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Site Assessment Program

Superfund Site Assessment



- What is a Superfund (NPL) Site
- How EPA evaluate sites for the NPL
- What status at the WWW Tannery and House Street Site

What is a Superfund (NPL) Site?



CERCLA – a.k.a. Superfund

- The **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act** (CERCLA), commonly known as Superfund, was enacted by Congress on December 11, 1980. This law created a tax on the chemical and petroleum industries and provided broad Federal authority to respond directly to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health or the environment. (These days we get an allocation from Congress)
- CERCLA allows EPA to clean up contaminated sites.
- CERCLA forces the responsible parties to either perform cleanups or reimburse the government for EPA-led cleanup work.

The law authorizes two kinds of response actions:

- Short-term removals, to address releases or threatened releases requiring prompt response.
- Long-term remedial response actions, that are serious, but not immediately life threatening. These actions can be conducted only at sites listed on EPA's [National Priorities List](#) .

Superfund Sites



CERCLA - is informally called “Superfund”

Sites placed on the National Priorities List (NPL) are called “Superfund Sites”

National Priorities List (NPL), are a list of sites that present the greatest threats to human health and the environment.

- Land/Sediment – contaminated with a “hazardous substances”
- Contamination is attributable to a facility/process, it is not a naturally-occurring metal found in soil
- Large area / many people are or can be affected
- No other state or federal program is addressing it

Superfund eligibility evaluation



EPA's Superfund Site Assessment Program with the State partners evaluate hundreds of sites every year.

In EPA Region 5 most evaluations are done under Cooperative Agreements with the States.

Our Program answers the question: Is this site eligible as a Superfund site?

Superfund eligibility evaluation



- We do a series of site investigations.
- By regulation, we use a numeric scoring system.
- We use the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) to score sites
- Max points is 100 but 28.50 or above is considered eligible
- We are guided by the score to make a decision.
- There are considerations other than score.
- Superfund Site Assessment/HRS evaluation is NOT Risk Assessment.

Hazard Ranking System (HRS)



What is the HRS?

- Set of rules for assigning values to risk factors to determine a site score
- A system that provides criteria for prioritizing sites
- (again) HRS is not Risk Assessment

What criteria are considered to score a site?



The HRS Site Score considers the following core questions:

- Has Anything Escaped? ***Likelihood of Release***
- How toxic and How Much? ***Waste Characteristics***
- Who And What Could It Impact? ***Targets***

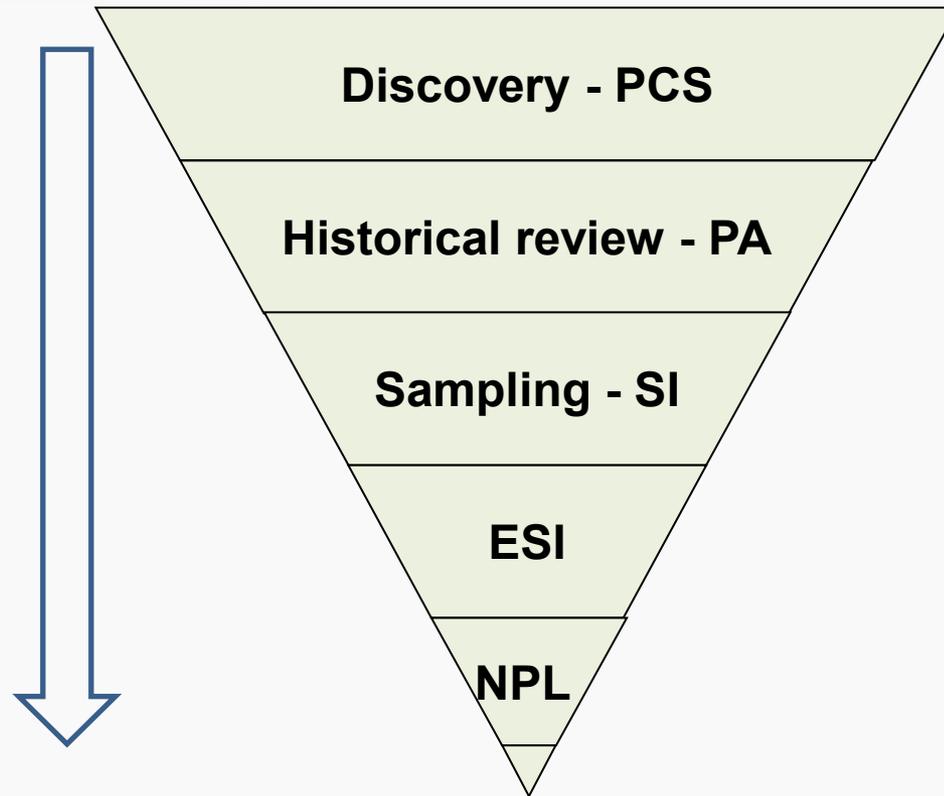
HRS quantifies factors relevant to these questions.

Other considerations: Sites that are being addressed by a state, tribal or local environmental cleanup program, and do not require further involvement by the federal Superfund program, may be excluded from the Superfund active inventory.

