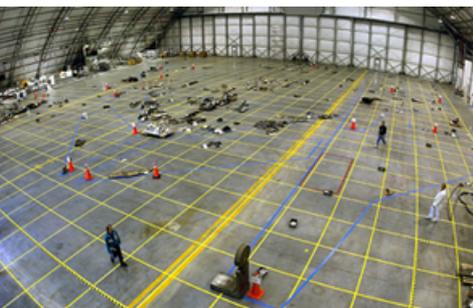




R2RA Information Exchange Webinar

What is a Superfund Site Anyway?

An Overview of the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)



The Origin of CERCLA

- ◆ Public awareness of abandoned dump sites
- ◆ Two sites drew significant media attention:
 - » Love Canal in Niagara Falls, New York
 - » “Valley of the Drums” in Brooks, Kentucky



Key Provisions of CERCLA

- ◆ Provides legal authority to respond to a release of:
 - » A hazardous substance
 - » Any pollutant or contaminant that may present an imminent and substantial endangerment
- ◆ Specifically excludes petroleum



Other CERCLA Exemptions and Exclusions

- ◆ Federally permitted releases
- ◆ Workplace exposure (OSHA)
- ◆ Normal application of fertilizer
- ◆ Naturally occurring substances like Radon
- ◆ Lead from deteriorating pipes
- ◆ Building products like asbestos, Chinese Drywall



Key Provisions of CERCLA

- ◆ Creates Hazardous Substance Trust Fund
- ◆ Advances scientific and technological capabilities-SRP!
- ◆ Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA)



Key Provisions of CERCLA

- ◆ Authorizes two types of response actions:

- » Removal action
- » Remedial action



- ◆ Enforcement Authorities

- ◆ Establishes a National Priorities List

- ◆ Requires amendment to the National Contingency Plan (NCP) to provide a blueprint for conducting response actions



The National Contingency Plan

- ◆ Establishes a hierarchy of responders and promotes coordination and Identifies how duties are delegated
- ◆ On-Scene Coordinators and Remedial Project Managers direct response actions



General Provisions of CERCLA and the NCP

- ◆ States and tribal governments participate extensively
- ◆ Responsible Parties conduct response actions with oversight
- ◆ Community involvement activities are conducted throughout the response process

