

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Ground Water

What Is It?

Ground water is water that naturally flows through and is retained in soil and rock bodies beneath the land. It is a major source of drinking water and of water used for agriculture in the United States. Almost half of this country's population depends upon ground water for some or all of its drinking water.



Contamination

Ground-water contamination can occur when liquids (usually rainwater) move through waste disposal sites, carrying pollutants with them, and into the ground water. The resulting mixture of liquid and pollutant is called leachate. Once contaminated, ground water is expensive and difficult to clean up. All new hazardous waste disposal sites are equipped with leachate collection systems.

Protection

RCRA regulations require ground-water monitoring, which detects early signs of contaminants leaching from hazardous waste disposal facilities. The most common monitoring device is a well from which samples of water are taken and analyzed for hazardous constituents.

RCRA regulations also require hazardous waste landfill and surface impoundment facilities to install double liners to protect against ground-water contamination. Liners are continuous layers of natural or synthetic materials, such as clay or plastic, that are placed beneath or on the sides of a landfill or surface impoundment and restrict the escape of hazardous waste into ground water.

Subtitle D: Municipal And Industrial Solid Waste

RCRA also covers municipal solid waste (MSW) and nonhazardous industrial waste. MSW is common garbage or trash generated by homes, industries, and commercial and institutional offices. Industrial nonhazardous wastes are wastes and wastewaters generated by manufacturing processes that are not considered to be hazardous.



Communities across the United States currently generate more than 200 million tons of MSW every year. This amount averages to about 4 pounds per person per day. EPA encourages individuals and businesses to “reduce, reuse, and recycle” to decrease the amount of waste generated. EPA promotes a hierarchy of waste management options for businesses and municipalities, as follows:

1. The best option is to not generate waste in the first place or to reuse what you already have. This is known as **source reduction** or **waste prevention**. For example, individuals can prevent waste by leaving grass clippings on the lawn and by buying items with less packaging, such as bulk foods. Reusing items, such as bags and containers, instead of throwing them away reduces waste. Companies can buy reusable items, such as pallets, instead of disposable ones.
2. The second best option is **recycling** or **composting**. Many types of glass, paper, plastic, metal, and other assorted materials are recyclable. That means that it is technologically feasible for these materials to be broken down and remade into new prod-



ucts. To make this type of manufacturing economically feasible, people also need to buy products that are made from recycled materials. Many companies are recycling these types of materials, and common consumer goods are available with recycled content. Many municipalities and companies are also producing compost, a soil amendment, from yard trimmings from residents.

3. The final option for those materials that are not easily recyclable or compostable is disposal, either **landfilling** or **combustion** (preferably with energy recovery).

Approximately 60 percent of MSW is disposed of in landfills. Unlike their hazardous waste counterparts, federal MSW regulations do not require the treatment of waste before disposal. Although much of MSW consists of paper, aluminum cans, plastics, and other nontoxic items, some components, including batteries, and certain household products, such as cleaners, paints, stains, and pesticides, can present potential risks when improperly disposed of.

The Subtitle D program focuses on establishing standards, or criteria, for municipal solid waste landfills to ensure the safe management of MSW. The federal standards address the design, operation, and closure of MSW landfills. They impose restrictions on where such landfills may be located (e.g., not in a floodplain), and they require liners and ground-water monitoring. In addition, when these landfills become full, their closure is governed by specific procedures, as well as financial assurance requirements to pay for such operations.

What Is in MSW?

Nationwide, MSW contains large percentages of paper and yard trimmings and a smaller percentage of metals, glass, plastics, food scraps, and other materials such as rubber, leather, textiles, and wood. Construction and demolition debris, automobile bodies, or municipal sewage are among the materials that are not considered MSW, according to the Agency's definition. Some states define the components somewhat differently.

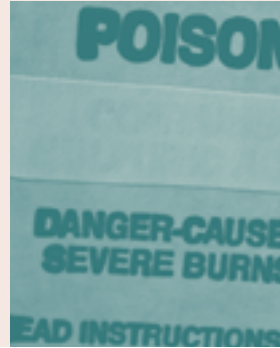
These federal standards are designed to be self-implementing by the owner or operator of a facility. State and tribal regulatory agencies provide the primary oversight and issue permits. EPA works with states and tribes to ensure that landfills continually minimize risks from waste.

