HAZARDOUS WASTE

PERMITTING AND COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE

Oversees the storage and destruction of nearly 10 percent of the nation's mustard agent stockpile stored at Pueblo Chemical Depot. Reviews and issues hazardous waste permits at facilities to ensure hazardous wastes are managed appropriately. Provides technical and regulatory assistance in unusual or time-critical projects. Incorporates pollution prevention into permitting, compliance and enforcement activities of the division.

HAZARDOUS WASTE CORRECTIVE ACTION

Regulates hazardous waste generators; and treatment, storage and disposal facilities, including permitted facilities. Monitors the cleanup remedies of facilities found to be out of compliance with emissions or disposal regulations.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT

Maintains the division website and the Customer Technical Assistance phone line. The Generator Assistance Program (GAP) offers free assistance to small businesses to help them interpret applicable environmental regulations. Develops and delivers a variety of training events and provides technical support to the other programs in the division.

WHAT IS THE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION?

The Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division is one of four environmental divisions at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Division staff are trained in engineering, geology, mining, chemistry, biology, ecology, industrial hygiene, radiation, information technology, communications and records management. The division achieves its mission by focusing on the following areas: hazardous waste, remediation, radiation, solid waste and materials, technical assistance and support, administration and community involvement.

ADMINISTRATION

Manages the division's Record Center, where all recent documents from environmental cleanup sites are stored. Supports the Information Management computer systems, available to both internal and external users. Web-based programs offer users up-to-date site information, such as sampling results, and enable the user to check their proximity to current and former cleanup locations. Also provides fiscal and human resource support to the division.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community Involvement staff work with technical project staff to facilitate two-way communication with local stakeholders, and to provide information to community members. Community Involvement staff also act as liaisons between the division and community groups, individuals, appointed board members and government officials; develop informational material and presentations; and seek to actively engage community members in cleanup planning at various sites. This unit also responds to all media inquiries.

RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITIES

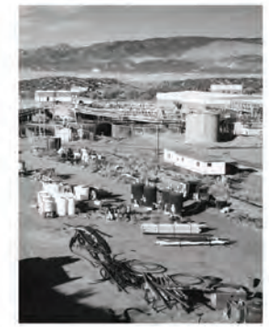
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

- Community Involvement Program
  303-692-3421
- Records Center
  303-692-3331
- Customer Technical Assistance
  303-692-3320
  Toll free: 1-888-569-1831, ext. 3320
- Radon Hotline
  1-800-846-3986
- Spill Reporting (24-hour)
  1-877-518-5608

www.colorado.gov/cdphe

DIVISION MISSION

To improve the quality of the environment and public health for the citizens of Colorado by continuously improving our efforts to ensure proper management of hazardous materials and waste.



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS & WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

REMEDIATION

FEDERAL FACILITIES

Oversees the remediation and redevelopment of active and formerly used defense sites to ensure cleanups are protective of human health and the environment.

SUPERFUND

A site qualifies for the National Priorities List (Superfund list) when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determines there is a release or threatened release of hazardous substances that may endanger public health, welfare or the environment. In Colorado, the lead agency for Superfund remediation may be either EPA or the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

URANIUM MILL TAILINGS REMEDIATION ACT

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment developed and published a plan for managing uranium mill tailings encountered during construction activities in Western Colorado. The Post-UMTRA Uranium Mill Tailings Management Plan provides guidance and outlines resources for building contractors, private citizens, utility companies and local governments when faced with newly discovered uranium mill tailings material.

BROWNFIELDS

Provides public and private property owners with resources to facilitate cleanups at abandoned industrial facilities, long-forgotten gas stations and other potentially contaminated properties that would otherwise languish and hinder economic development.

(REMEDIATION CONTINUED)

VOLUNTARY CLEANUP

The Voluntary Cleanup and Redevelopment Program was created in 1994 with the objective to facilitate the redevelopment and transfer of contaminated properties. Properties that sit untouched because of real or perceived contamination can be rehabilitated using the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Brownfields Program in conjunction with the Voluntary Cleanup Program. These programs provide public and property owners with the resources to facilitate cleanups, as well as assurances against regulatory enforcement.

RADIATION

RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

Regulates facilities that process, use, store, transport or dispose of radioactive materials in order to ensure that the materials are managed appropriately. Also licenses nuclear medicine and radiology offices and linear accelerators, inspects research facilities, oversees the use of density gauges, tracks all devices that contain sealed sources, and acts as a first responder if there is any release of radioactive materials.

(RADIATION CONTINUED)

URANIUM PROJECTS

Conducts comprehensive technical reviews of applications and oversees radioactive materials licensing for uranium mills in the state. This oversight is designed to ensure protection of both public health and the environment, and encompasses a wide range of regulatory, technical, scientific and socioeconomic factors.

X-RAY CERTIFICATION

Regulates and assures the safety of all x-ray and mammography machines and centers, and certifies inspectors that annually check and certify the function of all x-ray machines. Inspects all mammography centers in the state.

RADON OUTREACH

Works with local agencies to encourage radon evaluations in homes and buildings. Also responds to the public's inquiries about radon by providing written information and public presentations.

SOLID WASTE AND MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

PERMITTING

Conducts comprehensive technical review of applications for Certificate of Designation requests as solid waste sites or facilities to determine if the location, design and operating criteria of the proposed facilities are protective of human health and the environment.

(SOLID WASTE CONTINUED)

COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Conducts compliance inspections at facilities that manage, treat, recycle, reuse and/or dispose of solid wastes. Investigates complaints alleging mismanagement of solid waste and may oversee cleanup to assure the proper characterization, management and disposal of wastes.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

Oversees current materials management activities and facilitates future innovation in the recycling and beneficial reuse arenas. Implements the waste tire and waste grease management and recycling programs.

COMPLIANCE COORDINATION AND ASSISTANCE

Provides technical and regulatory assistance in unusual or time-critical projects that are not otherwise overseen by other division programs. Aids the regulated community, the public and local governments in understanding the importance of the requirements and the advantages to all by promoting lower operating costs, lower contamination cleanup costs, lower penalties, and increased community acceptance.

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE AND DATA MANAGEMENT

Reviews all solid and hazardous waste financial assurance mechanisms required for certain waste management facilities in Colorado. Manages solid waste, hazardous waste and radioactive materials databases for the division.