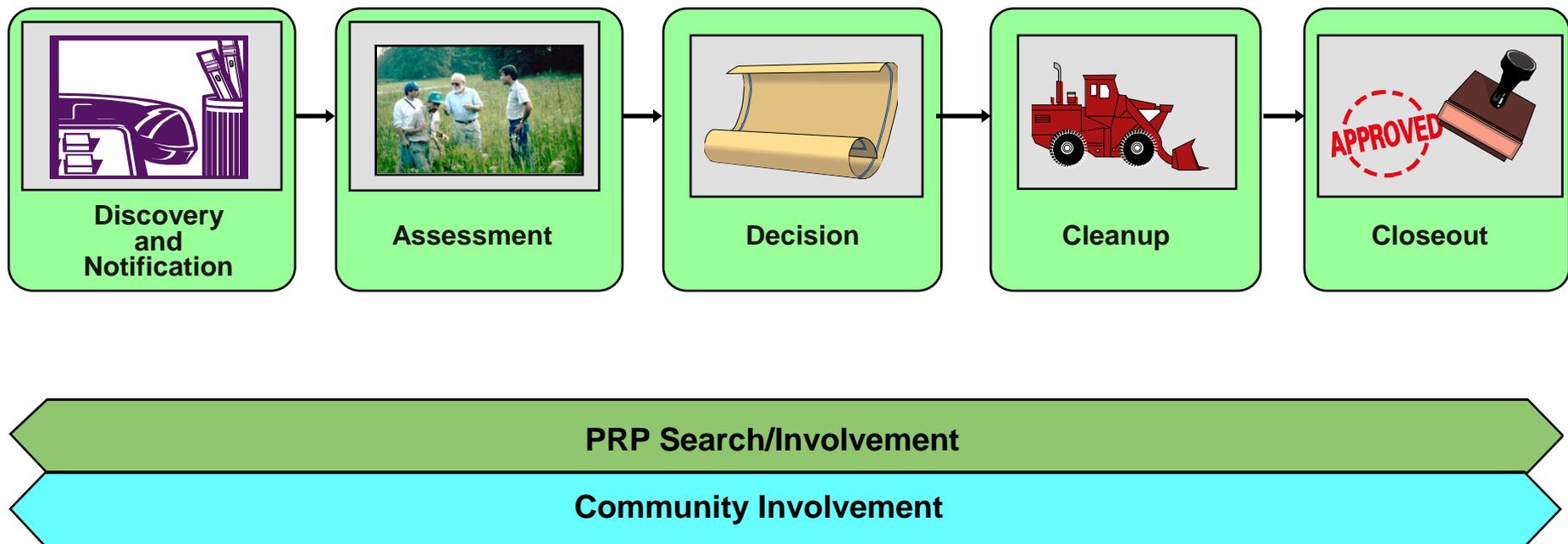




Site Discovery and Evaluation



Overview of the Response Process under CERCLA and the NCP

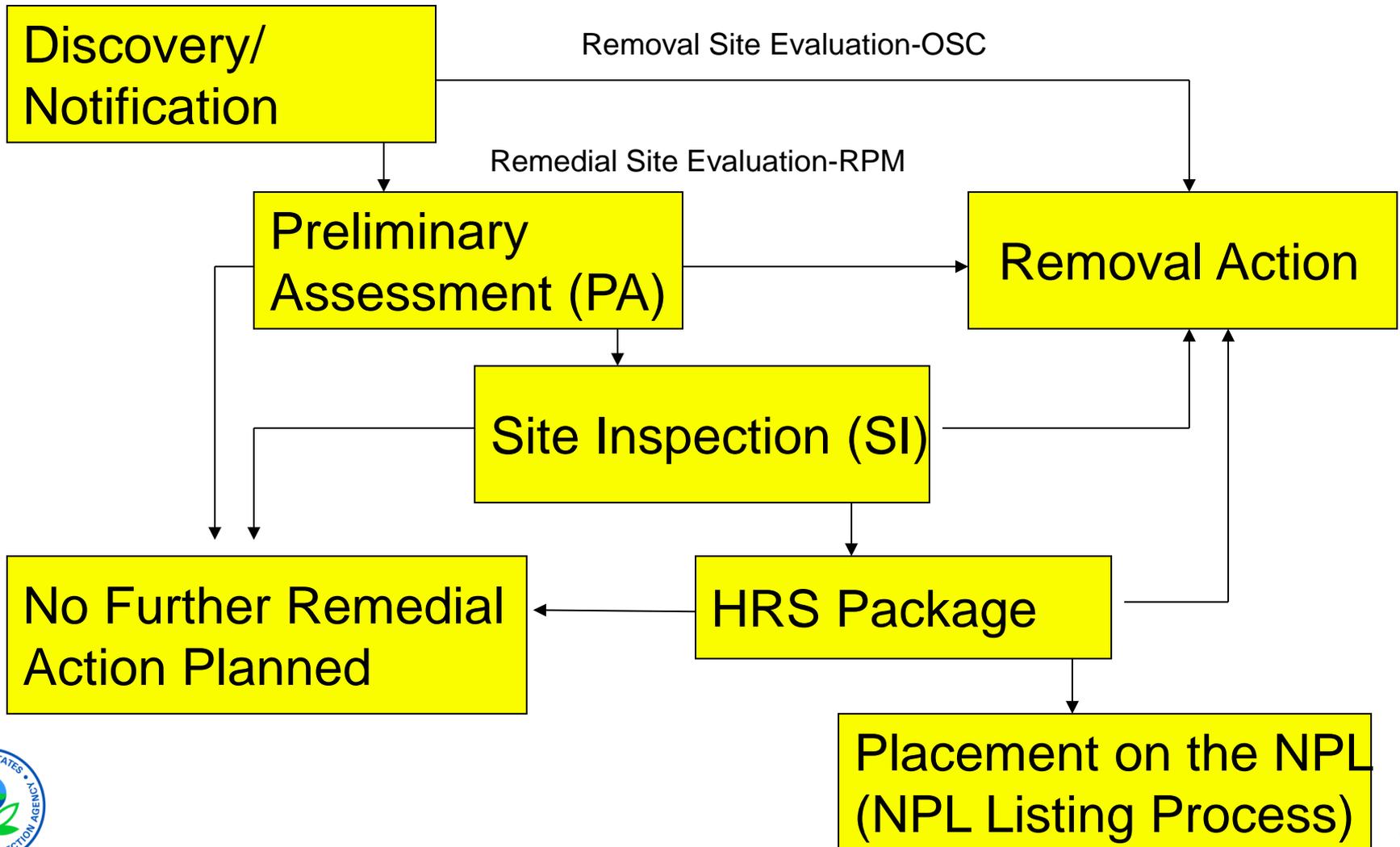


How are Potential Sites Identified?