Another category of Subtitle D waste is called industrial solid waste or industrial nonhazardous waste. This waste is not considered MSW or hazardous waste under Subtitle C. Each year, approximately 12,000 manufac-

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

Households often discard many common items that contain hazardous constituents, such as paints, stains, oven cleaner, motor oil, batteries, and pesticides. If these items were generated in large quantities by a business or manufacturing facility, they might be regulated as a hazardous waste. Individuals generating these types of waste from their homes are exempt, however, from the hazardous waste regulations. Certain other types of residences are exempt as well, such as motels, hotels, and campgrounds. The average household in the United States generates about 20 pounds of HHW per year.

To reduce the risks of disposing of these items in MSW landfills or incinerators, many communities have established HHW collection programs. These programs aggregate HHW and ensure its safe disposal in facilities designed to treat or dispose of hazardous waste. More than 3,000 collection programs have been documented in all 50 states.



Manufacturing facilities generate and manage an estimated 7.6 billion tons of industrial solid waste (about 97 percent in the form of wastewater) on site in surface impoundments, landfills, land application units, and waste piles. Most non-hazardous industrial waste is managed in surface impoundments.



Making RCRA Work

Three additional elements to the RCRA program provide strength and extra insurance to minimize risks from waste: monitoring, corrective action for environmental cleanups, and enforcement.

Monitoring

For EPA's Subtitle C program to be effective, all regulated groups must comply. To ensure compliance, state or federal officials inspect and monitor facilities regularly and take enforcement measures when necessary.

Inspection of a site is one of the RCRA program's most important monitoring tools. An inspection is required of all TSDFs at least once every 2 years and annually for state and federal facilities. During an inspection, regulatory personnel generally review the company's records, assess the facility's operating methods, and take waste samples, if needed. In particular, inspectors check for compliance with ground-water monitoring requirements, proper handling and labeling of wastes, and assurance of financial responsibility. If a facility is not complying with RCRA regulations, EPA or the state takes enforcement action.

Corrective Action

Despite RCRA's numerous precautions to prevent the release of hazardous waste into the environment, accidents still happen, and contamination persists from past mismanagement of these wastes. EPA estimates that between 50 and 70 percent of all TSDFs have some degree of environmental contamination requiring detailed investigation and perhaps cleanup. Under a program entitled Corrective Action, EPA has the statutory authority to require permitted and interim status TSDFs to clean up hazardous waste contamination. In addition, EPA also may use a "catch-all" statutory provision to require corrective action at any type of facility, such as generator sites, to ensure that all waste released into the environment is cleaned up in a timely manner.

To achieve necessary cleanups, facilities investigate environmental contamination and take remedial action to correct any problems associated with releases that may occur. Similarly, releases of materials from MSW landfills and USTs also occur. The RCRA regulations in these program areas also feature specific provisions and procedures to ensure necessary corrective action.

Enforcement

Enforcement may include civil and criminal penalties, orders to correct the violations, fines, and/or imprisonment. For minor violations, EPA or the state agency often notifies the facility through a letter or phone call that it is not in compliance and that legal actions will be taken if the owner or operator does not comply within a certain time period. For severe or recurrent violations, EPA or the state can levy a penalty on the owner or operator of up to \$27,500 per day for each day the facility fails to comply past the specified deadline. EPA or the state can also suspend the facility's permit to operate and can bring a criminal suit against a facility's owner or operator. Examples of potential criminal violations of RCRA include falsifying information on a manifest, report, or permit; transporting waste either without a manifest or to a facility without a permit; and disposing of hazardous waste without a permit. Furthermore, if a facility deliberately violates RCRA, thus endangering human health and the environment, the violator could receive up to 15 years in prison and a maximum \$250,000 fine.

