



Missouri Department of Natural Resources



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Hazardous Waste Program

Superfund Section

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What is Superfund?

In 1980, the U.S. Congress established the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), better known as Superfund. This law was passed in response to the indiscriminant disposal of the by-products of industrial life, which contaminated soil and water, resulting in threats to public health and the environment. The federal law provided both response and funding mechanisms for the cleanup of hazardous substance disposal sites. The Superfund program is designed to clean up contaminated property where releases of hazardous substances have occurred in the past or are threatening to occur due to past practice. The federal law requires the past polluters, called responsible parties, to pay for the cleanup. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Superfund Section has responsibility for many of these sites. To contact the Superfund Section, call (573) 751-8629.

Missouri Superfund Law

In June 1983, a state Superfund bill ([Chapters 260.440 through 260.475 RSMo](#)) was approved in Missouri. The law authorized the establishment of emergency response activities in the state to respond to hazardous substance releases. The law also created a Hazardous Waste Remedial Fund to be used for the implementation of these programs and other expenditures, such as financing the non-federal share of cleanups and the investigation and assessment of potential hazardous waste sites. Each January, the department presents a full account of the Hazardous Waste Remedial Fund to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Missouri Hazardous Waste Management Commission. Finally, the law directed the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to prepare a Registry of Confirmed Abandoned or Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites in Missouri (Registry)

The Registry

The Registry protects property buyers from unknowingly purchasing contaminated property. Sites listed on the Registry appear on a publicly available list, and a notice filed with the Recorder of Deeds documents hazardous waste contamination at the site. Notice regarding contamination must be provided by the seller to potential buyers. The use of a property listed on the Registry may not change substantially without review and written approval by the department. Department review ensures protection of human health and the environment by preventing activities that would spread contamination, increase human exposure, increase adverse environmental impacts or make future remediation more difficult. The department makes every effort to provide the most complete Registry possible; however, many eligible sites are not yet listed due to pending or ongoing investigations, cleanup negotiations or appeals. Also, unreported facilities or contaminated sites that the department is not aware of may exist.

To review Frequently Asked Questions, download the [Registry FAQ](#) from the Department's publications pages. For more detailed information on the Registry process, download the Department's [Registry Technical Bulletin](#)

Each year, pursuant to state law, the Department publishes the [Missouri Registry Annual Report: Registry of Confirmed Abandoned or Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites in Missouri and Hazardous Waste Remedial Fund Statement](#). (over 10mb [PDF](#)) This report is over 200 pages long and contains detailed descriptions of each site on the Registry, including: a site location map, address, waste type, site description, present property owner, environmental problems related to the site, remedial actions at the site, geologic and hydrogeologic description, public drinking water advisory, and health assessment. In addition, the report provides a narrative of state and federal Superfund activities in Missouri and Superfund site inventories developed by the department. Appendices include health chemical tables, a glossary of health terms, selected state hazardous waste laws, and applicable Registry regulations. To obtain a copy of the Missouri Registry Annual Report, send a written request, with a check for \$12.00, to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Hazardous Waste Program, Superfund Section, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102. Please make all checks payable to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. A [summary listing of the Registry](#) is available online.

Role of the Registry Unit

The Registry Unit evaluates potential abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste disposal sites, identifies those that should be listed on the Registry, and takes actions necessary for placing sites on the Registry. Registry personnel oversee and coordinate activities at all sites that are currently listed on the Registry and provide oversight for sites undergoing characterization and/or remediation under Registry consent agreements. When a site owner is willing to remediate a site in order to avoid being listed on the Registry, the owner may negotiate a consent agreement, which establishes a schedule and specific responsibilities for the completion of site investigation and remediation by the property owner or responsible party under state oversight.

Each year, the unit develops, publishes and distributes the Missouri Registry Annual Report. A Site Assessment Committee meets prior to the publication of the report each year to evaluate sites on the Registry, assigning each site a classification based on the need for action. The Site Assessment Committee is composed of representatives from the department's Hazardous Waste Program, Public Drinking Water Program, Environmental Services Program, and Geological Survey and Resource Assessment Division. A fifth member represents the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

Role of the Site Evaluation Unit

When a potential hazardous waste site is discovered, the Site Evaluation Unit (SEU) studies and investigates the new site. New sites are discovered in many ways. Often, a neighbor or a neighboring business will call and report a suspected abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste situation. Citizens are welcome to report situations of which they are aware. The SEU will add the site to their working list and begin the investigation. The Environmental Specialist who is assigned to the site obtains more information, visits the site and decides if the site warrants further investigation. If the conditions at the site have the potential to pose a serious threat to human health or the environment, the Environmental Specialist proceeds with collecting waste and environmental samples for laboratory analysis, determines the risk to the surrounding area and recommends a course of action. Some sites contain hazards that need to be removed immediately in order to protect nearby residents and workers or the environment. Other sites contain hazards that require less immediate action, but might require a long time to clean up. Serious sites that score high on a federal ranking system, can be recommended for the [National Priorities](#)

List (NPL) . The NPL is the EPA's list of the nation's worst hazardous waste sites. Sites needing removals and cleanups are referred to the Project Management Unit in Superfund or to the EPA.

