

PPC 9502.1986(19)

HEADQUARTERS SUPPORT FOR CORRECTIVE ACTION TECHNOLOGY

MAY -7 1986

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Headquarters Support for Corrective Action Technology

FROM: Bruce R. Weddle, Director
Permits and State Programs Division

TO: RCRA Branch Chiefs, Regions I-X

The corrective action authorities of RCRA provides one of the Agency's most effective tools for assuring the clean-up of releases at hazardous waste management facilities. Because of this, we are committed to providing you with continuing technical assistance on corrective action. This summer the Land Disposal Permit Assistance Team (PAT) had a PhD candidate in geology working full time investigating case studies of corrective action technologies. He focused on the clean-up of ground water, soil, and surface water. The results of his efforts were: (1) the creation of a corrective action computer database; (2) biweekly technical sessions for OSWER staff; (3) a seminar for non-technical management and staff; and (4) a list of suggested publications for a base library on corrective action.

Some of the results of these efforts are available for your use right now, while other projects are in the planning stage. The computer database is now available to help your staff analyze corrective action proposals which are submitted by owner/operators. It contains over 200 entries, which are summaries of journal articles and EPA publications on corrective action technologies which have been demonstrated in the field or in bench scale projects. The system is designed around a list of key words, which is attached (along with an example of a data output). We direct the computer to search for and locate entries that contain key words in which you are interested. For example, you may be interested in cleanup experience with specific chemicals (e.g., PCBs, TCE), or using specific technologies (e.g., air stripping, in situ biological treatment). When the computer finds entries which contain those key words, it will print out a citation and abstract of the appropriate article(s). If the abstract seems relevant, the entire article can then be examined in your library.

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More details will be given to your staff when they call in with a request. At the present the data base is accessed by calling Janette Hansen (FTS 382-4754) or Dave Eberly (FTS 382-4691) with your requests. After we get a computer with a modem, you will be able to directly access the database with a Regional PC through a modem. We will send out detailed instructions on how to do this when the system is set up. The database will be updated on a regular basis.

This summer's seminar on corrective action technologies was well received. I have attached a copy of the handout from the seminar, which I believe will be useful to you, even without having attended the seminar.

As was mentioned above, a list of suggested references on corrective action was compiled during the creation of the database. I have attached that list in hopes that your office will be able to provide your staff with copies of each publication. The sources of the publications are also attached.

In the future, we plan to set up a corrective action computer bulletin board for staff to communicate between Regions. For example, if a staff member in one Region would like to know if anyone else has encountered a situation similar to one which they have met, they can put up a "note" on the bulletin board. Staff from other Regions can view the bulletin board and contact the person who had the question. This can help to improve communication between the Regions on issues of common interest. We will also consider the need for other information sharing mechanisms (e.g., conference calls, workshops) as we all develop experience in this area.

Finally, we hope that you will help us to share interesting corrective action proposals throughout the Regions and States. When you receive a proposal which could be of some interest to others, please contact Dave Eberly or Janette Hansen (numbers listed above). They will work with you to decide the best way to disseminate the information. If you think of other ways in which we can help, please contact Terry Grogan of the Land Disposal PAT (FTS 382-4740).

Attachments

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cc: Winston Porter
Marcia Williams
Gene Lucero
Henry Longest
Jack Lehman
Permit Section Chiefs, Regions I-X
RFA Contacts, Regions I-X
Sue Moreland, ASTSWMO
Ken Shuster
Matt Hale
Terry Grogan
Dave Fagan
Art Day
Don Sanning, ORD