

Environmental Protection Agency

§ 270.1

- 270.72 Changes during interim status.
270.73 Termination of interim status.

Subpart H—Remedial Action Plans (RAPs)

- 270.79 Why is this subpart written in a special format?

GENERAL INFORMATION

- 270.80 What is a RAP?
270.85 When do I need a RAP?
270.90 Does my RAP grant me any rights or relieve me of any obligations?

APPLYING FOR A RAP

- 270.95 How do I apply for a RAP?
270.100 Who must obtain a RAP?
270.105 Who must sign the application and any required reports for a RAP?
270.110 What must I include in my application for a RAP?
270.115 What if I want to keep this information confidential?
270.120 To whom must I submit my RAP application?
270.125 If I submit my RAP application as part of another document, what must I do?

GETTING A RAP APPROVED

- 270.130 What is the process for approving or denying my application for a RAP?
270.135 What must the Director include in a draft RAP?
270.140 What else must the Director prepare in addition to the draft RAP or notice of intent to deny?
270.145 What are the procedures for public comment on the draft RAP or notice of intent to deny?
270.150 How will the Director make a final decision on my RAP application?
270.155 May the decision to approve or deny my RAP application be administratively appealed?
270.160 When does my RAP become effective?
270.165 When may I begin physical construction of new units permitted under the RAP?

HOW MAY MY RAP BE MODIFIED, REVOKED AND REISSUED, OR TERMINATED?

- 270.170 After my RAP is issued, how may it be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated?
270.175 For what reasons may the Director choose to modify my final RAP?
270.180 For what reasons may the Director choose to revoke and reissue my final RAP?
270.185 For what reasons may the Director choose to terminate my final RAP, or deny my renewal application?
270.190 May the decision to approve or deny a modification, revocation and

- reissuance, or termination of my RAP be administratively appealed?
270.195 When will my RAP expire?
270.200 How may I renew my RAP if it is expiring?
270.205 What happens if I have applied correctly for a RAP renewal but have not received approval by the time my old RAP expires?

OPERATING UNDER YOUR RAP

- 270.210 What records must I maintain concerning my RAP?
270.215 How are time periods in the requirements in this subpart and my RAP computed?
270.220 How may I transfer my RAP to a new owner or operator?
270.225 What must the State or EPA Region report about noncompliance with RAPs?

OBTAINING A RAP FOR AN OFF-SITE LOCATION

- 270.230 May I perform remediation waste management activities under a RAP at a location removed from the area where the remediation wastes originated?

Subpart I—Integration with Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) Standards

- 270.235 Options for incinerators and cement and lightweight aggregate kilns to minimize emissions from startup, shutdown, and malfunction events.

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Subpart A—General Information

§ 270.1 Purpose and scope of these regulations.

(a) *Coverage.* (1) These permit regulations establish provisions for the Hazardous Waste Permit Program under Subtitle C of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended (RCRA), (Pub. L. 94-580, as amended by Pub. L. 95-609 and by Pub. L. 96-482; 42 U.S.C. 6091 et seq.). They apply to EPA and to approved States to the extent provided in part 271.

(2) The regulations in this part cover basic EPA permitting requirements, such as application requirements, standard permit conditions, and monitoring and reporting requirements. These regulations are part of a regulatory scheme implementing RCRA set

§270.1

40 CFR Ch. I (7-1-03 Edition)

forth in different parts of the Code of Federal Regulations. The following chart indicates where the regulations implementing RCRA appear in the Code of Federal Regulations.

Section of RCRA	Coverage	Final regulation
Subtitle C	Overview and definitions	40 CFR part 260
3001	Identification and listing of hazardous waste.	40 CFR part 261
3002	Generators of hazardous waste.	40 CFR part 262
3003	Transporters of hazardous waste.	40 CFR part 263
3004	Standards for HWM facilities.	40 CFR parts 264, 265, 266, and 267
3005	Permit requirements for HWM facilities.	40 CFR parts 270 and 124
3006	Guidelines for State programs.	40 CFR part 271
3010	Preliminary notification of HWM activity.	(public notice) 45 FR 12746 February 26, 1980

(3) *Technical regulations.* The RCRA permit program has separate additional Regulations that contain technical requirements. These separate regulations are used by permit issuing authorities to determine what requirements must be placed in permits if they are issued. These separate regulations are located in 40 CFR parts 264, 266, and 267.

