



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

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

Signed May 14, 1997

OSWER Directive 9200.1-18FS

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Transmittal of "Consolidated Guide to Consultation Procedures for Superfund Response Decisions" and FY97 Focus Areas for OERR regional coordination support

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

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

This memorandum: 1) transmits a completed fact sheet entitled "Consolidated Guide to Consultation Procedures for Superfund Response Decisions;" and 2) communicates the FY97 Focus Areas for OERR Regional coordination support.

Consolidated Guide to Consultation Procedures for Superfund Response Decisions

The goal of this fact sheet is to describe management review procedures employed by EPA to ensure that national remedy selection policies and procedures are being implemented in a reasonable and appropriately consistent manner. EPA believes

that consistent application of national policy and guidance is an important means by which we ensure the reasonableness, predictability, and cost-effectiveness of Superfund decisions. This document has been developed as a result of the National Consistency directive (OSWER Directive 9200.0-21) and the Remedy Selection "Rules of Thumb" Superfund Reform efforts announced by Administrator Carol Browner in October 1995.

This fact sheet provides a consolidated guide to EPA Headquarters and Regional consultation procedures for response decisions management. Pursuant to the final report of the Superfund Delegations Workgroup (OSWER Directive 9242.2-10), the Remedy Delegation Report was eliminated in favor of managing necessary Headquarters consultations through individual OSWER directives (this report had been used in the past to manage consultation requirements and procedures for Superfund remedy selection decisions). This fact sheet was developed to clarify and consolidate the various consultation procedures that have been established for both remedial and removal response selection decision making through various OSWER Directives, memoranda, and recommendations of national policy workgroups.

FY97 Focus Areas

As part of our effort to ensure appropriate national consistency, last year OERR established four technical and policy focus areas for Headquarters regional coordination efforts. The four focus areas include: 1) risk management and cost-effectiveness decision documentation; 2) ground water policy; 3) lead policy; and 4) presumptive remedies. (See "Focus Areas for Headquarters OERR Support for Regional Decision Making," OSWER Directive 9200.1-17, May 22, 1996.)

In FY97, OERR plans to continue to use the focus areas and consultation procedures outlined in this May 1996 memorandum, and refined through your work with individual Regional Center management and staff over the course of the past year. The primary goal of OERR's regional coordination effort is to communicate and coordinate nationally on cross-cutting issues to ensure that we all share a common understanding of program policies and, as a result, approach site cleanups in a consistent manner. OERR staff will flag any inconsistencies with respect to focus area policies and will work with Regional staff on an informal basis to resolve these issues in a timely manner. At the same time, Regional staff should look upon OERR staff as a resource that can provide assistance in working through issues as early as possible during the development of site response strategies and draft Proposed Plans.

Thank you for your assistance in recent efforts to promote appropriate national consistency. Please continue to contact my staff as early as possible in the response selection process as relevant issues arise.

Attachment

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