

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



# Environmental Fact Sheet

## AMENDMENTS TO CAMU RULE PROPOSED

*The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to amend the 1993 Corrective Action Management Unit (CAMU) rule to provide additional detail to the framework for managing hazardous clean-up wastes in CAMUs. This proposal is intended to make the Agency's general expectations for CAMUs clearer, and the CAMU process more consistent and predictable, as well as more explicit for the public. In these proposed amendments, the Agency seeks to achieve the proper balance between providing national minimum standards while retaining the flexibility that is necessary to make site-specific CAMU decisions.*

### Background

In 1993, EPA issued the CAMU rule under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). This rule was intended to provide a protective framework for making hazardous waste cleanups easier, faster, and less expensive by alleviating some of the regulatory burdens associated with full-scale hazardous waste management. The CAMU rule primarily accomplished this by establishing general performance standards while providing relief from RCRA's Land Disposal Restrictions (LDRs) treatment standards and the minimum technology requirements (MTRs) associated with the design of land disposal units.

The CAMU rule granted considerable flexibility to the Agency and the states to specify site-specific standards for managing hazardous waste and hazardous media from cleanups in on-site land-based units. Although the rule received broad support, it was challenged in court. The petitioners were troubled by, among other things, the lack of explicit waste treatment and unit design requirements for CAMUs.

Since 1993, the CAMU lawsuit has been stayed while the Agency undertook a series of actions to address the issue of how hazardous wastes are managed during cleanups. In February 2000, the Agency entered into a settlement agreement that calls for these proposed amendments to be issued by August 2000, and for final regulations by October 2001.

## Action

Following are the primary proposed changes to the 1993 CAMU rule.

- ! Clarification of the types of wastes that may be managed in a CAMU to distinguish more clearly between wastes resulting from industrial processes and cleanup.
- ! Modification of the CAMU design standards to include performance standards for caps, and for new units, minimum design standards for liners.
- ! Establishment of treatment requirements for wastes placed in CAMUs for permanent disposal. Waste that contains “principal hazardous constituents” must meet a minimum treatment standard, or a site-specific adjusted standard.
- ! Modification of the information submission requirements for CAMU applications.
- ! Establishment of new design and operation requirements for CAMUs that are used for treatment and/or storage of cleanup wastes (as opposed to permanent disposal).
- ! Provisions for “grandfathering” existing CAMUs, and CAMUs substantially in the approval process by a certain date.
- ! Establishment of authorization approaches to allow states that are already authorized for the CAMU rule to continue to implement CAMUs with a minimum of disruption.

Comments will be accepted on the proposal for 60 days following publication in the *Federal Register*.

## For More Information

This fact sheet, and related documents are available on the Internet at <<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/ca/resource/guidance/remwaste/camu>>. For additional information or to order paper copies of any documents, call the RCRA Hotline. Callers within the Washington Metropolitan Area must dial 703-412-9810 or TDD 703-412-3323 (hearing impaired). Long-distance callers may call 1-800-424-9346 or TDD 1-800-553-7672. The RCRA Hotline operates weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Address written requests to: RCRA-Docket@epa.gov or RCRA Information Center (5305W), US EPA, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460.