United States Environmental Protection Agency Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response



DIRECTIVE NUMBER:

9355.0-16

TITLE: Superfund Slowdown

APPROVAL DATE:

May 30, 1986

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Immediately

ORIGINATING OFFICE:

Ass't Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response

FINAL

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STATUS:

REFERENCE (other documents):

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

OSWER DIRECTIVE 9355.0-16

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Superfund Slowdown

FRCM: J. Winston Porter

Assistant Administrator

TO: Regional Administrators

Regions I-X

Our authority to use the \$150 million Superfund interim appropriation expires on May 31, 1985. I am pleased to report that we have fully and effectively utilized these funds. Unfortunately, we are now back to an extremely tight financial situation.

The Superfund Conterence Committee has made substantial progress in recent weeks, and there are grounds for optimism for near-term reauthorization. However, in the meantime we need to institute another slowdown. The plan you should use is as follows:

- 1. There will be no new RI/FS, RD, or RA starts.
- 2. There will be no incremental remedial funding.
- 3. There will be a \$2 million per month emergency response program in June and July. This is approximately the level we were at prior to April; it will allow us to fund those new removals that pose an immediate and significant risk of harm to human health or the environment. Whenever you fund a removal action for over \$250 thousand, please notify the Emergency Response Division by phone or L-Mail within 24 hours. This is the same procedure we followed previously and will allow us to monitor closely our limited balance. Additional instructions on Regional removal allowances will be forthcoming.

In late June we will reassess the situation with respect to reauthorization. In the meantime, there is still a considerable amount of productive work that can be accomplished. The funding limitations should not affect our

ability to maintain an aggressive enforcement effort in negotiations/ settlements/litigation for responsible party response or cost recovery and in responsible party oversight. We should also focus our energies on bringing RI/FSs to their scheduled completions and getting the RODs/ EDDs signed.

I know that it is increasingly difficult and frustrating to operate in an environment of such uncertainty. I appreciate your perseverance and cooperation and hope with you that we will have reauthorization before much longer.

cc: Lee Thomas
Jim Barnes
Howard Messner
Rob Cahill
Henry Longest
Gene Lucero
Waste Management Division Directors, Regions I-X