(b) *Overview of the RCRA Permit Program.* Not later than 90 days after the promulgation or revision of regulations in 40 CFR part 261 (identifying and listing hazardous wastes) generators and transporters of hazardous waste, and owners or operators of hazardous waste treatment, storage, or disposal facilities may be required to file a notification of that activity under section 3010. Six months after the initial promulgation of the part 261 regulations, treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous waste by any person who has not applied for or received a RCRA permit is prohibited. A RCRA permit application consists of two parts, part A (see §270.13) and part B (see §270.14 and applicable sections in §§270.15 through 270.29). For “existing HWM facilities,” the requirement to submit an application is satisfied by submitting only part A of the permit application until the date the Director sets for submitting part B of the application. (Part A consists of Forms 1 and 3 of the Consolidated Permit Application Forms.) Timely submission of both notification

under section 3010 and part A qualifies owners and operators of existing HWM facilities (who are required to have a permit) for interim status under section 3005(e) of RCRA. Facility owners and operators with interim status are treated as having been issued a permit until EPA or a State with interim authorization for Phase II or final authorization under part 271 makes a final determination on the permit application. Facility owners and operators with interim status must comply with interim status standards set forth at 40 CFR part 265 and 266 or with the analogous provisions of a State program which has received interim or final authorization under part 271. Facility owners and operators with interim status are not relieved from complying with other State requirements. For existing HWM facilities, the Director shall set a date, giving at least six months notice, for submission of part B of the application. There is no form for part B of the application; rather, part B must be submitted in narrative form and contain the information set forth in the applicable sections of §§270.14 through 270.29. Owners or operators of new HWM facilities must submit parts A and B of the permit application at least 180 days before physical construction is expected to commence.

(c) *Scope of the RCRA permit requirement.* RCRA requires a permit for the “treatment,” “storage,” and “disposal” of any “hazardous waste” as identified or listed in 40 CFR part 261. The terms “treatment,” “storage,” “disposal,” and “hazardous waste” are defined in §270.2. Owners and operators of hazardous waste management units must have permits during the active life (including the closure period) of the unit. Owners and operators of surface impoundments, landfills, land treatment units, and waste pile units that received waste after July 26, 1982, or that certified closure (according to §265.115 of this chapter) after January 26, 1983, must have post-closure permits, unless they demonstrate closure by removal or decontamination as provided under §270.1(c)(5) and (6), or obtain an enforceable document in lieu of a post-closure permit, as provided

Environmental Protection Agency

§ 270.1

under paragraph (c)(7) of this section. If a post-closure permit is required, the permit must address applicable 40 CFR part 264 groundwater monitoring, unsaturated zone monitoring, corrective action, and post-closure care requirements of this chapter. The denial of a permit for the active life of a hazardous waste management facility or unit does not affect the requirement to obtain a post-closure permit under this section.

(1) *Specific inclusions.* Owners and operators of certain facilities require RCRA permits as well as permits under other programs for certain aspects of the facility operation. RCRA permits are required for:

(i) Injection wells that dispose of hazardous waste, and associated surface facilities that treat, store or dispose of hazardous waste, (See §270.64). However, the owner and operator with a UIC permit in a State with an approved or promulgated UIC program, will be deemed to have a RCRA permit for the injection well itself if they comply with the requirements of §270.60(b) (permit-by-rule for injection wells).

(ii) Treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous waste at facilities requiring an NPDES permit. However, the owner and operator of a publicly owned treatment works receiving hazardous waste will be deemed to have a RCRA permit for that waste if they comply with the requirements of §270.60(c) (permit-by-rule for POTWs).

(iii) Barges or vessels that dispose of hazardous waste by ocean disposal and onshore hazardous waste treatment or storage facilities associated with an ocean disposal operation. However, the owner and operator will be deemed to have a RCRA permit for ocean disposal from the barge or vessel itself if they comply with the requirements of §270.60(a) (permit-by-rule for ocean disposal barges and vessels).

