

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 ("CERCLA" or "the Act"), as amended, requires that the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan ("NCP") include a list of national priorities among the known releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants throughout the United States. The National Priorities List ("NPL") constitutes this list. The NPL is intended primarily to guide the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA" or "the Agency") in determining which sites warrant further investigation. These further investigations will allow EPA to assess the nature and extent of public health and environmental risks associated with the site and to determine what CERCLA-financed remedial action(s), if any, may be appropriate. This rule adds 7 new sites to the NPL; all to the General Superfund Section of the NPL.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The effective date for this amendment to the NCP shall be May 30, 2003.

ADDRESSES: For addresses for the Headquarters and Regional dockets, as well as further details on what these dockets contain, *see* section II, "Availability of Information to the Public" in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** portion of this preamble.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Yolanda Singer, phone (703) 603-8835, State, Tribal and Site Identification Center; Office of Emergency and Remedial Response (mail code 5204G); U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20460; or the Superfund Hotline, phone (800) 424-9346 or (703) 412-9810 in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Table of Contents

- I. Background
 - A. What are CERCLA and SARA?
 - B. What is the NCP?
 - C. What is the National Priorities List (NPL)?
 - D. How are Sites Listed on the NPL?
 - E. What Happens to Sites on the NPL?
 - F. How are Site Boundaries Defined?
 - G. How are Sites Removed from the NPL?
 - H. Can Portions of Sites be Deleted from the NPL as They Are Cleaned Up?
 - I. What is the Construction Completion List (CCL)?
- II. Availability of Information to the Public
 - A. Can I Review the Documents Relevant to this Final Rule?
 - B. What Documents are Available for Review at the Headquarters Docket?

- C. What Documents are Available for Review at the Regional Dockets?
- D. How Do I Access the Documents?
- E. How Can I Obtain a Current List of NPL Sites?
- III. Contents of This Final Rule
 - A. Additions to the NPL
 - B. Status of NPL
 - C. What did EPA Do with the Public Comments It Received?
- IV. Executive Order 12866
 - A. What is Executive Order 12866?
 - B. Is this Final Rule Subject to Executive Order 12866 Review?
- V. Unfunded Mandates
 - A. What is the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA)?
 - B. Does UMRA Apply to This Final Rule?
- VI. Effects on Small Businesses
 - A. What is the Regulatory Flexibility Act?
 - B. How Has EPA Complied with the Regulatory Flexibility Act?
- VII. Possible Changes to the Effective Date of the Rule
 - A. Has This Rule Been Submitted to Congress and the General Accounting Office?
 - B. Could the Effective Date of This Final Rule Change?
 - C. What Could Cause the Effective Date of This Rule to Change?
- VIII. National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act
 - A. What is the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act?
 - B. Does the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act Apply to this Final Rule?
- IX. Executive Order 12898
 - A. What is Executive Order 12898?
 - B. Does Executive Order 12898 Apply to This Final Rule?
- X. Executive Order 13045
 - A. What is Executive Order 13045?
 - B. Does Executive Order 13045 Apply to This Final Rule?
- XI. Paperwork Reduction Act
 - A. What is the Paperwork Reduction Act?
 - B. Does the Paperwork Reduction Act Apply to This Final Rule?
- XII. Executive Orders on Federalism
 - A. What Are The Executive Orders on Federalism and Are They Applicable to This Final Rule?
- XIII. Executive Order 13084
 - A. What is Executive Order 13084 and Is It Applicable to this Final Rule?
- XIV. Executive Order 13175
 - A. What is Executive Order 13175?
 - B. Does Executive Order 13175 Apply to This Final Rule?
- XV. Executive Order 13211
 - A. What is Executive Order 13211?
 - B. Is this Rule Subject to Executive Order 13211?

I. Background

A. What Are CERCLA and SARA?

In 1980, Congress enacted the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. 9601-9675 ("CERCLA" or "the Act"), in response to the dangers of uncontrolled releases of hazardous substances. CERCLA was amended on

October 17, 1986, by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act ("SARA"), Public Law 99-499, 100 Stat. 1613 *et seq.*

B. What Is the NCP?

To implement CERCLA, EPA promulgated the revised National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan ("NCP"), 40 CFR part 300, on July 16, 1982 (47 FR 31180), pursuant to CERCLA section 105 and Executive Order 12316 (46 FR 42237, August 20, 1981). The NCP sets guidelines and procedures for responding to releases and threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants under CERCLA. EPA has revised the NCP on several occasions. The most recent comprehensive revision was on March 8, 1990 (55 FR 8666).

As required under section 105(a)(8)(A) of CERCLA, the NCP also includes "criteria for determining priorities among releases or threatened releases throughout the United States for the purpose of taking remedial action and, to the extent practicable, taking into account the potential urgency of such action for the purpose of taking removal action." ("Removal" actions are defined broadly and include a wide range of actions taken to study, clean up, prevent or otherwise address releases and threatened releases 42 U.S.C. 9601(23).)

C. What Is the National Priorities List (NPL)?

The NPL is a list of national priorities among the known or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants throughout the United States. The list, which is appendix B of the NCP (40 CFR part 300), was required under section 105(a)(8)(B) of CERCLA, as amended by SARA. Section 105(a)(8)(B) defines the NPL as a list of "releases" and the highest priority "facilities" and requires that the NPL be revised at least annually. The NPL is intended primarily to guide EPA in determining which sites warrant further investigation to assess the nature and extent of public health and environmental risks associated with a release of hazardous substances. The NPL is only of limited significance, however, as it does not assign liability to any party or to the owner of any specific property. Neither does placing a site on the NPL mean that any remedial or removal action necessarily need be taken.

For purposes of listing, the NPL includes two sections, one of sites that are generally evaluated and cleaned up by EPA (the "General Superfund