated as well as non-delegated programs.

Since the last RIP, there have been changes in the way the Agency conducts oversight of States and Tribes. Two ongoing initiatives that target oversight changes are the National Environmental Performance Partnership System (NEPPS) and Performance Partnership Grants (PPGs). NEPPS emphasizes flexibility in oversight and encourages increased development of environmental indicators to measure progress, while PPGs allow State and Tribal programs more flexibility to move Federal funds from program to program and to reduce administrative burdens. However, as we move toward increased flexibility, States and Tribes must also share the responsibility for maintaining the capability necessary to implement base or core program elements. In addition, as responsibility shifts further toward the States, Tribes, and Regions, accountability for Federal funds will become increasingly important. Reviews of State and Tribal programs will still need to be conducted to evaluate this capability, and States and Tribes will have a responsibility to report on the implementation of the program.

The key to any partnership is communication and developing a common understanding of what needs to be accomplished, and agreeing on how to achieve and measure those goals. Strategic planning should be a primary tool in maintaining this communication. As our program becomes more performance based, we need to ensure that Regions, States, and Tribes include intermediate and long term strategic planning in their annual negotiation process. One of the primary issues as yet unresolved is determining the appropriate balance between accountability and flexibility. NEPPS drives flexibility while GPRA drives accountability. As we continue to define a

reasonable balance between these two, we look forward to working with the States and Tribes in furthering our partnership relationship and successfully implementing the RCRA program in FY 98/99 and beyond.

AUTHORIZATION

The authorization of States for revisions to the RCRA Subtitle C program supports the Agency Objectives of safe waste management and cleanup at hazardous waste sites. The State Authorization strategic goals for FY '98 and FY '99 are to 1) encourage States to seek capability in areas where they are not authorized, 2) promptly authorize States, when they submit acceptable program revision applications, and 3) reduce the barriers to authorization, thereby expediting the authorization process. The accomplishment of these goals should continue to reflect the requirements that States possess adequate enforcement and equivalent programs.

Prioritization of State Authorization Activities

Regions should concentrate their efforts in the following areas: 1) the authorization of rules that were Federally promulgated under non-HSWA authority, 2) the authorization of major rules that expand the scope of State programs, such as Corrective Action, Boilers and Industrial Furnaces, Land Disposal Restrictions, Air Emissions Rules, and the Toxicity Characteristic, and 3) the authorization of less stringent rules that improve the management of certain wastes, such as the Universal Waste Rule. Prior to authorization for new rules, Regions and States should continue to identify work sharing opportunities that will fill in gaps in current RCRA program coverage, and provide efficient use of existing technical expertise of both Regions and States. Regions should also maintain their responsibility to provide data for the State Authorization Tracking System (StATS), and to provide for the codification of authorized State programs.

Streamlining the Authorization Process

Regions, States, and HQ should work together to identify barriers to the rapid authorization of State programs, and to eliminate these barriers. EPA has proposed two separate procedures that were designed to streamline the authorization process (60 FR 43654, August 22, 1995, and 61 FR 18780, April 29, 1996). In addition to upcoming efforts to finalize the procedures, Regions are encouraged to 1) devote adequate resources to expeditiously review State applications, and 2) consider in their assessment of regulatory equivalency, the environmental effect of States' regulations where they differ from the Federal rules. Regions should also initiate their review of State regulations and other parts of the authorization application before they are final, as modifications are easier at that point. Therefore, States are strongly encouraged to share regulations with their Region in draft or proposed form, and to quickly respond to Regional comments on the authorization application.

TRIBAL PROGRAMS

EPA has the legal responsibility to implement the RCRA hazardous waste program throughout Indian Country until such time that statutory change provides the opportunity for EPA to review and approve Tribal programs under RCRA. At the same time, the Agency encourages work sharing agreements and other cooperative arrangements with Tribal governments. EPA is currently assessing alternatives to providing Tribal program approval for Municipal Solid Waste Land Fills. Generally, EPA recognizes that Tribes have sovereignty over waste activities in Indian country and will play the central role in implementing waste and other environmental programs within their jurisdictions.

EPA should pursue integrated waste management approaches for Tribal activities and consider these integration activities a high priority. These approaches should integrate both solid waste, as well as hazardous waste management programs. Regions should also work toward the following;

- Development of a hazardous waste inventory and cooperate with the Indian Health Service as it develops an inventory of open dumps,
- Pursue opportunities to afford Tribes flexibility in landfill design and operation. In addition, support, promote, and strengthen Tribal endeavors through the implementation of the national strategy on municipal solid waste once it is finalized,
- Development of effective partnerships in the Subtitle C Program to encourage work sharing arrangements between Regions and Tribes, as well as other Offices and Federal agencies, and
- Cooperate with HQ to develop a support mechanism for Tribes to provide training and/or technical assistance in areas such as mining and military munitions on tribal lands.

Tribal funding remains an Agency concern. The Regions should maximize resources provided directly to Tribes/Alaskan Native Villages, who will determine their priority initiatives within the basic RCRA framework. Tribal pilot projects should be a priority, and EPA Regions should coordinate these projects with the Regional Indian Program Managers to ensure that RCRA-related funding initiatives are matched with Tribal priorities described in EPA/Tribal Environmental Agreements.

The Regions should pursue opportunities to enhance our partnership with Tribes. In technical assistance, the Regions should work to integrate solid waste management, giving special attention to providing resources to assist the Tribes in both planning and implementing environmental codes and ordinances and developing organizational infrastructure for sustainable Tribal environmental programs. Further, HQ and the Regions should ensure that Tribal governments have every opportunity for participation in making decisions that directly affect the reservation populace and environment. Finally, the Agency should facilitate sharing of information on Tribal training opportunities, and EPA Regions should provide resources and technical assistance to Tribes to develop the capability to run environmental programs.

RCRA INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

EPA must have, at a Regional and National level, certain basic information to manage and track the RCRA Program. Our objective is to retrieve these data reliably from the Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System (RCRIS) and the Biennial Reporting System (BRS) in order to support RCRA Program goals which were developed for the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). The reporting of national RCRIS core elements is necessary to review and track RCRA Program progress toward GPRA goals.

Streamlining reporting requirements remains a priority, as efforts to reduce the complexity and burden of RCRA information management continue. However, we remain committed to measuring program success by tracking core elements.

