

RCRA LAND REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE

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What is a RCRA Brownfield?

A potential RCRA brownfield is a facility that is not in full use, where there is redevelopment potential, and where reuse or redevelopment of that site is slowed due to real or perceived concerns about RCRA cleanup requirements.

RCRA Land Revitalization Program

- RCRA-permitted owner and operator responsible for facility corrective action
- Focuses on EPA and Authorized States to take advantage of redevelopment opportunities to expedite cleanup
- Encourages EPA and States to take advantage of RCRA reforms to achieve redevelopment and the meet program cleanup goals

RCRA Revitalization Potential or Not

- The site is, or will be, subject to RCRA cleanup requirements
- The site, or a part of the site, is abandoned, idle or not fully utilized
- The site, or part of the site, will potentially be put out of use in the near future
- Concerns about real or perceived hazardous waste contamination cause delay in cleanup and reuse

RCRA Revitalization Potential or Not

- A vacant RCRA facility in a location where the community could benefit by bringing the land back into use
- The facility is located in a Community as part of an area-wide Brownfields Assessment
- The community is interested in revitalizing or reusing the land, and there is a developer or new owner interested in the site

The RCRA Challenge

- Stakeholders perceive several challenges to cleanup and redevelopment in RCRA:
 - Liability issues
 - Complicated regulations that focus on process not results
 - Lengthy cleanup time frames
 - Concerns that cleanup will trigger facility-wide RCRA corrective action

RCRA Revitalization Strategy

- EPA created the RCRA Brownfields Prevention Initiative to:
 - Prevent future Brownfields
 - Ensure successful cleanup and long-term sustainable reuse of RCRA facilities
 - Help meet GPRRA goals
 - Facilitate stakeholder dialogue
 - Improve blighted communities

RCRA Brownfields Prevention Initiative

- A National RCRA Brownfield Workgroup was formed to:
 - Identify issues related to redevelopment of RCRA sites
 - Develop solutions to problems
 - Develop the future direction of the Initiative

RCRA Brownfields Pilots

- EPA initiated a pilot program to learn of issues impeding redevelopment of RCRA sites and develop test innovations that can be used at other RCRA sites
- Initiated 4 RCRA Brownfields pilot projects in 2000
- Initiated 5 RCRA Brownfields pilot projects in 2001

Innovative Approaches

- Explore flexibility in RCRA with regard to remediation wastes
- Streamline/expedite aspects of the permit review process
- Use non-RCRA programs for cleanups
- Implement risk-based decisions based on reasonably expected land and water use
- Encourage community involvement

Financially Limited Sites

- Prioritize cleanup activities
- Work with stakeholders to accommodate creative and workable approaches
- Tap into Brownfields and Community financing resources

Connecting Communities to Cleanup

- Upfront community and stakeholder involvement
- Must be aware of Environmental Justice concerns
- Must foster Community Outreach

Outreach and Training

- Outreach sessions and information to EPA Regions, State regulators, communities and other stakeholders
- Develop fact sheets, guidance and other tools for use regarding RCRA sites

Different Approaches to Leverage Cleanup of RCRA Sites

- Non RCRA programs
- Voluntary Cleanup programs
- State MOUs, MOAs
- Brownfields Grants

RCRA Site Reuse Vision

- By 2020, RCRA sites are cleaned up and safe for continued use and future use
- Non-operating RCRA facilities, appropriate, to provide a positive resource to the community and preserve greenspace
- Track the number of RCRA sites and acres of land that are addressed for future use

RCRA Reuse Strategy

- Capitalize on revitalization interest to focus resources and accelerate clean-ups
- Apply sustainable principles at revitalization projects during site demolition: reduce, reuse, recycle and green design
- Increase expertise and knowledge base for revitalization among EPA regions and the State RCRA programs

Where Do You Get More Info?

- HQ RCRA Brownfields Programs
 - <http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/rcrabf>

- U.S. EPA's Brownfields Program
 - <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>

- U.S. EPA's Corrective Action Program
 - <http://www.epa.gov/correctiveaction>