



Environmental Fact Sheet

Capacity Assurance Planning and the 1991 Biennial Report

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund) Section 104(c)(9) requires that States receiving funds for remedial action provide capacity assurances deemed adequate by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). After October 17, 1989, EPA will only fund CERCLA remedial actions in States that have provided an assurance, through the Capacity Assurance Plan (CAP) process, that sufficient capacity would exist to manage hazardous waste generated in the State during the next 20 years.

Numerous States have urged EPA to require all States to base their capacity assurance analyses on a consistent set of data (in order to make comparisons across the country). In response, EPA has decided that the Biennial Report will be the primary data collection process for States to use in conducting their capacity assurance analyses. The Biennial Report is the national report that EPA compiles describing the demographics of, and trends in, hazardous waste generation and management. Under regulations promulgated in 1985, States are required to collect and submit to EPA complete biennial report data every two years.

Most States will use the 1991 EPA Hazardous Waste Report forms (also known as the biennial report forms) to satisfy both the biennial reporting requirements and the data requirements of the CAP. Therefore, it is important that generators, and treatment, storage, and disposal facilities complete these forms so that States are provided with all the data needed to prepare the capacity analyses in their CAPs and to fulfill biennial report requirements. Some States, however, may use their own forms to collect the same type of information. To assist these States, it is equally important that generators and facilities in these States complete whatever forms they do receive. Unless otherwise noted, all forms are due March 1, 1992.

The 1991 EPA Hazardous Waste Report forms contain the same waste information requested as previous years, including some CAP-supporting information. This information includes:

Identification information: EPA ID numbers, company name, location, generator status, mailing address, company contact, and certification.

Generation and management information for each waste stream: waste stream description, hazardous waste codes, quantity generated in reporting year, standard industrial classification codes, on-site system type and quantity of waste managed in each system, identification of off-site facilities and the system type and quantity of waste shipped to the facilities.

Generation and management information for each waste stream (CAP-supporting data elements): origin codes for each hazardous waste stream, hazardous waste form codes.

Information for each waste treatment, disposal, or recycling process system (CAP-supporting data elements): process system descriptions and status, maximum operational capacity, influent quantity, liquid effluent quantity, solid/sludge residual information, system capacity constraints, and planned capacity change.

EPA has made few changes to the 1991 forms. In addition to minor code changes and improved instructions, three new CAP-supporting data elements were added to the 1991 forms that were not included in the previous forms. The new data elements are:

Point of measurement (form GM-Section 1.G)

This will help determine which respondents are mixing or aggregating waste streams before measuring quantities.

RCRA-radioactive mixed waste (form GM-Section 1.I and form WR-H)

This will assist in identifying special demands on management capacity.

Off-site availability (form GM-Section 111.D)

This will provide additional data regarding waste that was shipped to States that do not use the EPA 1991 Hazardous Waste Report.

Help in completing the Federal forms is available at 1-800-283-8489. This toll-free number will operate until April 30, 1992.