



Beltsville Agricultural Research Center: Information Repository



June 2005

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) 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 on CD-ROM 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. Making documents available to the public throughout the cleanup process and discussing site findings and decisions as they are developed will more fully involve citizens in the cleanup process and ensure continued two-way communication between ARS and local communities. 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. Additionally, 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 interested parties may 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. Examples of the types of documents required in the Administrative Record file include the following:

- 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 Administrative Record files for Superfund activities at BARC that 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).
- Beaver Dam 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.

BARC's Electronic Information Repository

The CD-ROM electronic system developed for BARC's Information Repository provides the public with access to a large searchable database of information pertaining to Superfund (CERCLA) activities ongoing at BARC. The system is intended to be user-friendly to ensure the public can easily locate relevant information. Users of the CD-ROM system can perform key word searches to identify documents of interest. Copies of documents can be printed on the Laserjet printer dedicated to the system. A detailed explanation of these procedures is outlined in the User's Manual, which accompanies the system.

All documents within the Information Repository have been classified into the following 6 broad categories:

- Factual Information and Data.
- Policy and Guidance.
- Public Participation.
- Enforcement Documents.
- Decision Documents.
- Other Information.

A separate CD contains a searchable index of all documents contained within the Information Repository. This CD can be searched using key words to aid the user in identifying and retrieving documents of interest.

Location and Hours of the BARC Information Repository

The BARC Information Repository is located in Room 014, 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 Wednesday, 10 am to 9 pm; Thursday and Friday, 10 am to 6 pm; and Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm.

For More Information...

Contact Kim Kaplan, ARS Information Staff, at 301/504-1637, kaplan@ars.usda.gov, or visit the ARS information repository located in Room 014, Building 003, 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD. The information repository is open to the public Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.