On the other hand, to alleviate the use of time-consuming and expensive criminal and civil sanctions, EPA has established policies to allow more flexibility in the enforcement process, giving businesses the opportunity to mitigate

penalties for noncompliance and offering incentives for self-policing and self-auditing. EPA's enforcement strategy gives states the flexibility to create their own enforcement policies up front. One of EPA's new initiatives encourages both large and small facilities to voluntarily audit themselves, to disclose instances of noncompliance, and to make good faith efforts to promptly correct the violations in return for a reduction of applicable penalties. Similarly, when EPA does take enforcement action against a business, the Agency may include in the settlement or enforcement action provisions allowing the facility to conduct supplemental and beneficial environmental projects in order to mitigate penalties for noncompliance.

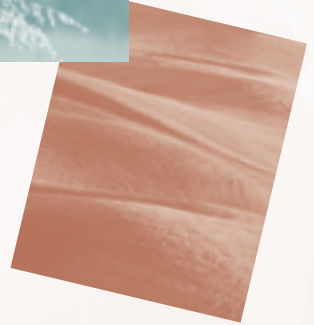
Conclusion

RCRA is a response to a complex environmental management issue—one that is ultimately connected to the way our country operates, its heavy reliance on industrial production, and our technologically sophisticated lifestyles. As long as we demand the products that generate these wastes, we will need well-designed and well-operated facilities and sound alternatives for waste management. Technological change, population growth, and economic expansion present added environmental challenges. The cooperation of industry, government, and the public will ensure that these challenges are met.

The management of hazardous waste is a dynamic process that is continually being refined and updated based on new research, technology, and regulations. Since RCRA was enacted in 1976, substantial progress has been made in promoting a clean and safe environment while maintaining our nation's manufacturing and industrial strength. EPA continually works to protect the environment, while also achieving the following:

- Reduced administrative burdens on generators.
- Increased avenues for public participation.
- Increased flexibility to the regulated sectors for complying with RCRA requirements.
- Multimedia modeling, risk assessment technologies, and other state-of-the-art scientific practices.

We plan to continue pursuing partnerships with states, tribes, industry, and the public.





Related Environmental Laws

RCRA is one of a series of laws regulating potentially harmful substances in the environment. These laws were developed at different points in time and reflect concerns about particular issues such as ground-water protection, water quality, air quality, and worker safety. Some laws address the same hazardous substances at different points in their existence. For example, RCRA may regulate the disposal of a particular hazardous waste, while the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) protects workers who are exposed to that same substance in the workplace. In another example, RCRA exempts certain wastewater treatment units from hazardous waste permit requirements, since these units are permitted under the Clean Water Act. Because the concerns addressed by these laws sometimes overlap, EPA works with the states and other federal agencies to help ensure that all aspects of environmental protection are well coordinated. EPA, in conjunction with other federal and state agencies, also attempts to identify and address areas not covered by existing laws.

Some of the environmental laws addressing hazardous substances include:

- *Atomic Energy Act* (EPA, U.S. Department of Energy, and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission)—regulates nuclear energy production and nuclear waste disposal.
- *Clean Air Act* (EPA)—limits the emission of hazardous pollutants into the nation's air.
- *Clean Water Act* (EPA)—regulates the discharge of hazardous pollutants and sewage sludge into the nation's surface waters.

- *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund)* (EPA)—provides for the cleanup of inactive and abandoned hazardous waste sites.
- *Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act* (EPA)—addresses the storage of chemicals in communities, planning for accidental releases, and the availability of information on releases of toxic wastes to the public.
- *Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act* (EPA)—regulates the registration and use of pesticides.
- *Hazardous Materials Transportation Act* (DOT)—governs the transportation of hazardous waste and materials.
- *Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act* (EPA)—addresses waste disposal at sea.
- *Occupational Safety and Health Act* (U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration)—regulates hazards in the workplace, including worker exposure to hazardous substances.
- *Pollution Prevention Act* (EPA)—focuses on reducing the amount of pollution at the source and promoting recycling.
- *Safe Drinking Water Act* (EPA)—limits contaminant levels in drinking water.
- *Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act* (U.S. Department of the Interior)—regulates the environmental aspects of mining (particularly coal) and reclamation.
- *Toxic Substance Control Act* (EPA)—regulates the manufacture, use, and disposal of certain chemical substances.