NPL Listing Process



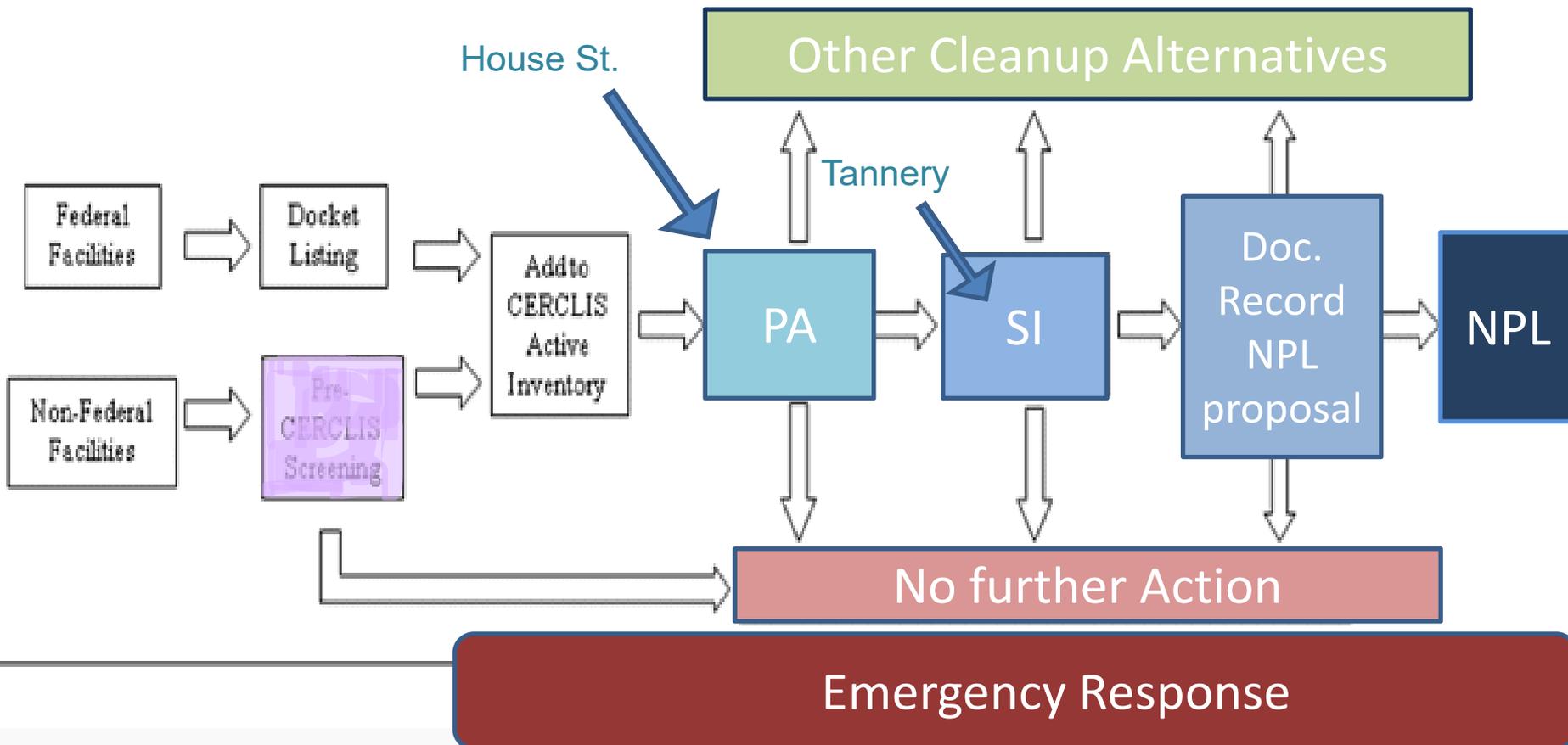
- Relative number of assessments decreases
- Relative effort and burden increases



Site Assessment Process



EPA Superfund Site Assessment Process





Four Pathways in the HRS

1. Groundwater migration
2. Surface Water migration
 - Drinking water
 - Fisheries
 - Environmental
3. Soil exposure and Subsurface/Vapor Intrusion
4. Air migration

Superfund Remedial Program



The Superfund NPL cleanup process is designed to address contamination that cannot be addressed by other existing cleanup authorities at the federal, state or local level.

The Superfund NPL cleanup process is a partnership between the state and the federal EPA. The Superfund law prescribes significant input by the states in identifying, investigating, and cleaning up NPL sites.

Potential Obstacle's to NPL Listing



- **Proposed NPL Sites require concurrence from the state (a Governor's Letter)**

By statute if a site requires federal funding for cleanup:

- **State pays 10% cleanup funding, and**
- **States are responsible for conducting any needed operation and maintenance of the implemented cleanup action.**

- HRS Documentation Records – must be legally defensible (lengthy Quality Assurance Review)
- Proposals have 60 days of comment period
- Final NPL – 90 days to contest the listing.

After a Site is Listed in the NPL



Superfund Pipeline



Major Phases – Remedial Project Manager duties:





Questions?