

CHAPTER 4 - POLLUTION PREVENTION

4-1. Purpose. This chapter establishes the USACE pollution prevention policy. Pollution includes impacts from USACE projects, facilities or activities to the air, surface waters, groundwater, soil, or other natural resources. Preventive measures include reduction or elimination of the sources of wastes, more efficient use of raw materials or energy, and reduced emissions of toxic materials to the environment.

4-2. Applicability. This chapter applies to all USACE commands having responsibility for civil works functions, and to military-funded projects and facilities.

4-3. Objectives. The USACE pollution prevention objectives are to:

- a. Develop cost-effective approaches to reducing energy use, conserving water, and reducing contamination to all environmental media.
- b. Minimize the use of environmentally degrading materials and processes in project/facility management.
- c. For those limited applications which deal in Toxic Release Inventory (TRI), reduce the total release and disposal of toxic chemicals by 50 percent between 1994 and 1999, in accordance with Executive Order 12856.
- d. Instill the pollution prevention ethic throughout the USACE community and all its mission areas.

4-4. Policy. It is the policy of the Corps of Engineers that:

- a. The USACE will comply with all applicable Federal, state, interstate and local environmental laws and regulations.
- b. Pollution will be prevented or reduced at the source. Wastes and by-products that cannot be prevented will be recycled. Pollutants that cannot be recycled will be treated to minimize environmental hazards. Disposal or other release into the environment will be employed only as a last resort and will be conducted in an environmentally safe manner. (See Chapter 4 of EP 200-2-3.)
- c. USACE operations and activities will incorporate pollution prevention practices on a life cycle basis.
- d. USACE personnel will practice pollution prevention.

4-5 Major Program Requirements. In consonance with Department of the Army guidance, USACE projects and facilities will:

- a. Develop a pollution prevention program.
- b. Develop and implement a pollution prevention plan. Update the plan whenever the project undergoes a significant change in functions or processes, or on a five-year cycle to

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correspond with the external environmental assessment.

c. Consider cost-effective pollution prevention in all planning at the earliest possible stage.