

QUESTION: If an owner of an interim status facility verifies that his ground -water analyses indicates a statistically significant increase over back-ground, may the first step in his assessment program be verification that hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents are present in the ground water? The regulations under 265.93(d) (4) and (d) (7) refer to establishing rate and extent of migration of constituents, thus assuming that the constituents are present.

ANSWER: Yes. The first step in the assessment program may involve sampling existing wells for hazardous waste constituents to verify their presence. If absent, the concentration, rate, and extent of migration may be reported as zero; the regulations in §265.93(d) (6) then allow the owner or operator to return to the detection program. If present, then new wells should be drilled and sampled to determine the rate and extent of migration of those constituents. The regulations are not worded clearly.

SOURCE: Burnell Vincent

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