

Reclamation Manual

Policy

Subject: Hazardous Waste and Materials Management

Purpose: To establish the requirements and responsibilities for the management of hazardous waste generated by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) at Reclamation facilities and the remediation of hazardous waste sites on Reclamation lands. This policy deals with hazardous materials only where required by related hazardous waste management regulations.

Authority: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA) (Public Law 94-580) as amended by Public Law 95-609 and Public Law 98-616; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) (Public Law 96-510) as amended; National Contingency Plan (40 CFR 300)

Contact: Environmental and Planning Coordination Office, D-5100

1. Hazardous Waste and Materials Management.

- A. Reclamation is responsible for the identification and proper management of hazardous waste activities on Reclamation lands and at Reclamation-owned facilities in accordance with the national polices set out in RCRA, CERCLA, and applicable State and local laws and standards. This responsibility is to be fully considered in project planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance.
- B. Reclamation consideration of hazardous waste handling starts with the initial purchase of hazardous materials or design of processes which result in hazardous wastes being generated. It is Reclamation policy to carefully consider such purchases or designs with the intention of substituting nonhazardous materials or of making process changes where possible to avoid generation of hazardous wastes. Whenever the generation of hazardous waste is unavoidable, Reclamation will ensure that effective waste management is attained to minimize long-term liability and potential releases to the environment. Reclamation will actively seek integration of hazardous waste management and pollution prevention principles into all applicable activities so as to maximize awareness and effectiveness and to minimize cleanup and disposal costs. In the event of releases to the environment, Reclamation will seek restoration of damaged resources and cost recovery from responsible parties.
- C. The Hazardous Materials Coordinator (D-5100), under the direction of the Director, Program Analysis Office, will develop overall policy guidance on hazardous waste management regulations and Reclamation involvement in hazardous waste and/or materials cleanup activities that are Reclamation's responsibility.

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- D. The Hazardous Materials Coordinator (D-5100) will provide assistance to the Area, Regional, and Denver Complex Hazardous Waste Management (HWM) Coordinators on technical issues; monitor Reclamation compliance; assist in the development of policy, directives and standards, and discretionary guidance; and maintain records of Reclamation hazardous waste activities.
- E. Area Managers and Regional Directors are responsible for hazardous waste management within their respective areas/regions and will designate an individual termed the Area/Regional HWM Coordinator. These individuals will:
- (1) Be provided with appropriate training commensurate with the hazardous materials task they are expected to perform.
 - (2) Ensure proper management of hazardous materials and compliance with current hazardous waste regulations in each area/regional office and coordinate record keeping.
 - (3) Assist the Program Analysis Office in monitoring reviews of area/regional hazardous waste management programs as well as conducting their own reviews.