(2) *Specific exclusions.* The following persons are among those who are not required to obtain a RCRA permit:

(i) Generators who accumulate hazardous waste on-site for less than the time periods provided in 40 CFR 262.34.

(ii) Farmers who dispose of hazardous waste pesticides from their own use as provided in §262.70 of this chapter;

(iii) Persons who own or operate facilities solely for the treatment, storage or disposal of hazardous waste excluded from regulations under this part by 40 CFR 261.4 or 261.5 (small generator exemption).

(iv) Owners or operators of totally enclosed treatment facilities as defined in 40 CFR 260.10.

(v) Owners and operators of elementary neutralization units or wastewater treatment units as defined in 40 CFR 260.10.

(vi) Transporters storing manifested shipments of hazardous waste in containers meeting the requirements of 40 CFR 262.30 at a transfer facility for a period of ten days or less.

(vii) Persons adding absorbent material to waste in a container (as defined in §260.10 of this chapter) and persons adding waste to absorbent material in a container, provided that these actions occur at the time waste is first placed in the container; and §§264.17(b), 264.171, and 264.172 of this chapter are complied with.

(viii) Universal waste handlers and universal waste transporters (as defined in 40 CFR 260.10) managing the wastes listed below. These handlers are subject to regulation under 40 part CFR 273.

(A) Batteries as described in 40 CFR 273.2;

(B) Pesticides as described in §273.3 of this chapter;

(C) Thermostats as described in §273.4 of this chapter; and

(D) Lamps as described in §273.5 of this chapter.

(ix) A New York State Utility central collection facility consolidating hazardous waste in accordance with 40 CFR 262.90.

(3) *Further exclusions.* (i) A person is not required to obtain a RCRA permit for treatment or containment activities taken during immediate response to any of the following situations:

(A) A discharge of a hazardous waste;

(B) An imminent and substantial threat of a discharge of hazardous waste;

(C) A discharge of a material which, when discharged, becomes a hazardous waste.

(D) An immediate threat to human health, public safety, property, or the

environment from the known or suspected presence of military munitions, other explosive material, or an explosive device, as determined by an explosive or munitions emergency response specialist as defined in 40 CFR 260.10.

(ii) Any person who continues or initiates hazardous waste treatment or containment activities after the immediate response is over is subject to all applicable requirements of this part for those activities.

(iii) In the case of emergency responses involving military munitions, the responding military emergency response specialist's organizational unit must retain records for three years identifying the dates of the response, the responsible persons responding, the type and description of material addressed, and its disposition.

(4) *Permits for less than an entire facility.* EPA may issue or deny a permit for one or more units at a facility without simultaneously issuing or denying a permit to all of the units at the facility. The interim status of any unit for which a permit has not been issued or denied is not affected by the issuance or denial of a permit to any other unit at the facility.

(5) *Closure by removal.* Owners/operators of surface impoundments, land treatment units, and waste piles closing by removal or decontamination under part 265 standards must obtain a post-closure permit unless they can demonstrate to the Regional Administrator that the closure met the standards for closure by removal or decontamination in §264.228, §264.280(e), or §264.258, respectively. The demonstration may be made in the following ways:

(i) If the owner/operator has submitted a part B application for a post-closure permit, the owner/operator may request a determination, based on information contained in the application, that section 264 closure by removal standards were met. If the Regional Administrator believes that §264 standards were met, he/she will notify the public of this proposed decision, allow for public comment, and reach a final determination according to the procedures in paragraph (c)(6) of this section.

(ii) If the owner/operator has not submitted a part B application for a post-closure permit, the owner/operator may petition the Regional Administrator for a determination that a post-closure permit is not required because the closure met the applicable part 264 closure standards.

(A) The petition must include data demonstrating that closure by removal or decontamination standards were met, or it must demonstrate that the unit closed under State requirements that met or exceeded the applicable 264 closure-by-removal standard.

(B) The Regional Administrator shall approve or deny the petition according to the procedures outlined in paragraph (c)(6) of this section.

