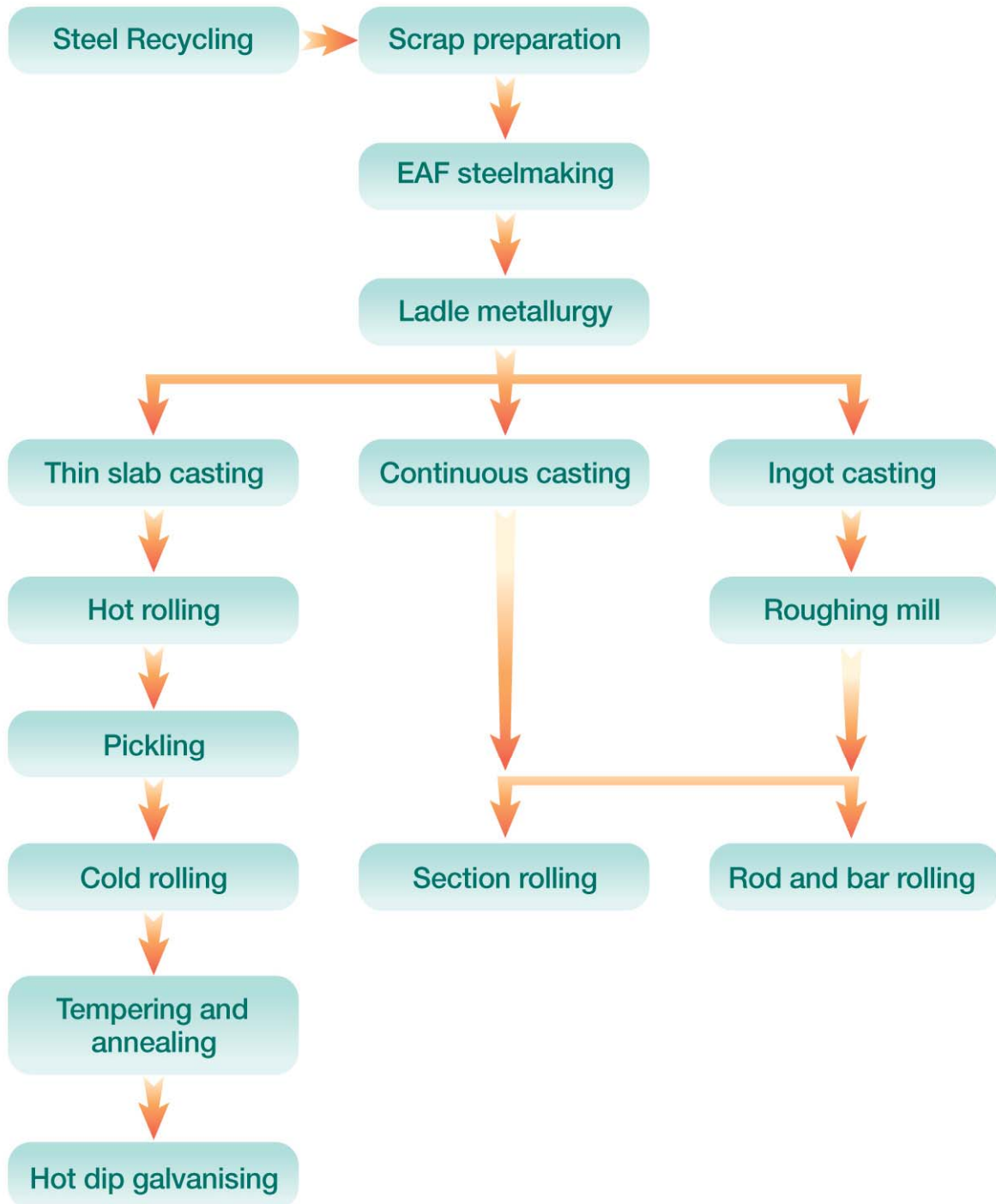
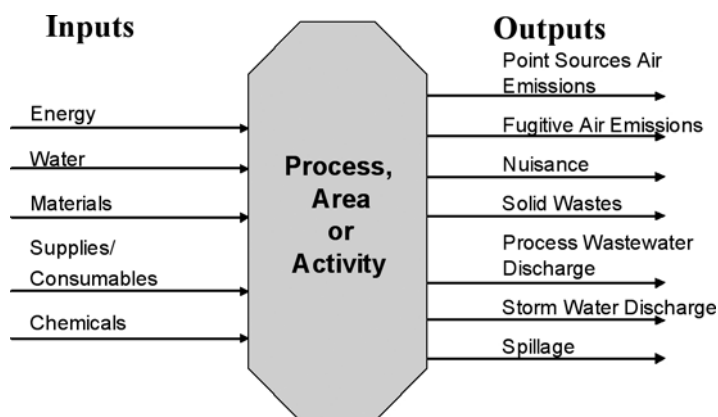


US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Process flow diagram for steel production using the electric arc furnace (EAF) route



- Identify the environmental aspects of each area or operation, making lists of inputs and outputs (such as those provided in **Section II, Tier II—Aspects Identification and Significance Determination Form F-003.01**) or an input/output process diagram. See flow chart to the right for a general example.



- Identify environmental aspects that it can control and those that it can influence taking into account planned or new developments, or new or modified activities, products, and services.

After identifying environmental aspects you will need to determine which aspects are significant. There are many ways of determining significance. Whatever way you choose, make sure to consider regulatory requirements. Also keep records of your decision process and the results of your determination. Keep these documents up to date when processes change or aspects periodically are revisited. The point is to look at all of your aspects and to figure out—in a common sense, systematic way—which of their impacts is environmentally significant. You also should identify those aspects that your company can influence by taking into account planned or new developments, or new or modified processes. Use the criteria presented below to achieve a balance between structure and flexibility. Use these as a starting point to customize your own criteria.

- **Legal Requirements/Voluntary Commitments/Company Policy.** An obvious initial criterion is whether an aspect is subject to environmental regulations—any such aspect, as identified by broad scientific and legislative consensus, is significant. A closely related criterion is whether an aspect is the subject of facility policy, goals, or voluntary commitments. For example, many facilities have established energy-use, water-use, or material-use reduction goals and targets, which also makes good business sense. If these policies/goals apply to your facility, then you should consider the associated aspects to be significant.
- **Community Concern.** A second criterion considers the views of interested parties. One of the commitments of your environmental policy must be communication with external stakeholders. There are a variety of community concerns that might affect your designation of a particular activity as a significant aspect. These may include issues other than pollution. Some examples are the noise level or odor produced by your facility; increased traffic caused by your business; and increased outdoor light needed for your operations. You should determine as significant those aspects that the community considers important (e.g., aspects that the community has lodged complaints about).

Pollution Prevention Potential. A third criterion is whether an aspect has good technical and financial potential for pollution prevention improvements (such as the reduced use of water, energy, or hazardous materials). Pursuit of pollution prevention is a commitment in your environmental policy statement. Determining whether a particular aspect is significant under this criterion is subject to the specific circumstances and values of your