HQ has committed to relying entirely on RCRIS for universe accomplishments. Because of this commitment, Regions and States should assure that information reflecting program milestones and environmental goals will be timely, accurate and complete in RCRIS. In addition, during FY 1998/1999 HQ, Regional, and State information resources should be targeted toward the

- Review and improve upon the current RCRA universes to assure a nationally consistent
- Develop a new review process in which proposed changes to the information management structure undergo evaluation (by an appointed review panel) to achieve consensus between affected users and ensure only credible changes are made,
- Collect and assure quality of data for the 1997 Biennial Report supported by;
 - initial full submissions of 1997 Biennial Report data to Region by July 1, 1998,
 - full submission of 1997 Biennial Report data to HQ by September 30, 1998,
 - completion of data quality assurance of 1997 Biennial Report data and final submissions to HQ by December 31, 1998, and
- Support the Waste Information Needs/Information Needs for Making Environmental Decisions (WIN/INFORMED) initiative.

WIN/INFORMED Initiative

The WIN/INFORMED initiative is a major EPA/State partnership effort to reassess and improve the processes for collecting, managing, and using hazardous waste information. WIN/INFORMED is striving to find out what information EPA, States, Tribes, industry, local communities, and other outside stakeholders actually need and use and revamping our information systems and processes to reflect these findings. Regions and States should participate in the following WIN/INFORMED activities for FY 1998 and FY 1999:

Detailed information gathering sessions targeting universe identification, program evaluation, waste activity monitoring, handler monitoring and assistance, and information sharing, and the review of draft core data elements and their corresponding specifications for these program areas.

Coordination between Regions and among States to prepare for the information gathering

sessions and the reviews of the reports, and

Design activities.

BEGINNING OF YEAR PLAN

In the past OSW and the Regions have used the Beginning of Year Plan (BYP) as a strategic planning tool. As we move to the GPRA environment, OSW is also examining this tool with respect to its structure, timing of issuance, and scope. As GPRA planning mandates begin in 1999, we view the 1998 BYP as a transition instrument and development of the 1998 BYP is ongoing.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION **STRATEGIES**

This Chapter presents the Environmental Priorities and Implementation Strategies that directly support the four primary program objectives of preventing waste generation, managing waste safely, cleaning up environmental contamination, and managing non-hazardous waste appropriately. These four areas are discussed in greater detail in the following four sections.

- A. Waste Minimization
- Managing Waste Appropriately. B.
- **Corrective Action Cleanup Program** C.
- D. RCRA Subtitle D Program

WASTE MINIMIZATION

EPA Goal: Safe Waste Management

Subobjective: By 2005, reduce the most persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic chemicals in hazardous waste streams by 50% as compared with a baseline year of 1991.

Subobjective: By 2005, achieve a 25% increase in the amount of hazardous waste safely recycled, relative to the amount safely recycled in 1993.

Persistent (P) chemicals generally do not break down in the environment. Bioaccumulative (B) chemicals tend to concentrate in animal and plant tissue. Highly toxic (T) chemicals present risk to human health and the environment even at very low concentrations. PBT chemicals, therefore, are of great concern regardless of how they are managed, and reducing the presence of these chemicals in waste will reduce their threat to human health and the environment.

EPA articulated the goal of reducing PBT chemicals in waste as part of the Waste Minimization National Plan (WMNP), released in 1994. The WMNP places particular emphasis on source reduction, followed by recycling, as preferred waste management strategies, and encourages increased efforts to prevent transfers of PBT chemicals from one medium to another. The WMNP's focus on chemicals, rather than on waste streams, enables and encourages multimedia waste minimization activities involving RCRA and other programs. EPA will use 1991 as the baseline year to account for earlier waste minimization progress and for data quality reasons.

Vision

Our vision is for Regions, States, and Tribes to use RCRA authorities, other authorities, and non-regulatory mechanisms to achieve measurable reductions in the quantity and toxicity of hazardous wastes, with special emphasis on reducing the presence of PBT chemicals in waste.

Strategies

Pursuant to the GPRA, EPA will measure and report national progress toward the PBT goal beginning in 2000. This goal and the reporting requirements related to it, present many challenges to EPA, States, and Tribes. However, a number of different activities are underway to assist in this effort. First, OSW is developing prioritization products to assist Regions, States, and Tribes in identifying PBT chemicals and in linking the chemicals with RCRA wastes. The products include: a Prioritized Chemical List with relative rankings of chemicals based on PBT; a crosswalk that will help identify which RCRA waste codes may contain these chemicals; a software package that will automate the identification of PBT chemicals and RCRA waste codes; and a shorter list of PBT chemicals (National Measurement List), derived from the Prioritized Chemical List, for national measurement and GPRA reporting. OSW will refine the products during Spring 1997 based on identified Regional, State, and Tribal needs, develop appropriate user support materials, and make the products and user support materials available through the RCRA Hotline (703-412-9810). OSW is interested in working with Regions, States, and Tribes to develop appropriate training on how to use the prioritization tools as well as discussing potential applications.

In parallel with the development of prioritization products, OSW will also be developing methods to measure progress toward our waste minimization goals. These include: a "waste stream measurement method" to track reductions in quantities of hazardous wastes containing chemicals on the National Measurement List (Summer 1997); and a "PBT measurement method" to track reductions of the PBT chemicals in wastes (early 1998).

Although we encourage Regions, States, and Tribes to undertake activities to reduce the presence in waste of chemicals on the National Measurement List, we recognize that some Regions, States, and Tribes may have already established waste minimization goals that are not completely synonymous with the National Measurement List. In addition, the first of the prioritization and measurement tools is only now becoming available. This guidance, therefore, is intended to be flexible and long-term. We see the next few years as transition years in which Regions, States, and Tribes will be moving toward activities that reduce PBT chemicals in wastes (or, in the short-term, that reduce wastes containing PBT chemicals) and toward quantitative measurement of these reductions.

In FY98, we encourage activities that move toward;

- Development of prioritization schemes focused on specific sectors, chemicals, waste streams, geographic locations, etc.,
- Activities to achieve reductions of these chemicals or waste streams in these sectors or geographic locations,
- Methods to measure reductions, and
- Use of the Prioritized Chemical List, the National Measurement List, the crosswalk; the software prioritization package, or other tools in development of prioritization schemes.

OSW also encourages Regions, States, and Tribes, regardless of their organizational structure, to identify multi-program priorities for waste minimization and to pursue options that prevent cross-media transfers of pollution. PBT chemicals in hazardous waste can be reduced through use of RCRA authorities, yet efforts can be strengthened and results can be greater when other media programs and authorities are also involved. Further, an increasing number of States and Tribes are choosing to explore Performance Partnership Grants and Agreements, which afford more multi-program activities than previous grant relationships. For States and Tribes adopting the PPA/PPG framework, Regions, States, and Tribes are encouraged to discuss waste minimization as part of the PPA mechanism.

Regions, States, and Tribes are encouraged to consider how their partnership can further waste minimization goals. For States and Tribes with waste minimization goals other than for PBT chemicals in hazardous waste, Regions should work to translate how the State or Tribal activities will relate to PBT reductions. In addition, Regions should consider whether there are opportunities during negotiations of other State and Tribal grants to focus on PBT's. Regions are also encouraged to identify or create incentives for States and Tribes to focus on PBT's.