CFR Guide to Hazardous and Solid Waste Regulations

To review the RCRA regulations related to the specific topics covered in this booklet, consult the following citations in Title 40 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*:

- Part 240—Guidelines for the thermal processing of solid wastes.
- Part 241—Guidelines for the land disposal of solid wastes.
- Part 243—Guidelines for the storage and collection of residential, commercial, and institutional solid waste.
- Part 256—Guidelines for development and implementation of state solid waste management plans.
- Part 257—Criteria for classification of solid waste disposal facilities and practices.
- Part 258—Criteria for MSW landfills.
- Part 260—Hazardous waste management system: general.
- Part 261—Identification and listing of hazardous waste.
- Part 262—Standards applicable to generators of hazardous waste.
- Part 263—Standards applicable to transporters of hazardous waste.
- Part 264—Standards for owners and operators of hazardous waste and specific types of hazardous waste management facilities.

- Part 265—Interim status standards for owners and operators of hazardous waste TSDFs.
- Part 266—Standards for the management of specific hazardous wastes and specific types of hazardous waste management facilities.
- Part 268—LDRs.
- Part 270—EPA administered permit programs: the Hazardous Waste Permit Program.
- Part 271—Requirements for authorization of state hazardous waste programs.
- Part 272—Approved state hazardous waste management programs.
- Part 273—Standards for universal waste management.
- Part 279—Standards for the management of used oil.
- Part 280—Technical standards and corrective action requirements for owners and operators of USTs.
- Part 281—Approval of state USTs.
- Part 282—Approved UST programs.



CORROSIVES



For More Information

To obtain additional information, contact the following resources:

EPA Resources:

RCRA/Superfund/EPCRA Hotline

RCRA/Superfund/EPCRA Hotline

401 M Street, SW.

Washington, DC 20460

Phone: 800 424-9346 or TDD 800 553-7672

In Washington, DC: 703 412-9810 or TDD 703 412-3323

Answers questions on matters related to solid and hazardous waste.

RCRA Docket Information Center (RIC)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

RCRA Docket Information Center (5305G)

401 M Street, SW.

Washington, DC 20460

Phone: 703 603-9230

Fax: 703 603-9234

E-mail: rcra-docket@epamail.epa.gov

Home Page: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer>

Provides public access to all regulatory materials on solid waste and distributes technical and nontechnical information on solid waste.

Small Business Ombudsman Clearinghouse/Hotline

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Small Business Ombudsman (1230C)

401 M Street, SW.

Washington, DC 20460

Phone: 800 368-5888

Fax: 703 305-6462

Helps private citizens, small businesses, and smaller communities with questions on all program aspects within EPA.

Pollution Protection Information Clearinghouse (PPIC)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Pollution Protection Information Clearinghouse

401 M Street, SW. (7409)

Washington, DC 20460

Phone: 202 260-1023

Fax: 202 260-4659

E-mail: ppic@epamail.epa.gov

Provides a library and an electronic bulletin board (accessible by any PC equipped with a modem) dedicated to information on pollution prevention.

EPA Information Resources Center

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Headquarters Library

401 M Street, SW., Room M 2904

Washington, DC 20460

Phone: 202 260-5922

Fax: 202 260-6257

E-mail: library-HQ@epamail.epa.gov

Maintains environmental reference materials for EPA staff and the general public, including books, journals, abstracts, newsletters, and audio-visual materials generated by government agencies and the private sector. Also provides access to online computer service bulletin boards and CD-ROM systems.

Other Resources:

National Response Center

Phone: 800 424-8802

TSDF owners or operators should call this number to report an emergency.

Emergencies could include fires, explosions, or other release of hazardous waste from a facility that could threaten human health. Emergencies also include spills that could reach surface water. The Response Center will evaluate the situation and help make appropriate emergency decisions.

