

Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Information Repository

April 2010

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service is conducting Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or "Superfund") activities at its Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). ARS is committed to keeping community neighbors, employees, and other interested parties informed about CERCLA activities at BARC.

To make information more accessible to the public, BARC has placed the documents and records related to Superfund activities in electronic format for viewing by computer, in addition to making paper copies of this information available.

What is an Information Repository?

An Information Repository is a formal collection of documents relating to a specific Superfund site, including documents regarding site activities. The purpose of the Information Repository is to allow open and convenient public access to site-related documents that explain the actions taking place at a site and to better inform the public of the Superfund process.

The Information Repository provides local officials, citizens, and media with easy access to accurate, detailed, and current data about the site. Materials in the Information Repository include site-specific documents (e.g., groundwater study at a site), fact sheets, press releases, maps, and other information to aid public understanding of CERCLA response activities. In addition, the Information Repository contains Administrative Record files for specific sites.

What is the Administrative Record?

The Administrative Record file is a subset of the Information Repository. It is the collection of documents that form the basis

for the selection of a response action at a Superfund site. The purpose of the Administrative Record file is to provide the public access to site-related information so that the public can review reports and make informed comments on the selection of a remedy.

The Administrative Record file includes site-specific data and comments, guidance documents, technical references used in the selection of a CERCLA response activity, and documents that reflect the views of the public concerning the selection of a response. Types of documents required in the Administrative Record file include:

- Preliminary Assessment Report
- Site Inspection Report
- Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Work Plan and Report
- Technical studies performed for the site
- Risk assessments
- Public comments
- Responses to public comments on the selection of a remedy
- A signed copy of the Record of Decision for a site remedy

The BARC Information Repository

ARS has established an Information Repository for documents associated with the BARC CERCLA program.

Administrative Record files that have been created and are available include:

- Biodegradable Site (BARC 6), near the Metro Green Line storage yard
- Dump Off Odell Road (BARC 9); Chemical Storage Sheds (BARC 30); Drums Near Building 085 (ENTECH 7); and Chicken Hill (BARC 35)
- Low-Level Radiation Burial Site (BARC 18)
- College Park Landfill Site (BARC 22)
- Chemical Disposal Pits Site (BARC 12)

- Beaverdam Road Landfill Site (BARC 27)
- PCB Storage Area (BARC 32) and B-442 Scrap Area (BARC 31)

Other documents produced from the Site Screening Process (SSP) have also been indexed and are available within the Information Repository.

All documents within the Information Repository can be classified into six broad categories:

- Factual Information and Data
- Policy and Guidance
- Public Participation
- Enforcement Documents

- Decision Documents
- Other Information

Location and Hours of the BARC Information Repository

The BARC Information Repository is located in Room 121, Building 003, 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD. The Information Repository is open to the public Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. A copy of the electronic BARC IR is also available at the Beltsville branch of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System located at 4319 Sellman Road. The library's hours of operation are Monday through Tuesday, 1pm to 9 pm; Wednesday through Friday, 10 am to 6 pm; and Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm.

For More Information:

Contact Kim Kaplan, ARS Information Staff, 301-504-1637, Kim.Kaplan@ars.usda.gov, or visit the ARS Information Repository located in Room 121, Building 003, 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD. The Information Repository is open to the public Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

A new web-based Information Repository is currently under construction for BARC's Superfund site. When completed, it will be found at www.ars.usda.gov/BARCSuperfund.

**BELTSVILLE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER
INFORMATION REPOSITORY**

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