Below are some examples of activities that Regions, States, and Tribes can take that will help transition toward PBT reductions and being able to quantitatively measure reductions (examples of Regions that have carried out these types of activities are included in parentheses). These examples are only a representative sample. OSW is currently developing a comprehensive list of examples for reference that will be available in April of 1997.

Qualitative examples:

- Identify State, Tribal and/or Regional concerns with specific PBT chemicals (Region 5's Virtual Elimination Project for Mercury) and use RCRA, other authorities, or voluntary efforts to target for waste minimization
- Feature general waste minimization efforts in SEPs (Region 7) or specifically address PBT chemicals in hazardous wastes
- Consider how the efforts of other media programs could/would influence hazardous waste generation, especially wastes containing PBT chemicals

Quasi-quantitative examples:

- Use BRS and other data to target facilities for waste reductions
- Identify the number of previously large quantity generators that are now small quantity generators (due to waste minimization efforts); and/or the number of previously small quantity generators that are no longer in the Subtitle C system (due to waste minimization efforts)
- Identify the number of permits completed that included a discussion of waste minimization options between the permit writer and company

Quantitative examples:

- Quantify reductions of wastes generated containing PBTs as a result of SEP's or other waste minimization activities
- Quantify reductions in PBTs in hazardous wastes for top generators or general reductions
- Measure reductions of a specific chemical of concern within a Region, State, or Tribe

MANAGING WASTE APPROPRIATELY

Goals and Objectives

The strategic goals for permit and closure activities at hazardous waste facilities are to; (1) demonstrate substantial progress in permitting land disposal and combustion facilities consistent with the priority ranking (as determined by NCAPS ranking) of the facilities, and (2) demonstrate substantial progress in reducing risks at inactive land disposal facilities.

These permitting goals are consistent with the Agency's proposed Subobjectives for strategic planning and GPRA for the safe management of hazardous waste; (1) By 2005, 90% of existing hazardous waste management facilities (based on the universe baseline from 1996) will have approved controls in place to prevent dangerous releases to air, soil, and groundwater, and (2) By 2005, reduce hazardous waste combustion facility emissions of dioxins and furans by 90%, particulate matter by XX%, and acid gases by XX% from levels emitted in 1994.

Strategies

The Permitting and Closure priorities for the next two years are:

- 1. Permit issuance at priority interim status land disposal and combustion facilities;
- 2. Permit renewals for priority land disposal and combustion facilities; and
- 3. Closure plan approval, post closure-permit issuance, or verification of closure activities at priority inactive land disposal facilities.

The top priority for the RCRA Program remains permitting of operating land disposal and combustion facilities. When deciding on priorities between the remaining two priority areas, the Regions and States should decide which activities provide the most environmental benefit and meets the long-term strategic goals discussed previously (90% of facilities have approved control in place, 90% emission reduction from hazardous waste combustion). We recognize that compliance and enforcement activities are important Regional and State functions that complement RCRA permitting activities. EPA has a separate guidance on implementation of the RCRA compliance and enforcement program. After Regions and States have permitted their operating land disposal and combustion facilities, work on priority (as determined by NCAPS ranking) treatment and storage facilities is appropriate.

Regions and States should implement activities to achieve both timely reduction of existing risk and long term prevention of future risks at facilities in the permitting universe. Regions and States should emphasize permitting of priority land disposal facilities, and combustion facilities. Of course, treatment and storage facility permits may be issued, but they should not be the focus of work when land disposal and combustion facilities remain unpermitted. Due to resource considerations, Regions and States will be given flexibility to determine how many facilities are targeted for these priority permitting activities. However, by 2005 we expect that 90% of the existing permit universe will have controls in place through either permits or approved closure activities.

States and Regions must choose how to handle lower priority facilities where activities are underway. If substantial work has been completed toward a permit activity, the most efficient choice may be to complete that activity. Regions and States should expedite action at priority facilities, even if this means deferring activity at lower priority facilities.

Regions and State should continue their permitting priorities for combustion facilities in accordance with the priority scheme included in the 1994 Waste Minimization and Hazardous Waste Combustion Strategy. This consists of giving higher priority to existing interim status facilities for which a final permit decision would result in the greatest environmental benefits to the surrounding communities or the greatest reduction in overall risk to the public. Regions and States should include permit renewals in this category if they meet the priority criteria. Low priority should continue to be given to those permit applications of new, non-replacement combustion facilities. Regions and States should continue to call in all outstanding permit

applications according to the permitting priority, but in a manner that would not trigger permitting time requirements which may divert resources away from the high priority permit actions.

The combustion permitting priorities may be affected by the Hazardous Waste Combustion MACT (Maximum Achievable Control Technology) Rule which is expected to go final in March of 1998. Permit modifications to accommodate the new MACT standards may become a significant work load in the combustion permitting area. The current implementation thinking for the MACT rule calls for a phase-in of the standards over three years. Guidance for implementing the MACT rule will likely be issued in 1998 and will include any adjustments to the combustion permitting priorities identified here.

Regions and States should continue to conduct a variety of activities to address environmental risk at priority inactive land disposal facilities. At some facilities, post-closure permits should be issued, while at others, environmental risk may be addressed using enforcement actions or State mechanisms. For previously permitted facilities, the permit should be extended to cover the post-closure care period. At unpermitted facilities, Regions and States should select the activity to address the facility based on site-specific factors including the financial status of the owner or operator, recalcitrance, and availability of suitable State mechanisms. The Agency expects to promulgate the RCRA Post Closure Rule in 1997, which will allow closure of certain regulated units as part of corrective action. In this case, the units will be flagged in the closure universe as having been referred to corrective action.

Measures

Final permit determinations, permit renewals, land disposal closure plan approvals, and verifications of facility closure are benchmarks for facilities as they meet their environmental obligations under RCRA. These activities are key measures for bringing facilities fully into the RCRA system and for ensuring that they fulfill their obligations throughout the life of the facilities. We understand that RCRIS may have to be modified to account for the verifications of facility closure.

CLEANUP SECTION

GPRA Objective and Subobjective

Objective 1: By 2005, EPA and its partners will conduct cleanup actions to reduce or control risks to human health and the environment at XX sites.

Subobjective: By 2005, 95% of high priority facilities will have human exposures controlled and 70% of high priority facilities will have groundwater releases controlled. A baseline will be developed in 1997.

Measures: RCRIS codes - Human Exposures Controlled Determination (CA725) and Groundwater Releases Controlled Determination (CA750).

Data Sources: RCRIS Database. Data will be entered by EPA Regions and authorized States. Data will be aggregated at the national level.