EPA Regional Offices:

EPA Region 1

(Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont)

Hazardous Waste Programs

JFK Federal Building

Boston, MA 02203-2211

Phone: 617 565-3420

Library Phone: 617 565-3300 or 800 372-5427

Home Page: <http://www.epa.gov/region.01>

EPA Region 2

(New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands)

RCRA Compliance Branch

290 Broadway, 21st Floor

New York, NY 10007-1866

Phone: 212 637-3000

Library Phone: 212 637-3185

Home Page: <http://www.epa.gov/region.02>

EPA Region 3

(Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia)

Hazardous Waste Management Division

841 Chestnut Street

Philadelphia, PA 19107

Phone: 215 566-5000 or 215 566-3110

Library Phone: 215 566-5364

Home Page: <http://www.epa.gov/region.03>

EPA Region 4

(Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee)

RCRA Branch

Atlanta Federal Center

61 Forsyth Street, SW.

Atlanta, GA 30303

Phone: 404 562-8440

Library Phone: 404 562-8190

Home Page: <http://www.epa.gov/region.04>

EPA Region 5

(Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin)

Waste, Pesticides, and Toxics Division

77 West Jackson Boulevard

Chicago, IL 60604

Phone: 312 353-2000 or 312 886-7435

Library Phone: 312 353-2022

Home Page: <http://www.epa.gov/region.05>

EPA Region 6

(Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas)

Hazardous Waste Enforcement Branch

1445 Ross Avenue

Dallas, TX 75270

Phone: 214 655-6444

Library Phone: 214 665-6424

Home Page: <http://www.epa.gov/region.06>

EPA Region 7

(Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska)

Hazardous Waste Branch

726 Minnesota Avenue

Kansas City, KS 66101-2728

Phone: 913 551-7000

Library Phone: 913 551-7241

Home Page: <http://www.epa.gov/region.07>

EPA Region 8

(Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota)

Pollution Prevention Division

One Denver Place

999 18th Street, Suite 500

Denver, CO 80202-2466

Phone: 303 312 6312

Home Page: <http://www.epa.gov/region.08>

EPA Region 9

(Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Guam)

Superfund/Hazardous Waste Division

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

Phone: 415 744-1305 or 415 744-1730

Library Phone: 415 744-1500

Home Page: <http://www.epa.gov/region.09>

EPA Region 10

(Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington)

Waste and Chemical Management Branch

1200 Sixth Avenue

Seattle, WA 98101

Phone: 206 553-1200

Library Phone: 206 553-1289

Home Page: <http://www.epa.gov/region.10>

Glossary

The following acronyms and words are used throughout the document.

Acronyms

These acronyms are defined below under their full names.

CESQG	Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
HHW	Household Hazardous Waste
LDR	Land Disposal Restrictions
LQG	Large Quantity Generator
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SQG	Small Quantity Generator
TRI	Toxics Release Inventory
TSDF	Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility
UST	Underground Storage Tank

Definitions

Characteristic Wastes—Wastes can be defined as a hazardous waste if they exhibit one or more of the following characteristics: ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, and toxicity. Those that possess these characteristics are known as characteristic wastes.

Code of Federal Regulations—This document codifies all the rules made by the executive departments and agencies of the federal government. It is divided into 50 volumes, known as titles, that represent broad areas subject to federal regulation. **Title 40** of the CFR (referenced as 40 CFR) lists all environmental regulations, including those discussed in this document.

Composting—The natural biological decomposition of organic material in the presence of air to form a humus-like material. Controlled methods of composting include mechanical mixing and aerating or placing the compost in open air

piles and mixing or turning it periodically. Homeowners can also compost waste in their backyards to help reduce the amount of waste going to landfills.

Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator—Generators of less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per calendar month are known as CESQGs. These are subject to only minimal regulations.

Corrective Action—The process of remediating or cleaning up a spill or release of contaminants into the environment.

Generator—Any person or business that produces hazardous waste or first causes hazardous waste to become subject to RCRA regulations. Generators include small or large businesses, manufacturing plants, or other facilities. Generators are subject to specific hazardous waste regulations.

Hazardous Waste—Wastes that meet EPA's definition for solid waste and possess the characteristics of ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity (as defined by RCRA) or are included on an EPA list of hazardous wastes are considered to be hazardous.

Hazardous Waste Minimization—Reducing the amount or toxicity of waste produced by a generator, by either source reduction or environmentally sound recycling.

Household Hazardous Waste—Items such as paints, stains, oven cleaner, motor oil, and batteries are commonly disposed of in the trash by households. While these items are not regulated as hazardous waste, they contain hazardous constituents. HHW refers to items such as these that can be disposed of in MSW landfills but are often collected by communities and managed as hazardous waste.

