

A COPY OF THIS GUIDANCE IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460**

OCT 5 1987

**OFFICE OF
WATER**

MEMORANDUM

**SUBJECT: Guidance on the Conduct of RCRA Facility
Assessments at POTWs**

**FROM: James R. Eider, Director
Office of Water Enforcement and Permits (EN-335)**

**TO: Water Management Division Directors
Regions I-X**

Attached is a copy of our final guidance document for conducting RCRA facility assessments at POTWs. This document applies to POTWs that receive hazardous waste by truck, rail, or dedicated pipe. The document will assist you in implementing the RCRA corrective action requirements at POTWs.

The attached guidance should be used in conjunction with the "Guidance for Implementing RCRA Permit-by-Rule Requirements at POTWs" that I mailed to you on July 21, 1987. The previous guidance explains the procedures for issuing a permit-by-rule to a POTW. Corrective action is a major requirement of the permit-by-rule, and today's guidance will assist you in completing the first phase of corrective action - the RCRA Facility Assessment.

For those Regions with POTWs that receive hazardous waste by truck, rail, or dedicated pipe, (to date we have identified 26 such POTWs), we anticipate that the permits-by-rule will be issued during FY88. The major task of these permits is preparing a schedule for corrective action. The attached guidance will assist you in preparing these schedules.

For more information about the guidance, have your staff contact Paul Connor of the Permits Division at FTS-475-7718. I hope you find the guidance document useful.