Human exposures controlled and groundwater releases controlled are results that can be achieved through interim measures such as stabilization activities or through implementation of a final remedy. Although these results are important milestones for cleanup programs, achieving these results does not imply that a facility is "cleaned up." Facilities are expected to continue stabilization and final cleanup even after they have achieved these milestones until the final cleanup standards have been met. The environmental indicators such as human exposures controlled and groundwater releases controlled represent new ways of measuring success in a program. There will be a period of adjustment, where the program needs to get familiar with using the indicators. Because there is not a great deal of implementation data as yet, changes may be needed for the 2005 target. Modifications to the existing indicator definitions may be required if it is determined that they are not tracking the interim results in the best way. There may also be additional indicators such as ecological exposures, non-groundwater releases, and meeting final cleanup standards that need to be developed to better cover the scope of results achieved by the program.

The subobjective addresses high priority facilities. This group includes those facilities that are identified as High NCAPS facilities in the Corrective Action Workload Universe and State priorities that may not be High NCAPS based on risk but are high cleanup priorities for other considerations such as environmental justice. A baseline list of these facilities will be developed in 1997. Finally, the program recognizes that there are some extremely large and complex sites that will not be able to achieve the indicators by 2005.

Activities: stabilization measures implemented, stabilization constructed complete, remedy selected, CMI constructed complete.

The GPRA Objective and Subobjective have been established to quantify progress toward meeting the overall goals of the program. Three primary goals have been identified for the RCRA cleanup up process: 1) to prevent or reduce the exposure of humans and ecological receptors to contamination; 2) to control the migration of contamination; and 3) to achieve a reduction in toxicity by meeting final cleanup up standards for the agreed upon land use of the facility. These goals are not hierarchical, but all are important components of the overarching goal of risk reduction.

The Agency is moving toward relying on performance measures instead of process measures to document the success of the program. The measures listed above have been identified to track progress against the Subobjectives. Additional national program measures currently tracked in RCRIS will continue to be used for management and reporting purposes. These additional

measures can also be included in the State/EPA performance partnership agreements, but identification of which specific measures are left to the discretion of the Regions and States. The program will work to better define results measures (particularly the development of ecological measures to track progress under goal 1).

Strategies -

The RCRA cleanup program is becoming a more results-based program. The strategies defined over the past five years stress the idea of leveraging all possible resources to achieve results and expedite the RCRA cleanup process. The program continues to use these strategies, emphasizing the use of innovative and flexible approaches to cleanup.

- 1. Stabilization remains the program's highest implementation priority. Actions taken under the stabilization initiative can result directly in achieving two of the goals listed above (i.e., prevented or reduced exposure and controlled migration of contaminants) and will move a facility toward achieving the third goal. Public participation needs to be considered during the implementation of the stabilization initiative. In cases where the stabilization effort is expected to be long-term, address the entire facility, or there is significant community concern, the public should be given the opportunity to comment on the remediation activity.
- 2. With the increasing emphasis on tracking performance and measuring results, accurate data entry is critical. In FY96, the program updated the National PARS reports. Implementers should review the reporting and linkage requirements in these new reports to insure that their data are correctly entered into RCRIS. Otherwise, the national reports will not capture the information.
- 3. The program will continue to focus on worst sites first (High NCAPS facilities). However, Agency initiatives, such as Brownfields, environmental justice, and community based environmental protection, are also priorities. Implementers should find a balance between work on High NCAPS facilities and other initiatives. The program has established guidance that recommends working on total of no more than 15% Medium and Low priority facilities where there are High priority facilities still unaddressed.
- 4. For all facilities that will remain in the Corrective Action Workload Universe, as currently defined in RCRIS, we should continue to complete assessments and rankings to allow the program to accurately describe our primary universe and show that resources are directed toward the highest priority facilities.
- 5. When utilizing HSWA permits and orders, Regions and authorized States should monitor compliance with corrective action requirements and take necessary action to enforce compliance with order and permit requirements.
- 6. As stated above, the program should leverage all possible resources to achieve the goals of the program. Several mechanisms are available to streamline and increase the pace of RCRA cleanup. Many of these, and additional areas of flexibility, are more fully discussed in the Subpart S Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (61 FR 19432 (May 1, 1996)):

- Working with owner/operators to implement priority stabilization actions as early in the process as possible;
- Encouraging the use of innovative technical tools, including new site characterization techniques and treatment technologies, especially for stabilization;
- Using performance standards to specify cleanup requirements in permits and orders, rather than reviewing and approving detailed plans;
- Communicating with owner/operators and public early in the process;
- Encouraging owner/operators to initiate appropriate cleanup actions voluntarily (i.e., without prior direction/approval including cases where there is no existing permit or order, and no oversight by regulators);
- Disinvesting or substantially scaling back oversight of lower priority sites, as well as certain High priority facilities where the owner/operator is capable and trustworthy;
- Working closely and effectively with other State/Federal agencies (e.g., State voluntary programs) to address corrective action, avoid duplicative oversight and work toward authorizing State RCRA Programs;
- Avoiding unnecessary procedural steps whenever feasible (e.g., eliminate the CMS if a
 desirable remedy can be identified without one);
- Using Superfund Presumptive remedy guidance when appropriate;
- Formally recognize in permits and orders, as appropriate, that remediation of contaminated media to a desired media cleanup standard is technically impracticable;
- Focusing investigations and cleanup actions based on the specific environmental priorities within the facility (e.g., stabilize the hot spots or off-site releases while investigating the rest of the site);
- Using the full range of implementation tools including alternative State authorities and RCRA enforcement authorities under §7003 and §3013. In addition, multimedia and cross-program approaches such as coordinating with the Superfund Program and using authorities under the CERCLA statute may help expedite investigation and cleanup;
- During the development of the HWIR rulemaking, the following existing policies and guidance documents were identified which can be used to support flexibility;
 - RCRA Section 3020 exemption for reinjecting groundwater,
 - Site-specific LDR Treatability variance,
 - The contained-in policy,
 - Streamlined permits (research and development demonstration and emergency permits),
 - Policy on treatment in 90-day accumulation tanks and containers.

RCRA SUBTITLE D PROGRAM

Overall Vision

National efforts to manage municipal solid waste (MSW) and related non-hazardous waste in 1998 and 1999 should be based on two related frameworks: first, the concept of integrated solid waste management, which holds that this waste stream requires a coordinated mix of strategies,

chosen according to the environmental, economic, and social situations and priorities of the individual jurisdictions.

Second, wherever feasible, preference should be given to strategies that maximize the diversion of waste from disposal facilities, with source reduction (including reuse) as the highest priority approach, followed by recycling (including composting). The other, less preferred approach is disposal, which includes combustion and landfilling.

National efforts for industrial non-hazardous waste in 1998 and 1999 should focus on the development and initial implementation of voluntary guidance addressing appropriate management standards for the reduction, recycling, and disposal of this huge waste stream. A guidance document will be developed in partnership with the States and with input from industrial and environmental stakeholders.