Land Disposal Restrictions—These rules require that hazardous wastes be treated before they are land disposed to destroy or immobilize hazardous constituents that might otherwise migrate into soil and ground water.

Landfills—Specially designed disposal units for disposal of hazardous or solid waste. Modern landfills generally have double synthetic liners to prevent releases and are covered and maintained when the landfills are no longer used.

Large Quantity Generator—Generators that produce more than 2,200 pounds (1,000 kilograms) of hazardous waste per calendar month (about five full 55-gallon drums) are considered to be LQGs. They must follow certain regulations.

Listed Wastes—Specific wastes determined by EPA to be hazardous and published in EPA lists are called listed wastes. These lists are organized into three categories: source-specific wastes, nonspecific source wastes, and commercial chemical products.

Manifest—A multicopy shipping form used to identify the type and quantity of waste, the generator, the transporter, and the TSDF to which the waste is being shipped. The manifest includes copies for all participants in the waste shipment chain and is often obtained from the state agency.

Municipal Solid Waste—Discarded material, such as common garbage or refuse generated by industries, commercial and institutional facilities, and homes.

Nonhazardous Industrial Waste—Wastes and wastewaters from manufacturing facilities regulated under Subtitle D that are not considered to be MSW, hazardous waste, or other wastes under Subtitle C and D.

Permit—An official license that specifically allows a facility to treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste and outlines the precautions that must be taken to manage the waste in a manner that adequately protects human health and the environment. Owners or operators of hazardous waste TSDFs must obtain a permit in order to operate.

Recycling—The series of activities by which discarded materials are converted into raw materials and used in the production of new products.

Regulatory Agency—Either the EPA or state agencies are responsible for implementing, monitoring, and enforcing the RCRA program.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act—This Congressional act encourages environmentally sound methods for disposal of household, municipal, commercial, and industrial waste. Its primary goals are to protect human health and the environment from the potential hazards of waste disposal, conserve energy and natural resources, reduce the amount of waste generated, and ensure that wastes are managed in an environmentally sound manner. RCRA is divided into sections called Subtitles.

Small Quantity Generator—Generators of between 220 pounds (100 kilograms) and 2,200 pounds (1,000 kilograms) of hazardous waste per calendar month are considered to be SQGs. They are regulated to a lesser degree than LQGs.

Solid Waste—Discarded material, such as garbage, refuse, and sludge (including solids, semisolids, liquids, or contained gaseous material), is considered to be solid waste.

Source Reduction—This refers to the design, manufacture, purchase, or use of materials to reduce the amount or toxicity of the materials before they enter the waste stream.

State Authorization—The process by which states are given authority to run the RCRA program instead of EPA.

Subtitle C—This section of RCRA establishes a regulatory framework for managing the generation, storage, treatment, and disposal of certain wastes defined as hazardous wastes.

Subtitle D—This section of RCRA establishes a system for managing solid waste, including both garbage/trash and nonhazardous industrial waste.

Subtitle I—This section of RCRA regulates toxic substances and petroleum products stored in underground storage tanks, such as at commercial gas stations.

Surface Impoundments—Lined natural or synthetic depressions or diked areas that can be used to treat, store, or dispose of waste.

Toxics Release Inventory—The TRI database compiles information submitted by certain federal and manufacturing facilities. These facilities are required to report on releases to the environment of 643 specific chemicals, listed by EPA.

Transporter—Hazardous waste transporters pick up properly packaged and labeled hazardous waste from generators and transport it to designated facilities that treat, store, recycle, or dispose of the waste. Transporters are subject to specific hazardous waste regulations, both by EPA and DOT.

Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility—Facilities that receive hazardous waste from generators or other facilities for treatment, storage or disposal of waste are known as TSDFs.

Underground Injection Wells—Steel- and concrete-encased shafts into which hazardous wastes are deposited by force and under pressure.

Underground Storage Tank—Tanks located below the surface of the ground that store petroleum or chemical products are known as USTs.

Unit—This term generally refers to tanks, containers, incinerators, surface impoundments, containment buildings, and waste piles.

Waste Piles—Noncontainerized, lined or unlined accumulations of solid, non-flowing waste.

Waste Prevention—See source reduction.



RCRA:
Safeguarding
The Future



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