

CONTENTS AND USE OF THE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN (CAP)

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

MAR 13 1987

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Interim Final RCRA Corrective Action Plan (CAP)

FROM: Marcia E. Williams, Director
Office of Solid Waste

To: James H. Scarbrough, Chief
Residuals Management Branch, Region IV

In your January 20, 1987, memo to me, you expressed various concerns about the contents and use of the CAP, including the application of protection standards.

I agree that we need comprehensive guidance to implement the RCRA corrective action program. The Office of Solid Waste recently completed the options selective process for _3004(u) corrective action, which resolved several outstanding issues necessary for development of regulations. In the next several months, we will be issuing guidance to implement these decisions. Such guidance will address the four key issues identified in your memorandum, with special emphasis on setting clean-up target levels for all media. The CAP and the RFI Guidance will be revised accordingly to reflect the resolution of these issues and field experience in using these documents. The next draft of the RFI Guidance, which will be distributed for Agency comment in April 1987, will address these issues in a new section on RCRA Health and Environmental Assessments.

Your memorandum also addresses whether the RCRA guidance should reference the Superfund Public Health Evaluation Manual (SPHEM). We have examined this document and believe that it contains a good deal of useful information for evaluating impacts to public health. We are using the SPHEM in developing the RFI

Guidance section on performing RCRA Health and Environmental Assessments. The SPHEM will serve as a useful technical reference for the RCRA corrective action program. For instance, the SPHEM
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provides detailed guidance on how to assess health impacts at known points of exposure. However, the elements of the SPHEM that deal with determining the location of potential exposure points address an issue that has not yet been fully resolved for RCRA corrective action. As you know, corrective action decisions may be based on the presumption that potential exposure can occur anywhere up to the waste management unit. In addition, the SPHEM directs the use of maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) when determining human health impacts. The use of MCLs versus other health-based standards (e.g., reference doses) has not yet been resolved in the RCRA corrective action rule development process.

You also expressed concern over the technical framework of the CAP, including corrective measure alternative selection and laboratory and bench scale studies. I believe that the CAP provides the flexibility to alleviate these concerns. The existing technical framework of the CAP affords a flexible approach to determining the number of corrective measure alternatives after the need for corrective measures has been established. That is, the number (i.e., one or more) of alternatives to be submitted by a RCRA facility can be determined by the Regional Office on a facility-specific basis (see CAP, page 4). This approach on alternative selection was clarified on February 3, 1987, at a meeting between OSW staff and several of your staff in Atlanta.

The CAP also affords flexibility in the application of laboratory and bench scale studies. As stated on page 2 of the CAP, the scopes of work in the CAP are examples and could be modified, enhanced, or sections deleted based on site-specific situations. Therefore, at your discretion, laboratory and bench scale studies may not be required for a specific facility or such studies may be shifted to the Corrective Measures Study part of the corrective action process. Overall, the CAP should serve as a reference for Regional Offices to prepare permit and enforcement order conditions, not as a prescription to be followed in every case.

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If you or your staff wish to discuss the above matters further, please contact Art Day (382-4658) or George Dixon (382-4494) of the Land Disposal Branch or Matt Hale, Chief of the permits Branch (382-4740).

cc: Gene Lucero
Joe Carra
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