Roles and Relationships

Implementation of RCRA Subtitle D in 1998 and 1999, as in previous years, will rely on partnerships among EPA HQ, EPA Regions, States, Tribes, and local governments, with continued involvement by the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and the public. The EPA, State, and Tribal partnership is especially important for implementation of the MSW Landfill Criteria under Subtitle D and the Disposal Standards for the Receipt of CESQG Wastes at Non-Municipal and Non-Hazardous Waste Disposal Units, including approval of permitting programs.

The program areas described in this Guidance are those that require some level of Regional, State, Tribal, and local participation to be fully successful. Regions have a large degree of flexibility in responding to the programs outlined below and in determining the extent of their involvement, as well in negotiating roles with States, Tribes, and others. In developing their specific planning documents, Regions are encouraged to identify their own priorities, including those beyond the national initiatives noted here.

Objectives and Program Direction

The objectives for the RCRA non-hazardous solid waste program derive from the Agency's proposed RCRA commitments under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). The following section outlines the relevant GPRA Objectives and Subobjectives, and the priority program directions for FY 1998 and 1999 stemming from them, as well as several additional program directions underlying the overall solid waste program.

Safe Waste Management

RCRA Objective 2: By 2005, XX facilities will be managed according to practices that prevent releases to the environment.

<u>Subobjective</u>: By 2005, 100% of existing MSW disposal facilities in States and Tribes (based on the universe baseline from 1996) will have approved controls in place to prevent dangerous releases to air, soil, and groundwater.

Program direction: Work with States, Tribes, and the disposal industry to protect human health and the environment, through implementation of the MSW Landfill Criteria. Continue to develop and implement statutory and regulatory amendments as necessary to ensure safe management at landfills and Tribal sovereignty.

Subobjective: By 2005, XX% of facilities which dispose of non-hazardous industrial waste (based on the universe baseline from 1996) will have appropriate controls in place to prevent dangerous releases to air, soil, and groundwater.

Program direction: Work with the States, Tribes, industry, and the environmental community in implementing the recommendations in the voluntary guidance for industrial non-hazardous wastes. Implementation will mostly be in the form of advocating the guidance document and working with the stakeholders to provide an understanding of the recommended management practices. It will also be necessary to advocate the public involvement principles and the alternatives to industrial non-hazardous waste disposal (i.e., source reduction, recycling, and treatment).

RCRA Objective 4: By 2005, EPA and its partners will decrease the quantity of waste generated by XX% and the toxicity of waste generated by XX%.

<u>Subobjective</u>: By 2005, per capita generation of municipal solid waste will be reduced to the 1990 baseline level of 4.3 pounds per day.

<u>Subobjective</u>: By 2005, recycling, including composting, will divert over 35% of municipal solid waste from landfilling and combustion (increasing from the 1995 baseline of 26%).

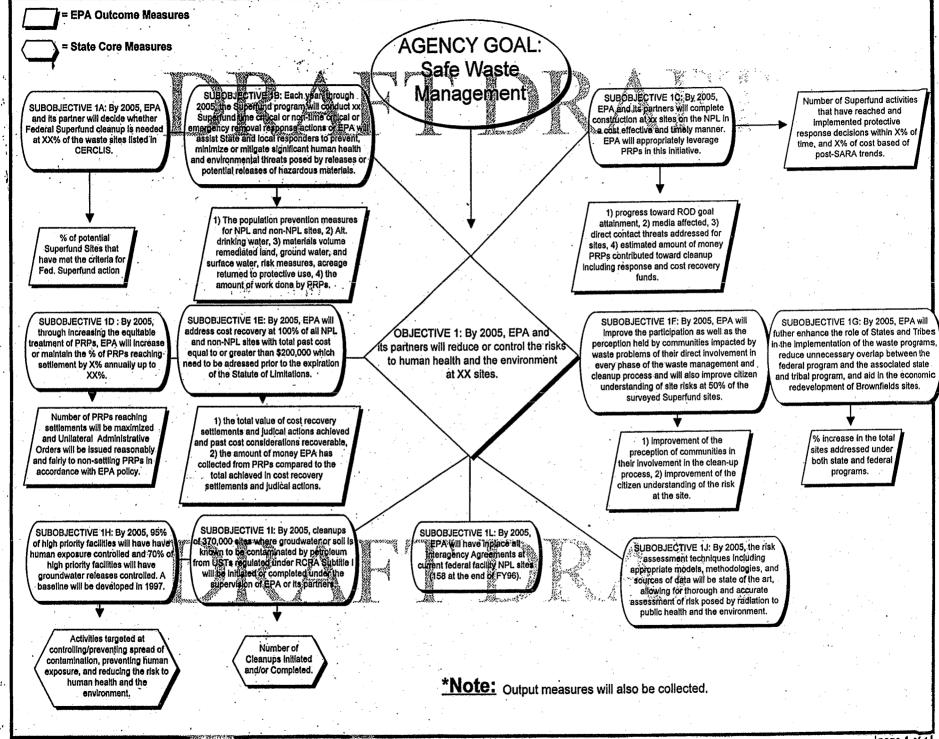
Program direction: Work with the business community to promote substantial reductions in commercial waste generation and continued increases in business recycling. Build on the success of voluntary, market-based initiatives, such as the WasteWi\$e partnership, and increase emphasis on such key municipal and related waste streams as construction and demolition debris, transport packaging, electronics, and small appliances, and on such emerging trends as extended product responsibility and design for reuse and recyclability.