Role of the Project Management Unit

After a site has been evaluated and ranked or recommended for the NPL, the EPA and DNR work together to begin negotiations for cleaning up the site. In Superfund, the parties responsible for contaminating the site are required to pay for the cleanup. Since the sites have been abandoned or are uncontrolled, or the contamination occurred a long time ago, it is often difficult to locate the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs). The PRP search is one of the first steps toward cleanup. Further investigation, sampling and study must be done to characterize the site and to plan for the cleanup. Seriously contaminated sites and sites with groundwater contamination are generally placed on the NPL. Superfund sites are usually large areas or are very seriously contaminated. Consequently, it is time consuming and costly to clean up a Superfund site. Studies are performed to locate all soil and groundwater contamination and to determine which method of cleanup will be most effective for ensuring protection of human health and the environment. EPA and DNR work toward agreement on selecting the best cleanup method for each site. PRPs are responsible for paying for studying and cleaning up sites, with EPA and DNR supervision. If there are no PRPs for a site, federal Superfund dollars finance the work, which DNR matches by 10 percent. For some sites requiring urgent response due to high risks, a Removal Action is performed, which is paid for entirely with federal funds or by PRPs. After sites are cleaned up, groundwater samples are taken periodically and site conditions are monitored to ensure that the cleanup was effective in controlling problems at the site. The Project Management Unit (PMU) also provides advice and oversees cleanups conducted by state agencies that own contaminated property. In most cases, contaminated state-owned properties are brought back into a productive use after cleanup.

For current information on many of the Hazardous Waste sites the Superfund Section works on, an EPA Web site provides a look at their list of [Superfund sites](#).

The "Cooperative Program"

The Project Management Unit also oversees Cooperative Program cleanups using state hazardous waste law authority instead of CERCLA authority. The Cooperative Program is offered to PRPs who are willing to cooperate with the state toward accomplishing a streamlined cleanup outside of the traditional Superfund process. Sites are cleaned up faster and at a lower cost. Although DNR works cooperatively with PRPs in this program, PRPs are subject to strict timelines and penalties in order to prevent referral to the Superfund Program.

Natural Resources Damage Assessments (NRDAs)

The Superfund Section has recently established a program to conduct natural resources damage assessments at state and federal Superfund sites. The program was developed pursuant to the authority provided in the federal *Superfund Law* that allows natural resources trustees, such as the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, to seek compensation for injuries of natural resources caused by hazardous substance contamination at Superfund sites. State natural resources include, but are not limited to, soils, surface water, groundwater, fish and wildlife. The NRDA program identifies injured sites and conducts assessments of injured natural resources to support damages claims. Claims are then filed against responsible parties, who are requested to provide monetary compensation for injured resources. Funds obtained through successful claims are then used to restore the injured resources.

Public Involvement in Superfund Cleanups

It is extremely important for citizens living near Superfund sites to become involved in the site characterization and cleanup process. People living near the sites have the right to know information about the site, comment and participate in decisions. In many cases, local people have helped locate contaminated sites and have helped agencies by contributing information about the history of the site. In addition, local citizens give numerous excellent comments and have directly helped make decisions about the cleanup of the site. DNR, EPA and health departments host public meetings or availability sessions to share information with the local citizens. An Information Repository including file data is established in an easily accessible location and citizens are invited to study the files. Large sites that are on the NPL or are seriously contaminated often require extensive public input. In several site locations, Community Advisory Groups (CAGs) or Technical Assistance Groups (TAGs) are formed. The groups consist of interested local citizens and agency staff from DNR, EPA and the health departments. They work together to understand the health risks, learn about the cleanup process and share information. Members of CAGs and TAGs help make important decisions about cleanup activities in their communities. Anyone interested in a site located in or near his or her community can call DNR and discuss the site with the Community Involvement Coordinator or the Project Manager of the site.

Missouri sites on the *National Priorities List* (NPL)

(Cities listed are the closest city to the site.)

- Armour Road, Clay County
- Bee Cee Manufacturing Plant, Dunklin County
- Big River Mine Tailings/St. Joe Minerals, St. Francois County
- Conservation Chemical Company, Jackson County
- Ellisville Site, St. Louis County
- Fulbright Landfill, Greene County
- Kem-Pest Laboratories, Cape Girardeau County
- Lake City Army Ammunition Plant, Jackson County
- Lee Chemical, Clay County
- Minker/Stout/Romaine Creek, Jefferson County
- Missouri Electric Works, Cape Girardeau County
- Newton County Wells, Newton County
- Oronogo-Duenweg Mining Belt, Jasper County
- Pool's Prairie Site, Newton County
- Quality Plating Site, Scott County
- Riverfront Industries, Franklin County
- Shenandoah Stables, Lincoln County
- Solid State Circuits, Inc., Greene County
- St. Louis Airport/HIS/Futura Coatings, St. Louis County
- Syntex Facility, Inc., Lawrence County
- Times Beach Site, St. Louis County
- Valley Park TCE, St. Louis County
- Weldon Spring Former Army Ordnance Works, St. Charles County
- Weldon Spring Quarry/Plant/Pitts (USDOE), St. Charles County
- Westlake Landfill, St. Louis County

Additional Information

Copies of the *Missouri Revised Statutes*, including the *Missouri Hazardous Waste Management Law* and the *Petroleum Storage Tank Law*, are available on line through the [Missouri General Assembly Web site](#).

Copies of the *Code of State Regulations* are available from the Missouri Secretary of State's Office, (573) 751-4015 and online at the [Secretary of State's regulations website](#)

[Interstate Technology Regulatory Council \(ITRC\)](#) web site for agency and industry staff networking and training.

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Revised on Thursday January 08 2004