

Reclamation Manual

Directives and Standards

Subject: Pollution Prevention – Hazardous and Solid Waste Minimization

Purpose: To establish methods to minimize hazardous and solid waste produced at Reclamation facilities.

Authority: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984, Executive Orders 12780 and 12873, applicable State and local regulations

Contact: Environmental and Planning Coordination Office, D-5100

1. Minimizing Hazardous Waste.

- A. Reclamation encourages the minimization of all waste generation. It is Reclamation policy to reduce, to the extent feasible, the amount of any hazardous and solid waste generated. Pollution prevention techniques focus first on source reduction and second on recycling activities reducing either volume and/or toxicity of waste generated. A pollution prevention program emphasizing source reduction and recycling will also reduce Reclamation's potential for hazardous and solid waste related financial liabilities associated with future adverse actions which could occur at treatment, storage, or disposal facilities and sanitary landfills taking Reclamation waste.
- B. Each Reclamation facility (regional office, area office, etc.) shall implement a documented pollution prevention plan for waste minimization to cover facilities under their jurisdiction. The waste pollution prevention documentation includes operation and maintenance contracts, future construction contracts, administering agencies, and leases of significant Reclamation properties. The first step in developing a comprehensive program is for each facility to conduct a waste minimization assessment or audit for determining potential opportunities to reduce or recycle waste. The results of this assessment or audit will enable managers to identify cost-effective approaches for reducing the volume and toxicity of waste generated.
- C. It will be the responsibility of each facility to review, revise, and update their program, as necessary, every 2 years. Guidance in conducting an effective pollution prevention program is contained in Reclamation's 1996 Pollution Prevention Guidance Manual.