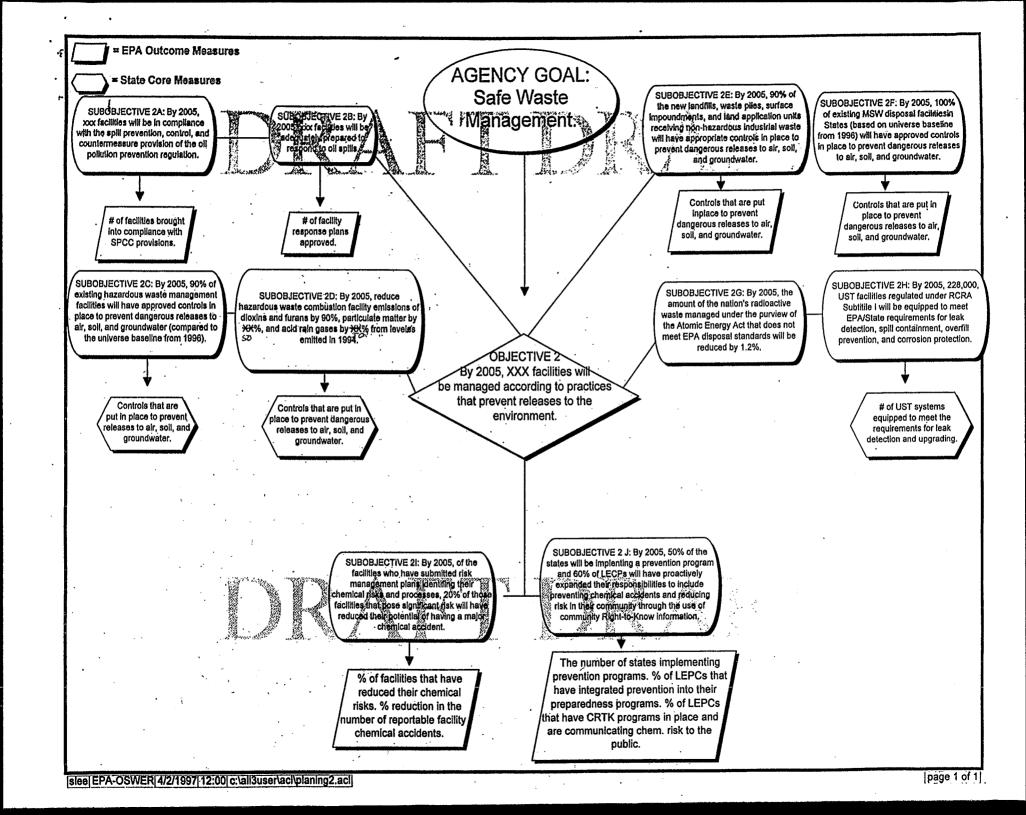
Program direction: Work with Federal, State, and Tribal agencies and the private sector to develop sustainable markets for recycled products, by building supportive economic development infrastructures, encouraging availability of financing, and fostering demand through 'buy recycled' programs. Implement the Administrator's Recycling Means Business Strategy, including such key components as the Jobs through Recycling program, the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines under RCRA Section 6002, and implementation of Executive Order 12873.

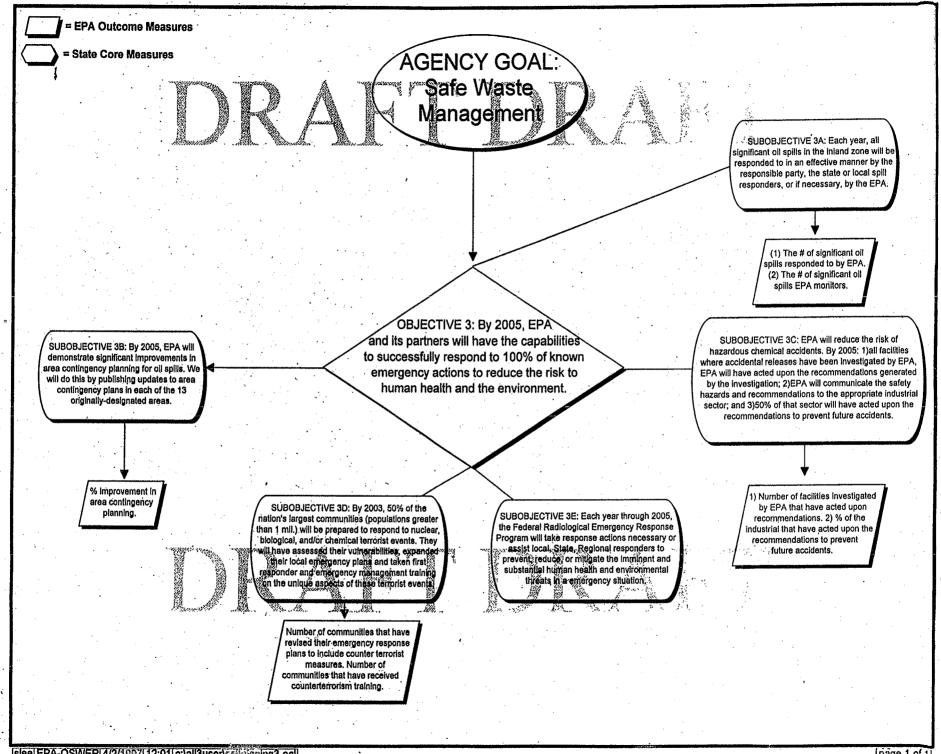
Additional Program Directions

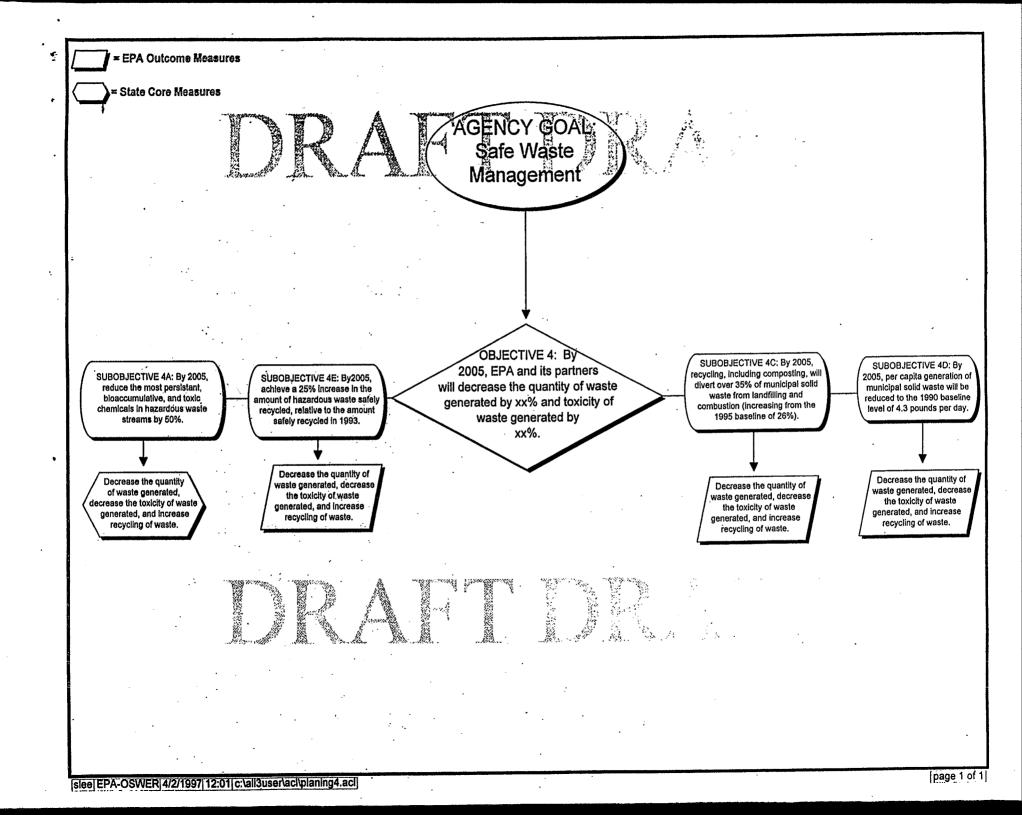
- Work with Tribes to strengthen their integrated waste management programs, including developing needed capabilities, closing inadequate landfills, and building source reduction and recycling programs. EPA will endeavor to provide Tribes flexibility in landfill design and operation similar to that available to approved States.
- Work with States, Tribes, and localities to develop models for cost-effective source reduction, reuse, recycling, and other programs, and
- Work with all levels of government, all sectors of industry, public interest groups, and citizens to develop and disseminate high quality data and information on important topics, such as;
 - the benefits and costs of waste management options,
 - costs and results of various program approaches, and
 - characterization of the national MSW waste stream and such priority industrial waste streams as construction and demolition debris and other waste streams that present good targets for success.

