A Whirlwind Tour Of USDA’s CERCLA Program

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Who Is USDA?

- Founded in 1862
- “People’s Department”
- Seven mission areas
- Nineteen agencies
USDA’s Strategic Goals

- Enhance economic opportunities for agricultural producers
- Support increased economic opportunities and improved quality of life in rural America
- Enhance protection and safety of the Nation’s agriculture and food supply
- Improve the Nation’s nutrition and health

Protect and Enhance the Nation’s natural resource base and environment
Protecting Agricultural Land

- Former grain silo sites
- Former tic vats
- Research facilities
- Lands acquired through loan default
Protecting Forest Land

- Old landfills and underground tanks
- Old wood treating sites
- Illegal dumps
- Drug labs
- Formerly Used Defense Sites
- Abandoned mines
USDA Hazardous Materials Management Program (HMMP)

The HMMP is USDA’s program for

- Managing hazardous materials, chemicals, and wastes at USDA facilities
- Ensuring pollution prevention and environmental management activities
- Cleaning up sites with releases of hazardous substances
USDA Agencies Involved in the HMMP Program

- Agricultural Research Service
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- Farm Service Agency
- Forest Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Rural Housing Service
Hazardous Materials Policy Council

- Council directs USDA’s Hazardous Materials Management Program
- Council consists of senior policy representatives from affected USDA mission areas and agencies
- Chaired by Assistant Secretary for Administration
USDA Hazardous Materials Management Division

- Execution arm of USDA Hazardous Materials Policy Council
- Located within USDA Departmental Administration
- Assisted by Pollution Control Team of USDA Office of the General Counsel
USDA Policy on Cleanups

- Policy to use CERCLA authorities where there has been a release of hazardous substances into the environment
- Around 2200 sites have been cleaned up
- Over 2000 sites remain to be cleaned up using CERCLA
- Goal – all sites cleaned by 2045
USDA’s CERCLA Authorities

Executive Order 12580
- Where the release is on or the sole source of release is from a facility under the jurisdiction, custody, and control of USDA
- Except NPL sites and classic emergencies

Executive Order 13016
- Where the release is affecting a natural resource or a facility under the jurisdiction…
Sources of Program Funding

- USDA Hazardous Materials Management Appropriation - $12 million per year
- Agency appropriations
- Potentially Responsible Parties
- Partners such as EPA and States
How Are Sites Prioritized?

USDA prioritizes sites based on benefits to:
- Individuals and families
- Communities
- Environment and natural resources
- Partnerships
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