



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**
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Protecting Agricultural Land

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

- Old landfills and underground tanks
 - Old wood treating sites
 - Illegal dumps
 - Drug labs
 - Formerly Used Defense Sites
 - Abandoned mines
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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...
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Sources of Program Funding

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

USDA prioritizes sites based on benefits to:

- Individuals and families
 - Communities
 - Environment and natural resources
 - Partnerships
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