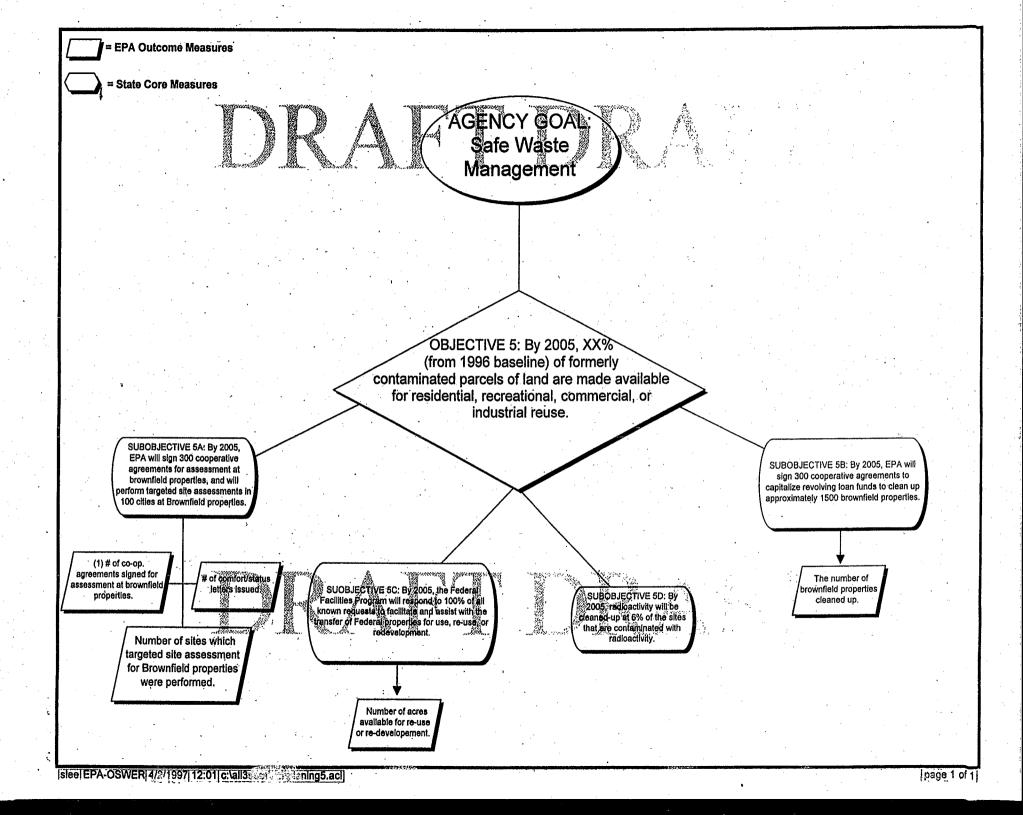
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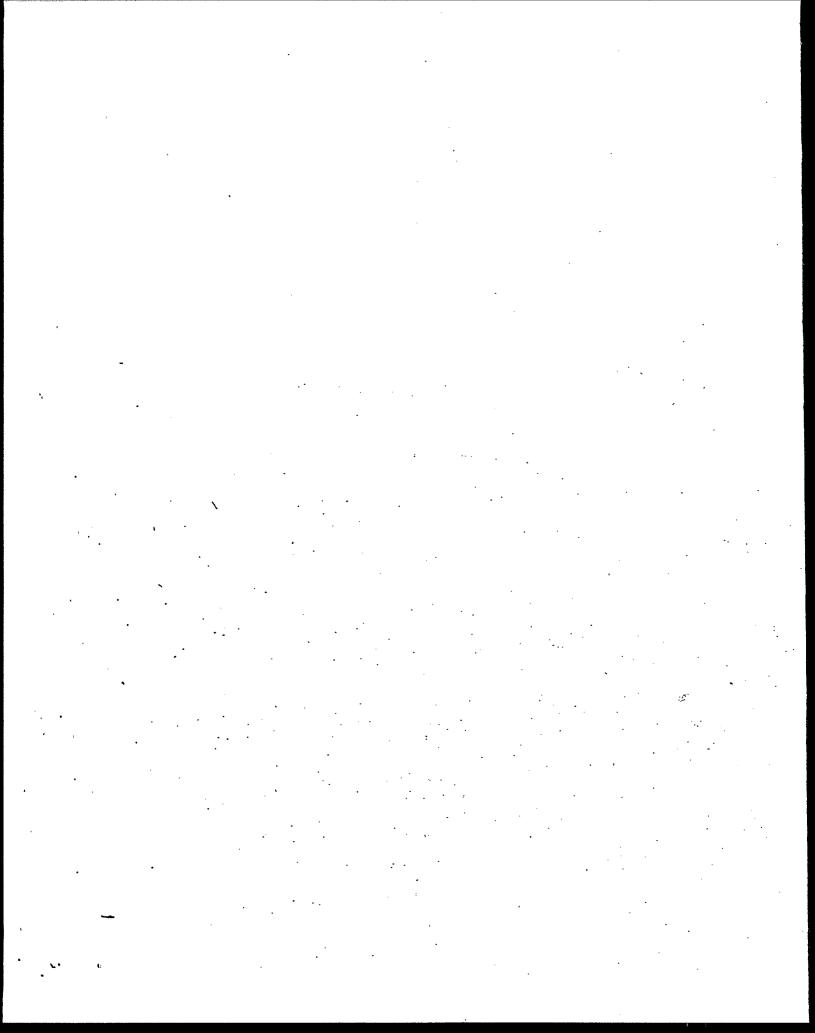












Environmental Goal

Safe Waste Management

Environmental Objective

By 2005, EPA and its partners will decrease the quantity of waste generated by XX% and the toxicity of waste generated by XX%.

Core Environmental Indicator

The States and EPA will work together to develop indicators of change in the condition of the soil, shallow groundwater, or ecosystems as appropriate.