- ◆ Release reporting requirements
- ◆ Inspections or inventory by federal or state authorities
- ◆ Complaints from citizens
- ◆ Media



How Are New Sites Evaluated?





Removal Process



Definition of a Removal Response for Release of Hazardous Substances

- ◆ Removals are generally short-term actions to protect human health and welfare or the environment
- ◆ Three types of removal actions:
 - » Emergency – action is required within hours
 - » Time-critical – action is required within 6 months
 - » Non-time-critical – planning period of more than 6 months is available



Determining Whether a Removal Action Is Warranted

◆ NCP removal factors

- » Actual or potential exposure of humans, animals, or food chain
- » Actual or potential contamination of drinking water systems or sensitive ecosystems
- » Drums, barrels, tanks, and other containers that pose threat of release
- » Highly contaminated surface soil that may migrate
- » Weather conditions that may cause a release
- » Threat of fire or explosion



Responsibilities of the On-Scene Coordinator

- ◆ The OSC has the authority and responsibility to:
 - » Coordinate with other response agencies
 - » Maintain a dialogue with all parties
 - » Carry out duties identified in the NCP
- ◆ The national EPA OSC Web page is located at www.epaosc.net



Common Aspects of Emergencies

- ◆ Pose immediate and easily discernible threats
- ◆ Often involve quickly changing circumstances
- ◆ Catastrophic discharges or very large releases



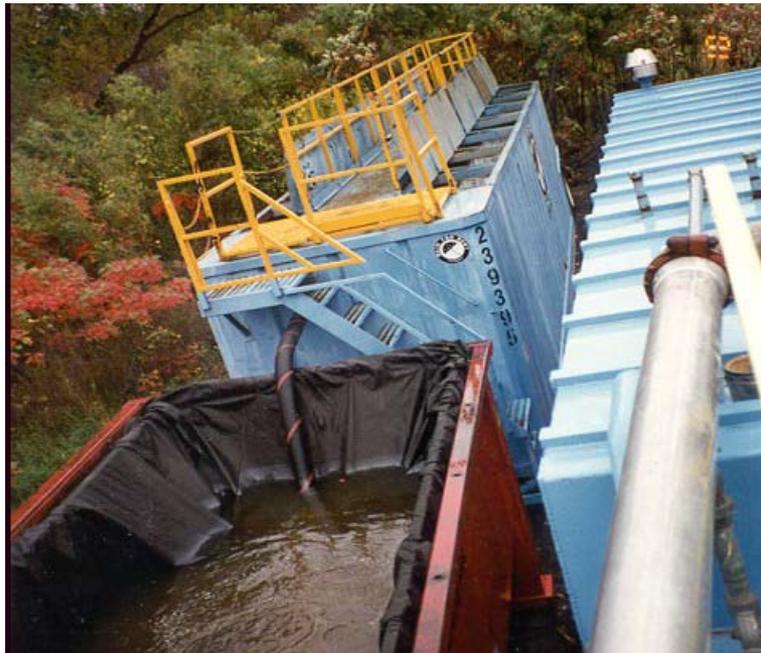
Common Aspects of Time-Critical Situations

- ◆ Threats are imminent, but less urgent and often require response within days
- ◆ May be large or small scale, depending on the nature of the problem
- ◆ Most common type of removal



Common Aspects of Non-Time-Critical Situations

- ◆ Threats are the least urgent but still meet Removal Criteria
- ◆ Planning period of at least 6 months is available



Oil Spill Response Under CWA/OPA

- ◆ EPA leads responses to inland oil spills
- ◆ USCG leads responses to spills in coastal and major navigable waters
- ◆ Funding of oil responses





