

Transition from RCRA to CERCLA as DOE transitions to D&D.

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Objective: Many DOE facilities are operating in a production mode, generating wastes, even as they transition to a Decontamination & Demolition (D&D) mission. This paper discusses the transition to CERCLA as facilities enter into D&D, lessons learned regarding waste, and the potential application to other DOE sites and projects with a similar mission.

Workshop Relationship: Areas addressed by the paper include:

- Regulatory Issues – Transition from RCRA to CERCLA, including designing decision documents that will meet the requirements for non-time critical removal actions.
- Waste Management Issues – Determining necessary requirements for safe waste management and developing a regulatory strategy that facilitates cost effective and timely D&D activities
- Risk Management – Using a risk-based regulatory strategy for D&D activities
- Project Management – Transitioning from operations to project management

Description: The paper summarizes collaborative efforts that have occurred at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site to develop and implement a regulatory strategy that imposes safe and compliant waste management, which is based on risk and is designed to facilitate D&D activities. Some of the items discussed in the paper include:

- The collaborative process that was used to develop protocols for waste management, involving site personnel, the Colorado Department of Health, and the Environmental Protection Agency.
- The development of Compliance Agreements and Standard Operating Procedures that facilitate conducting work safely and with fewer formal agency approvals.
- The integration of existing Compliance Orders and Agreements into the D&D framework.
- The level of public involvement that facilitated public participation and understanding of the strategies developed.
- General assessment of what did and did not work.
- Summary of overall lessons learned.

Results: The approach used is designed to minimize risk and maintain safety and compliance while also reducing the time and resources associated with administrative actions that are no longer required. Upfront involvement by the regulatory agencies and the public has helped to reduce the amount of time necessary for obtaining regulatory approvals. Additionally, the use of Compliance Agreements has allowed for greater flexibility during D&D work.

Benefits to Others : The transition to D&D can be an extended process with many options and multiple pathways. The results at Rocky have shown significant savings to the facility in waste management costs while maintaining regulatory compliance and safety. This experience and corresponding lessons learned can substantially shorten the learning curve for other DOE facilities.