Programmatic Objective

Reduce the most persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic compounds in our nation's hazardous waste streams by 50% as compared to the 1991 baseline year.

Core Program Outcome Measure

Decrease the quantity of waste generated, decrease the toxicity of waste generated, and increase recycling of waste.

Program Activity/Output Measure

Reduce toxicity of waste by reducing selected PBTs.

*see subobjective 4A

STATE GENERATED PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Environmental Goal

Safe Waste Management

Environmental Objective

By 2003, EPA and its partners will conduct Cleanup activities to reduce human health and the environment at XX sites.

Core Environmental Indicator

The States and EPA will work together to develop indicators of change in the condition of the soil, shallow groundwater, or ecosystems as appropriate.

Programmatic Objective

By 2005, cleanups of 370,000 sites where groundwater or soil is known to be affected with petroleum contamination from underground storage tanks (USTs) regulated under RCRA Subtitle I will be initiated or completed Under the supervision of EPA or its partners.

Core Program Outcome Measure

Number of Cleanups Initiated and/or completed.

Program Activities (Core Program Output Measure)

Number of confirmed Releases

Number of Emergency Responses Taken

^{*} See subobjective 1I

Environmental Goal

Safe Waste Management

Environmental Objective

By 2005, EPA and its partners will conduct cleanup actions to reduce or control risks to human health and the environment at XX sites.

Core Environmental Indicator

Human Exposures Controlled, Groundwater Releases Controlled

Programmatic Objective

By, 2005 95% (1950) of high priority facilities will have human exposures controlled and 70% of high priority facilities will have groundwater releases controlled. A baseline will be developed in 1997.

Core Program Outcome Measure

Activities targeted at controlling or preventing the spread of contamination, preventing human exposure to such releases, and reducing the risk to human health and the environment.

Program Activity/Output Measure

1) The number of facilities with stabilization actions. 2) Number of final remedy construction completions.

^{*} see subobjective 1H

Environmental Goal

Safe Waste Management

Environmental Objective

By 2005, xx facilities will be managed according to practices that prevent releases to the environment.

Core Environmental Indicator

The States and EPA will work together to develop indicators of change in the condition of the soil, shallow groundwater, or ecosystems as appropriate.

Programmatic Objective

By 2005, 90% of existing hazardous waste management facilities (based on 1996 universal baseline) will have approved controls in place to prevent dangerous releases to air, soil and groundwater.

Core Program Outcome Measure

Control that are put in place to prevent dangerous releases to air, soil, and groundwater.

Program Activity/Output Measure

1) Number and types of permits or approvals issued.

2) Number of closure plans approved for hazardous waste management facilities.

*see objective 2C

Environmental Goal

Safe Waste Management

Environmental Objective

By 2005, xx facilities will be managed according to practices that prevent releases to the environment.

Core Environmental Indicator

The States and EPA will work together to develop indicators of change in the condition of the soil, shallow groundwater, or ecosystems as appropriate.

Programmatic Objective

By 2005, reduce hazardous waste combustion facility emissions of dioxins and furans by 90% particulate matter by 50% and acid gases by 50% from levels emitted in 1994.

Core Program Outcome Measure

Control that are put in place to prevent dangerous releases to air, soil, and groundwater.

Program Activity/Output Measure

Number and types of permits or approvals issued.
 Number of closure plans approved for hazardous

waste management facilities

^{*}see objective 2D

Environmental Goal

Safe Waste Management

Environmental Objective

By 2003, XX facilities will be managed according to

preventive practices.

Core Environmental Indicator

Programmatic Objective

· By 2005, 228,000 underground storage tank (UST) facilities regulated under RCRA Subtitle I will be equipped to meet EPA/State requirements for leak detection, spill containment, overfill prevention, and corrosion protection.

Core Program Outcome Measure Number of UST Systems Equipped to Meet the Requirements for Leak Detection and Upgrading

Program Activities

(Core Program Output Measure) Total Number of Petroleum UST Systems

Number of Closed Petroleum UST Systems

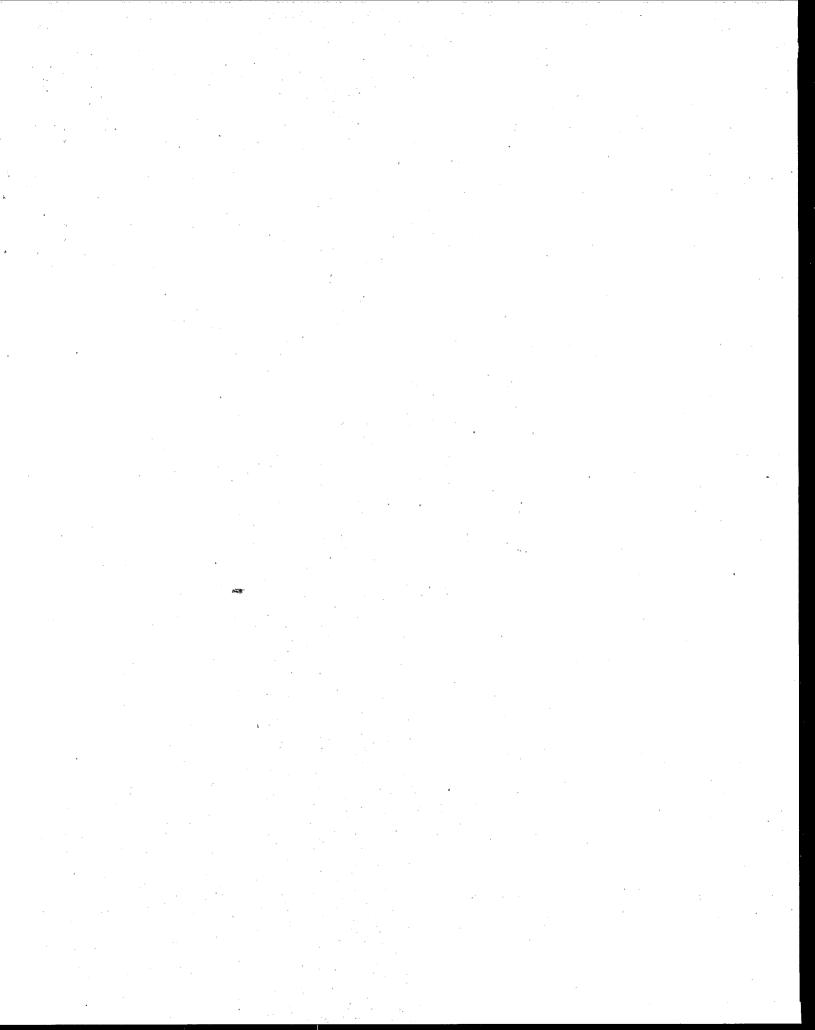
Total Number of Hazardous Substance UST Systems (active and closed)

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