Attachment

**cc: Permits Branch Chiefs, Regions I-X
Hazardous Waste Coordinators, Regions I-X**

Water

EPA

**Guidance Manual for
Conducting RCRA Facility
Assessments at Publicly
Owned Treatment Works**

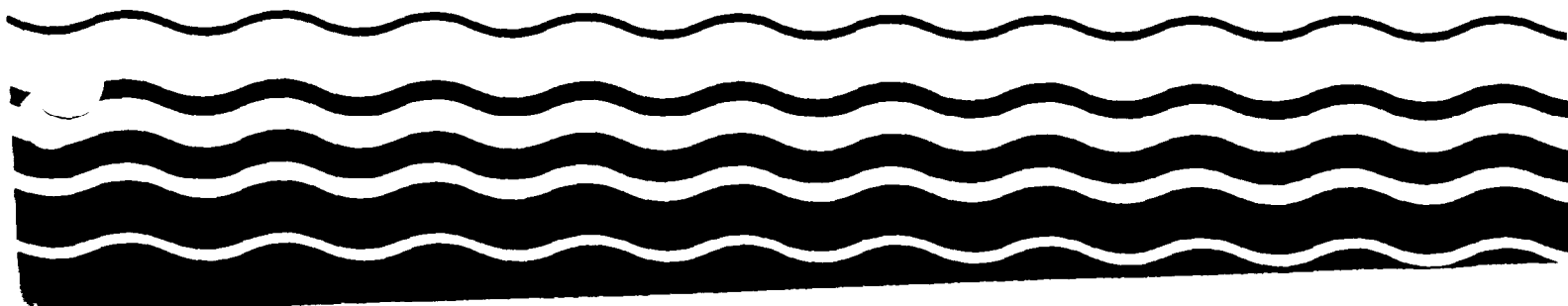


TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1-1
1.1 OVERVIEW OF RCRA PERMIT-BY-RULE PROVISIONS AND CORRECTIVE ACTION PROGRAM.....	1-1
1.1.1 Overview of RCRA Permit-by-Rule Provisions.....	1-1
1.1.2 Overview of RCRA Corrective Action Program.....	1-5
1.1.3 Overview of the RFA.....	1-7
1.2 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT.....	1-11
1.3 ORGANIZATION OF THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT.....	1-12
2. CONDUCT OF THE RCRA FACILITY ASSESSMENT.....	2-1
2.1 TECHNICAL APPROACH FOR THE RCRA FACILITY ASSESSMENT...	2-1
2.2 CONDUCTING THE PRELIMINARY REVIEW.....	2-5
2.2.1 Purpose and Scope of PR.....	2-5
2.2.2 Gathering PR Information.....	2-6
2.2.3 Evaluating PR Information.....	2-12
2.2.4 Completing the PR.....	2-18
2.3 CONDUCTING THE VISUAL SITE INSPECTION (VSI).....	2-19
2.3.1 Purpose, Scope, and Work Product of the VSI....	2-19
2.3.2 Planning the VSI.....	2-20
2.3.3 Conducting Field Activities During the VSI.....	2-22
2.3.4 Determining the Need for Further Action During the RFA.....	2-25
2.4 CONDUCT OF THE SAMPLING VISIT.....	2-28
2.4.1 Purpose and Scope.....	2-28
2.4.2 Developing a Sampling Plan.....	2-29
2.4.3 Preparing for the SV.....	2-33
2.4.4 Conducting the SV.....	2-36
2.4.5 Final RFA Recommendations for Further Action...	2-37
2.4.6 Final RFA Product.....	2-42
3. EVALUATION OF WASTE AND UNIT CHARACTERISTICS AT POTWS.....	3-1
3.1 POTW UNIT CHARACTERISTICS.....	3-1
3.1.1 Description of Typical POTW Treatment Processes.....	3-1
3.1.2 RCRA Terminology as Applied to POTW Treatment Units/Processes.....	3-6
3.1.3 Typical POTW Configurations.....	3-7
3.1.4 Pollutant Fate Processes and Release Mechanisms within POTWs.....	3-10
3.1.5 Impacts of POTW Treatment System Configuration on Pollutant Releases.....	3-15

4.5.1	Potential Effects on Human Health.....	4-35
4.5.2	Potential Effects on the Environment.....	4-37
4.5.3	Data Required for Assessment of Potential Exposures Due to Releases to Ground Water and Soils.....	4-37
4.6	ASSESSMENT OF SUBSURFACE GAS RELEASES.....	4-38
4.6.1	Unit Design and Operation.....	4-39
4.6.2	Waste Characteristics.....	4-40
4.6.3	Gas Generation Mechanisms.....	4-41
4.6.4	Gas Migration Barriers.....	4-42
4.6.5	Assessment of Releases.....	4-43
5.	ASSESSMENT OF POTW RELEASES TO SURFACE WATERS AND SEDIMENTS.....	5-1
5.1	APPLICABILITY OF CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUIREMENTS TO RELEASES TO SURFACE WATERS AND SEDIMENTS.....	5-1
5.2	UNIT CHARACTERISTICS AFFECTING POTENTIAL FOR RELEASES TO SURFACE WATERS.....	5-2
5.2.1	Unit Characteristics Influencing Pass Through to Receiving Waters.....	5-2
5.2.2	Unit Characteristics Influencing Movement Through Surface Runoff.....	5-5
5.3	WASTE/CONSTITUENT CHARACTERISTICS AFFECTING POTENTIAL FOR RELEASE TO SURFACE WATERS OR SEDIMENTS.....	5-7
5.3.1	Waste/Constituent Properties Affecting Pass Through to Receiving Waters.....	5-7
5.3.2	Waste/Constituent Properties Affecting Migration Through Surface Runoff.....	5-7
5.3.3	Waste/Constituent Properties Affecting Accumulation in Sediments and Aquatic Species..	5-8
5.3.4	Data Required on Waste Characteristics for Assessing Potential for Releases to Surface Waters and Sediments.....	5-8
5.4	ASSESSMENT OF MIGRATION POTENTIAL OF RELEASES TO SURFACE WATERS AND SEDIMENTS.....	5-10
5.4.1	Migration Potential of Releases to Soils.....	5-10
5.4.2	Migration Potential of Constituents in Surface Waters and Sediments.....	5-12
5.4.3	Data Required for Assessment of Migration Pathways for Releases to Surface Waters and Sediments.....	5-17
5.5	SAMPLING TECHNIQUES FOR SURFACE WATERS AND SEDIMENTS..	5-18
5.5.1	Assessing the Need for Additional Sampling.....	5-18
5.5.2	Selection of Sampling Parameters.....	5-18

6.6.1	Potential Effects on Human Health.....	6-15
6.6.2	Potential Effects on the Environment.....	6-17
6.6.3	Data Required for Assessment of Potential Human Health and Environmental Effects Due to Releases to Air.....	6-18

APPENDIX A - PROFILE OF POLLUTANT FATE IN ACCLIMATED AND UNACCLIMATED
SECONDARY POTW

APPENDIX B - HAZARDOUS WASTE CONSTITUENTS POTENTIALLY GENERATED AND DISCHARGED
BY SELECTED INDUSTRIES

APPENDIX C - DATA ON PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES FOR SELECTED
CONSTITUENTS