Remedial Process



Definition of Remedial Action

- ◆ Long-term action to achieve a permanent remedy



Responsibilities of the Remedial Project Manager

- ◆ The RPM has the authority and the responsibility to:
 - » Participate in all decision-making processes
 - » Coordinate with all parties involved
- ◆ <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/where.htm>



Major Phases in Remedial Process

- ◆ NCP defines five major phases in the remedial process
 - » Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS)
 - » Selection of remedy-Record of Decision (ROD)
 - » Remedial Design (RD)
 - » Remedial Action (RA)
 - » Operation and Maintenance (O&M)

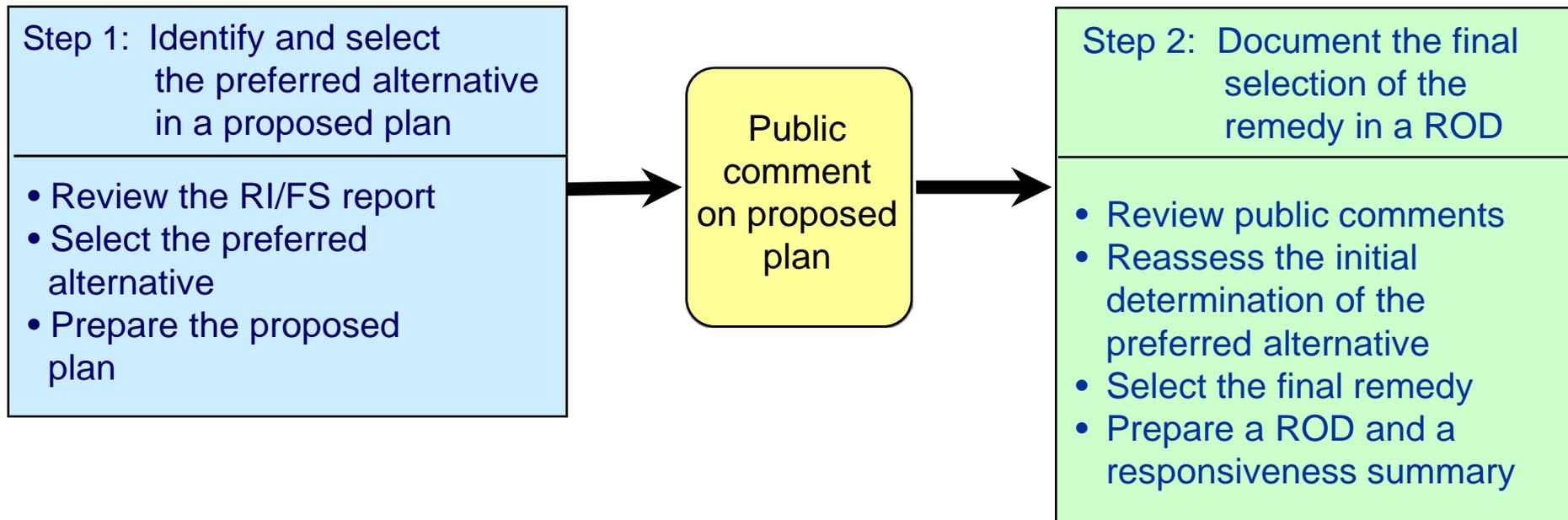


Overview of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

- ◆ RI/FS supports selection of the remedy
- ◆ RI characterizes the site
- ◆ FS develops and analyzes remedial action alternatives



The Remedy Selection Process



Remedial Design and Remedial Action

- ◆ Definition of RD
- ◆ RA planning activities
- ◆ Procurement of RA contractor
- ◆ Construction
- ◆ Completion



Overview of O&M and Post-Construction

- ◆ O&M begins when remedy is operational and functional
- ◆ Five-year reviews conducted at certain remedies to ensure protectiveness



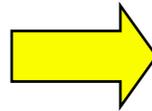
Major Milestones in the Close Out of NPL Sites

- ◆ Construction completion
- ◆ Site completion – completion of all response activities at a site
- ◆ NPL deletion – removal of all or part of a site from the NPL



Superfund Redevelopment and Reuse

- ◆ Superfund Redevelopment Initiative
 - » Facilitation and planning
 - » Partnerships
- ◆ Redevelopment resources
 - <http://www.epa.gov/superfund/programs/recycle/index.html>
- ◆ Ready for Reuse Determinations



Questions and Comments



Last chance for burning
questions/comments





Thank You!

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