

The Confirmed Release List and Inventory

Informing the Public about Hazardous Substance Sites

Purpose

The purpose of this fact sheet is to describe the **Confirmed Release List (CRL)** and the **Inventory of Hazardous Substance Sites (Inventory)** and explain their relationship to the **Environmental Cleanup Site Information System (ECSI)**. Maintained by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), each of these tools provides information on sites where a release of hazardous substances is suspected or known to have occurred.

ECSI, CRL and Inventory

One of DEQ's most basic tasks is keeping track of information about individual hazardous substance release sites. To help meet this need, **ECSI** was created. ECSI, an electronic database, is available to the public and can be searched for a wide range of information concerning sites with suspected or known releases of hazardous substances (except information about petroleum releases from underground storage tanks, which is available in other DEQ-maintained databases). ECSI contains information on more than 2000 sites in Oregon.

The **CRL** is a subset of ECSI and includes sites where a release of hazardous substances has been documented. Sites may be added to the CRL at any time after a confirmed release has been documented. There are formal processes, described in more detail below, by which sites are added to and removed from the CRL.

About half of the sites on the CRL are also on the **Inventory**, a list of sites with confirmed releases that DEQ has determined also require further investigation and/or cleanup. Sites may only be added to the Inventory after a preliminary assessment (PA) or preliminary assessment equivalent (PAE) has been completed. The same formal processes for listing and de-listing sites on the CRL apply to the Inventory as well. The characteristic that distinguishes the Inventory from the CRL is that DEQ has determined, based on the PA or PAE,

that further action is required to address contamination at the sites on the Inventory.

The Listing Process

DEQ adds sites to the CRL and Inventory when it determines they meet the criteria for listing:

CRL Criteria

To be added to the CRL, a site must have had a release of a hazardous substance that is confirmed by meeting both of the following criteria:

- The release has been documented by qualified observation, report or laboratory data; and
- The release is not excluded from listing by virtue of being insignificant in quantity or hazard, regulated by another program, having been adequately cleaned up or otherwise requiring no further action.

Once listed on the CRL, a site typically has a PA or PAE completed. A PA or PAE provides an in-depth review of a site's operating history and potential extent of contamination, and describes ways in which site contamination could affect human health and the environment.

Inventory Criteria

DEQ adds sites to the Inventory where further investigation is required and where removal, remedial action, or engineering or institutional controls are needed to protect public health, safety or welfare or the environment. Sites are added to the Inventory based on a PA or PAE approved or conducted by DEQ and other available information.

Procedure

Prior to adding a site to either the CRL or the Inventory, DEQ notifies site owners and operators and allows them to comment on the proposed listing or provide additional information they think might be relevant to the listing decision. Owners and operators are given



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

**Waste Prevention
And Management**
811 SW 6th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204
Phone: (503) 229-5913
Fax: (503) 229-6954

www.deq.state.or.us

a 45-day period, which can be extended by an additional 45 days upon request, to comment on the proposed listing. DEQ responds to substantive comments and new information in writing. Comments or new information sometimes indicate that the site does not meet the listing criteria. In any case, after reviewing comments, DEQ makes its decision about listing and sends a letter responding to comments and notifying the owners and operators of that decision. Sometimes, a meeting will be held to further discuss issues bearing on the listing decision. The actual listing usually happens within 90 days of receiving the comments.

De-listing Sites

DEQ removes sites from the CRL and Inventory when all necessary investigation or other remedial action has been completed and after a public comment period. In addition, an owner, operator or other person may petition the Director to remove a facility from the list(s). DEQ will consider the same criteria under which the site was listed in reaching a decision about de-listing a site. The period for public comment on a proposal to de-list a site is at least 30 days and may be extended under certain circumstances.

In some cases, site cleanups will consist of, or will include, engineering or institutional controls. For example, after removing some of the contaminated soil from a site, other measures such as an engineering cap and a deed restriction may be implemented to protect public health and the environment. If selected or approved by DEQ as part of a cleanup remedy, institutional and engineering controls are considered to be ongoing remedial actions, and such sites must remain on the CRL and Inventory.

DEQ updates the CRL and Inventory quarterly and provides summaries of these updated lists to interested persons. These summaries identify the listed sites and include key information about each site. In addition, a more extensive facility report is available upon request for each site listed on the CRL and/or Inventory.

DEQ is pleased to make the ECSI database available online as a searchable web database. You can also access ECSI through a searchable database, called OPENS, which is available at most DEQ offices. Opens features most of the information contained in the ECSI database.

For More Information:

To request copies of facility reports or the CRL and Inventory, or if you have questions about the listing process, please contact Kimberlee Van Patten, (503) 229-5256, (van-patten.kimberlee@deq.state.or.us). In Oregon call toll-free: (800) 452-4011



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