



Hazardous Waste Forum Topic Clean Closure Guidance Discussion Points and Proposed Path Forward (as of February 7, 2011)

Discussion

Starting point for guidance development would likely be EPA's Memo of March 16, 1998 regarding risk based clean closure. State guidance development would be intended to provide state-specific clarification of the elements of this memo, recognizing that we already largely have information/processes needed to produce this guidance but guidance has not been available in comprehensive written form. Issues and questions to be addressed in this guidance would include but not be limited to the following:

- What is "true" clean closure versus "risk-based" clean-closure?
- Background contaminant level implications (particularly metals) in soil – regional, local and facility-specific approaches during closure.
- Closure sampling requirements vis a vis wastes listed in the Permit application and those actually handled at the facility.
- Use of and methodology for rinsate/wipe samples for closure "surfaces" (e.g., concrete). This piece can be particularly problematic if chemicals are present above method detection limits. There is some available guidance on sample collection but very little out there with respect to what to compare results to. This issue crosses many boundaries (e.g., permitted and resource recovery unit closures and corrective action).
- How groundwater impacts generally factor into closure/post-closure decisions (if groundwater is impacted due to releases from the regulated unit, post-closure required if exceed risk-based levels (includes hazardous waste storage areas that have to close dirty as a landfill).
- Equipment reuse, scrapping – certificates of destruction
- Closure/post-closure deferral to corrective action, when and how? What happens then?
- Deed notices, survey plats, MOECA/environmental covenants – application to closure activities.

Proposed Path Forward

HWP solicits additional broad stakeholder input into what topics need to be addressed in this guidance. Informal stakeholder (volunteer) subgroup formed to work with the HWP in putting together a draft Clean Closure Guidance document. Initial content drafted by the HWP based on current practices, requested clarifications and then distributed to subgroup for review and markup. Guidance revised based on subgroup feedback and, if revised version is agreeable to the HWP/subgroup, distribute draft final version for broad stakeholder input making any additional changes based on those comments prior to finalization.