



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

NOV 13 1996

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Archiving CERCLIS Sites

FROM: Stephen D. Luftig, Director *Steve Luftig*
Office of Emergency and Remedial Response

TO: Director, Office of Site Remediation & Restoration
Regions I
Director, Office of Emergency & Remedial Response
Region II
Director, Hazardous Waste Management Division
Region III, IX
Director, Waste Management Division
Regions IV, VIII
Director, Superfund Division
Region V, VI, VII
Director, Office of Environmental Cleanup
Region X

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this memorandum is to accelerate Regional review of sites still in the CERCLIS inventory, and archiving those sites which have no further federal Superfund interest. These actions are being requested to support an expected Administration announcement at the January, 1997 U.S. Conference of Mayors on EPA's progress in removing sites from CERCLIS over the past year, as well as to further clarify Superfund workloads. This memorandum also transmits an updated version of the CERCLIS Archive Guidelines initially distributed as an attachment to the June 21, 1995 "Removing RCRA Facilities from CERCLIS" memorandum.



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memorandum. These updated guidelines provide further direction on the CERCLIS archive process.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the Agency's Brownfields initiative on economic redevelopment, EPA introduced the CERCLIS archive effort in early 1995 to address growing concerns about the unintended stigma associated with sites listed in CERCLIS. In this effort, EPA identified and archived 24,000 sites which appeared to have no further Superfund interest based on available data. Responsibility for designating archive status was turned over to the Regions in March, 1995, and guidelines outlining categories of sites eligible for archiving were distributed in June, 1995.

Following an intensive Regional effort to identify and archive appropriate sites in the first quarter of FY96, the EPA Administrator announced at the January, 1996 U.S. Conference of Mayors that EPA had removed over 3,000 additional sites from CERCLIS.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Headquarters anticipates another update on CERCLIS archive activities by the Administrator at the January, 1997 U.S. Conference of Mayors and is requesting that each Region review its inventory of CERCLIS sites and archive those sites where Superfund has no further interest. Based on current information, the Regions have archived an additional 1,000 sites since January, 1996 bringing the national total to 28,000 archive sites. OSWER also plans to announce at the Conference of Mayors our target numbers for archive sites in 1997, so you should prepare to estimate those. OERR will contact the regions in the near future to obtain those estimates.

Of the 13,000 sites remaining in CERCLIS, federal Superfund interest appears to be concluded at several thousand sites based upon current CERCLIS data. The attached October, 1996 guidelines address the archive process and identify categories of sites that are eligible for archiving. Please refer to these guidelines when reviewing and designating sites for archiving from CERCLIS. In addition, Headquarters is currently adding cost recovery

information to a report which displays potential archive sites and will forward this to you as soon as possible.

When reviewing sites, the basic criterion is whether the federal Superfund Program still has an interest in the site. If no further federal Superfund interest exists (i.e., no site assessment, remedial, removal, enforcement, cost recovery, or oversight activities are ongoing or needed under the federal Superfund program), then the site should be archived.

Finally, Regions are responsible for establishing business processes for archiving sites on a timely basis. Identifying Superfund involvement at sites in the CERCLIS inventory is critical to effective workload planning. Prompt archiving of those sites with no further interest enables the program to more accurately identify workloads and related resource needs, and provides stakeholders with a more accurate picture of EPA's intentions at these sites.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Dave Evans of OERR's State, Tribal, and Site Identification Center at (703) 603-8885.

Attachment

cc: Larry Reed, OERR
Linda Boornazian, OSRE
Mike Shapiro, OSW
Liz Cotsworth, OSW
Center Directors, OERR
Regional Site Assessment Section Chiefs/Contacts
Regional Information Management Coordinators