

# Response Actions on Interior Lands

Bureau and Departmental Perspective

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# What is Interior?

- Parks
- Wildlife Refuges
- Public lands

But also

- Fish hatcheries and bio-research labs
  - Ware-yards and road maintenance shops
  - Historic buildings and facilities, old military posts, and one nuclear reactor
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# Lands and Facilities Are Managed by:

- Bureau of Land Management
  - National Park Service
  - Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs
  - Bureau of Reclamation
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# Response Action History

Prior to 1995, all response actions were dealt with strictly at the bureau and field office level.

In 1995, the Central Hazardous Materials Fund was created at the Departmental level to handle the worst, most complex sites.

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# Bureau level

- Each bureau has its own procedures and funds to support response actions.
  - For example, many bureaus utilize O&M to fund these actions; while other bureaus have set aside special funds to support response actions.
  - And of course money is always scarce.
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# Departmental Level

- CHF was created to address the Department's highest priority sites as determined by the bureaus and the Technical Review Committee (TRC)
  - The TRC is composed of representatives from the land managing bureaus, the Solicitor's Office, the Office of the Budget and is chaired by the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
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# Central Hazardous Materials Fund

- Approximately \$9.9 million in appropriations per year since 1995
  - Recoveries from Potentially Responsible Parties (PRP) ranges from \$1 million to \$2 million per year
  - Between funding, cost recoveries and DOI supervised PRP work, we have managed to leverage over \$250 million in cleanups at 54 sites.
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# Environmental Liabilities (1)

- President's Management Initiative has placed a renewed emphasis on financial management and the results of the annual financial audit by the independent third party auditor
  - Environmental liabilities (EL) have been identified as a significant deficiency in many Federal agencies
  - ELs are situations which require a multi-year outflow of resources for response
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# Environmental Liabilities (2)

- Interior has aggressively developed a spectrum of tools, concepts and a database to not only address our financial needs but to also enhance our management of contaminated site cleanups
  - More importantly, we are in the process of building a unified, cross bureau database of sites needing study or cleanup.
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# Environmental Liabilities (3)

- Interior's goal is to create a comprehensive environmental management system that not only encompasses traditional cleanups, environmental audits, and oversight but also integrates the financial and documentation requirements associated with the mandatory annual financial audits.
  - We have just begun the journey....
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