

Waste Cleanup: Status and Implications of DOE's Compliance Agreements // Gary L.

Jones, Bill Swick // 9780756731762 // 51 pages // DIANE Publishing, 2002 // 2002

Status and Implications of DOE's Compliance Agreements. GAO-02-567. Contents. The 70 compliance agreements at DOE sites vary greatly but can be divided into three main types: (1) 29 are agreements specifically required by CERCLA to address cleanup of federal sites on EPA's national priorities list of the nation's worst hazardous waste sites or by RCRA to address the management of hazardous waste or mixed radioactive and hazardous waste at DOE facilities, (2) 6 are court-ordered agreements resulting from lawsuits initiated primarily by states, and (3) 35 are other agreements, including state administrative orders enforcing state hazardous waste management laws. The Department of Energy (DOE) is responsible for cleanup and closure of over 140 contaminated sites in the United States. These sites are part of the legacy of nuclear-weapons production during the Manhattan Project and the Cold War. Contamination at many of these sites will continue to pose hazards that make unrestricted access unacceptable and thus entail management burdens into the indefinite future. National Research Council. 2003. Long-Term Stewardship of DOE Legacy Waste Sites: A Status Report. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. doi: 10.17226/10703. Save. Cancel. analyze long-term institutional management plans and practices for a small group of representative DOE legacy waste sites and to recommend improvements. Status of economic development is more a measure of the permanent economic framework than of the existing condition of the economy (recession vs. prosperity). In this document, the emphasis is on solid waste management in a setting that is primarily non-industrial. Municipal solid waste (MSW) is a term usually applied to a heterogeneous collection of wastes produced in urban areas, the nature of which varies from region to region. The characteristics and quantity of the solid waste generated in a region is not only a function of the living standard and lifestyle of the region's inhabitants, but also of the abundance and type of the region's natural resources. Urban wastes can be subdivided into two major components -- organic and inorganic. Inventory Considered. DOE-managed HLW and SNF consists of two principal waste streams: (1) HLW, mostly resulting from atomic energy defense activities but also including a small amount of HLW of commercial origin; and (2) SNF, primarily from atomic energy defense activities (weapons plutonium production reactors and naval propulsion reactors), but also including a smaller amount of SNF from DOE research and development activities and some DOE-managed SNF from commercial sources. A significant portion of the DOE-managed HLW has not yet been immobilized and might be suitable for different waste forms and disposal approaches than assumed in the mid-1980s. Support the cleanup mission at the DOE sites, promote improved cooperation