

**179**

**FACTSHEET: WASTE MANAGEMENT  
VOCABULARY**

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**Waste Management  
Vocabulary**

Over the past two decades, work in the environmental management and response area has created a unique vocabulary of laws, regulations, and terms. Listed below are some of the terms and definitions that are most important at the Feed Materials Production Center (FMPC).

- ALARA**      **As Low as Reasonably Achievable.** A principle followed by all U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) facilities. Rather than simply following regulations, DOE strives to keep radiation exposure to workers and the public as low as reasonably achievable.
- BDN**      **Biodenitrification.** A waste treatment process that uses natural bacteria to "eat" nitrates. FMPC has a BDN facility that has significantly reduced the nitrate content of FMPC discharge.
- BOD**      **Biological Oxygen Demand.** A measurement of the oxygen available for organisms to use in waste water discharge. This is one of the standards regulated by the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).
- CEQ**      **Council on Environmental Quality.** A government council that oversees implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- CERCLA**      **Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation Liability Act.** Commonly known as Superfund, this law gives the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the authority to respond to releases and threats of releases of hazardous substances from containers and facilities. It was passed in 1980.
- CIS**      **Characterization Investigation Study.** A study to identify and quantify contents of a waste site. A detailed CIS has recently been performed on the FMPC waste pit area.
- Consent Decree**      An agreement between the State of Ohio and DOE specifying actions to be taken to make environmental upgrades at the site. Two consent decrees were signed in December 1988.
- DFOs**      **Director's Findings and Orders.** A set of environmental directions handed down to FMPC from the Director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). These directions require various environmental improvements that are now being implemented at FMPC.
- EIS**      **Environmental Impact Statement.** A document that provides a comprehensive assessment of the effect of a proposed action on the environment. An EIS is being written assessing the environmental impacts associated with FMPC renovation and major remedial action activities.
- EPA**      **Environmental Protection Agency.** The Federal agency responsible for regulating most environmental problems.

**Federal Facilities Compliance Agreement.** An agreement signed in 1986 between DOE and the EPA. It regards the compliance of DOE facilities (including FMPC) with environmental regulations.

## NEPA

**National Environmental Policy Act.** Passed in 1970, NEPA makes it Federal policy that all practical measures will be used to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in harmony. The U.S. Department of Energy will have the responsibility and authority for issuing a Record of Decision for remedial activities under NEPA.

## NPDES

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.** A system established by the EPA under the Clean Water Act to issue permits for the discharge of any pollutant(s).

## NPL

**National Priority List.** A list of sites to be evaluated for remedial action under CERCLA.

## OEPA

**Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.** The State agency responsible for regulating environmental concerns in Ohio.

## RCRA

**Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.** This law, passed in 1976, set standards for the handling of hazardous wastes.

## RI/FS

**Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.** A study that characterizes environmental problems and outlines remedial actions to solve those problems. An RI/FS is currently underway for the FMPC site and adjacent areas. EPA has the responsibility and authority to issue a Record of Decision for the remedial activities.

## RMI

**Reactive Metals Incorporated.** A company that has worked in the past with ingots and billets produced at FMPC. The RI/FS being developed for FMPC also covers the RMI facility in northern Ohio.

## ROD

**Record of Decision.** A written decision made on whether to permit an action (e.g., when an EIS is submitted).

## SARA

**Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act.** A law passed by Congress in 1986 to strengthen and extend the provisions of CERCLA. The act covers a broad range of emergency response and cleanup provisions.

## TSS

**Total Suspended Solids.** A measurement of solid materials suspended in waste water discharge. TSS limits are enforced by the NPDES.