(6) *Procedures for closure equivalency determination.* (i) If a facility owner/operator seeks an equivalency demonstration under §270.1(c)(5), the Regional Administrator will provide the public, through a newspaper notice, the opportunity to submit written comments on the information submitted by the owner/operator within 30 days from the date of the notice. The Regional Administrator will also, in response to a request or at his/her own discretion, hold a public hearing whenever such a hearing might clarify one or more issues concerning the equivalence of the part 265 closure to a part 264 closure. The Regional Administrator will give public notice of the hearing at least 30 days before it occurs. (Public notice of the hearing may be given at the same time as notice of the opportunity for the public to submit written comments, and the two notices may be combined.)

(ii) The Regional Administrator will determine whether the part 265 closure met 264 closure by removal or decontamination requirements within 90 days of its receipt. If the Regional Administrator finds that the closure did not meet the applicable part 264 standards, he/she will provide the owner/operator with a written statement of the reasons why the closure failed to meet part 264 standards. The owner/operator may submit additional information in support of an equivalency demonstration within 30 days after receiving such written statement. The Regional Administrator will review any additional

information submitted and make a final determination within 60 days.

(iii) If the Regional Administrator determines that the facility did not close in accordance with part 264 closure by removal standards, the facility is subject to post-closure permitting requirements.

(7) *Enforceable documents for post-closure care.* At the discretion of the Regional Administrator, an owner or operator may obtain, in lieu of a post-closure permit, an enforceable document imposing the requirements of 40 CFR 265.121. "Enforceable document" means an order, a plan, or other document issued by EPA or by an authorized State under an authority that meets the requirements of 40 CFR 271.16(e) including, but not limited to, a corrective action order issued by EPA under section 3008(h), a CERCLA remedial action, or a closure or post-closure plan.

[48 FR 14228, Apr. 1, 1983, as amended at 48 FR 30113, June 30, 1983; 51 FR 10176, Mar. 24, 1986; 52 FR 45798, Dec. 1, 1987; 53 FR 27165, July 19, 1988; 54 FR 9607, Mar. 7, 1989; 56 FR 32692, July 17, 1991; 60 FR 25542, May 11, 1995; 62 FR 6656, Feb. 12, 1996; 63 FR 56735, Oct. 22, 1998; 64 FR 36488, July 6, 1999; 64 FR 37638, July 12, 1999]

§ 270.2 Definitions.

The following definitions apply to parts 270, 271 and 124. Terms not defined in this section have the meaning given by RCRA.

Administrator means the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or an authorized representative.

Application means the EPA standard national forms for applying for a permit, including any additions, revisions or modifications to the forms; or forms approved by EPA for use in approved States, including any approved modifications or revisions. Application also includes the information required by the Director under §§ 270.14 through 270.29 (contents of part B of the RCRA application).

Approved program or approved State means a State which has been approved or authorized by EPA under part 271.

Aquifer means a geological formation, group of formations, or part of a formation that is capable of yielding a

significant amount of water to a well or spring.

Closure means the act of securing a Hazardous Waste Management facility pursuant to the requirements of 40 CFR part 264.

Component means any constituent part of a unit or any group of constituent parts of a unit which are assembled to perform a specific function (e.g., a pump seal, pump, kiln liner, kiln thermocouple).

Corrective Action Management Unit or CAMU means an area within a facility that is designated by the Regional Administrator under part 264 subpart S, for the purpose of implementing corrective action requirements under § 264.101 and RCRA section 3008(h). A CAMU shall only be used for the management of remediation wastes pursuant to implementing such corrective action requirements at the facility.

CWA means the Clean Water Act (formerly referred to as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act or Federal Water Pollution Control Act amendments of 1972) Pub. L. 92-500, as amended by Pub. L. 92-217 and Pub. L. 95-576; 33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*

Director means the Regional Administrator or the State Director, as the context requires, or an authorized representative. When there is no approved State program, and there is an EPA administered program, Director means the Regional Administrator. When there is an approved State program, Director normally means the State Director. In some circumstances, however, EPA retains the authority to take certain actions even when there is an approved State program. In such cases, the term Director means the Regional Administrator and not the State Director.

Disposal means the discharge, deposit, injection, dumping, spilling, leaking, or placing of any hazardous waste into or on any land or water so that such hazardous waste or any constituent thereof may enter the environment or be emitted into the air or discharged into any waters, including ground water.

Disposal facility means a facility or part of a facility at which hazardous waste is intentionally placed into or on