

## Definition of Key Terms and Acronyms

Below are definitions of terms and acronyms used in the SRP site access document. See also the [online glossary](#) of other Superfund terms and acronyms not listed here.

**ATSDR (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry)** - As the lead Agency within the Center for Disease Control responsible for implementing the health-related provisions of CERCLA, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry is charged under the Superfund Act to assess the presence and nature of health hazards at specific Superfund sites, to help prevent or reduce further exposure and the illnesses that result from such exposures, and to expand the knowledge base about health effects from exposure to hazardous substances.

**CAG** - A Community Advisory Group (CAG) is made up of representatives of diverse community interests at a Superfund site. Its purpose is to provide a public forum for community members to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to the Superfund decision-making process.

**CERCLA/SARA** - The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act ([CERCLA](#)), commonly known as Superfund, was enacted by Congress on December 11, 1980. This law provides broad federal authority to respond directly to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health or the environment. CERCLA was amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act ([SARA](#)) on October 17, 1986.

**FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions about the EPA Superfund program)** - On the [Superfund Frequently Asked Questions page](#), you may search for frequently asked questions by topic or by typing in a keyword or phrase.

**HAZWOPER** - The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) developed the Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard ([HAZWOPER](#)) program to protect workers at hazardous sites. The 24-hour course covers broad issues pertaining to the hazard recognition at work sites. The 40-hour course is specifically designed for workers involved in cleanup operations, emergency response operations, and storage, disposal, or treatment of hazardous substances or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. All SRP grantees must complete the 24 or 40 hour course before going onto a hazardous site.

**NCP (National Contingency Plan)** - The National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan, more commonly called the National Contingency Plan (NCP), is the federal government's blueprint for responding to both oil spills and hazardous substance releases. The National Contingency Plan is the result of our country's efforts to develop a national response capability and promote overall coordination among hierarchy of responders and contingency plans.

**National Priorities List (NPL)** - The list of [national priorities](#) among the known releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants throughout the

United States and its territories. The NPL is intended primarily to guide the EPA in determining which sites warrant further investigation.

**Potentially Responsible Party (PRP)** - An individual or company (e.g., an owner, operator, transporter, or generator of hazardous waste) that is potentially responsible for the contamination problems at a Superfund site. Whenever possible, EPA requires PRPs to clean up hazardous waste sites they have contaminated.

**ROD** - The **Record of Decision** (ROD) is a public document that explains which cleanup alternatives will be used to clean up a Superfund site. The ROD for sites listed on the NPL is created from information generated during the RI/FS.

**RI/FS** - After a site is listed on the NPL, a **remedial investigation/feasibility study** (RI/FS) is performed at the site. The RI serves as the mechanism for collecting data, while the FS is the mechanism for the development, screening, and detailed evaluation of alternative remedial actions. The RI and FS are conducted concurrently. Data collected in the RI influence the development of remedial alternatives in the FS, which in turn affect the data needs and scope of treatability studies and additional field investigations.

**RD/RA - Remedial Design** (RD) is the phase in Superfund site cleanup where the technical specifications for cleanup remedies and technologies are designed. **Remedial Action** (RA) follows the remedial design phase and involves the actual construction or implementation phase of Superfund site cleanup. The RD/RA is based on the specifications described in the record of decision (ROD).

**Remedial Project Manager (RPM)** - The EPA or state official responsible for overseeing remedial response activities for Superfund sites on the National Priorities List.

**RCRA** - The primary goals of the **Resource Conservation and Recovery Act** (RCRA) are to protect human health and the environment from the potential hazards of waste disposal, to conserve energy and natural resources, to reduce the amount of waste generated, and to ensure that wastes are managed in an environmentally sound manner. Visit the [EPA website](#) for more on hazardous wastes.

**Science and Technology Liaisons (STLs)** - The [STL Program](#) facilitates the sound use of science and technology in decision making for hazardous waste programs. The program's representatives work with EPA's regional staff to apply technical expertise to clean up Superfund and other hazardous waste sites. The program enhances interactions with other EPA offices involved in environmental research and technical support such as the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

**TAG** - A Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) provides money for activities that help communities participate in decision-making at eligible Superfund sites. An initial grant up to \$50,000 is available for communities at any Superfund site that is on the National Priorities List (NPL) or proposed for listing on the NPL and a response action has begun.

**ToxFAQs** - [ATSDR ToxFAQs](#) is a series of summaries about hazardous substances being developed by the ATSDR Division of Toxicology. Answers are provided to the most frequently asked questions (FAQs) about exposure to hazardous substances found around hazardous waste sites and the effects of exposure on human health.

**UST** - An [underground storage tank system \(UST\)](#) is a tank and any underground piping connected to the tank that has at least 10 percent of its combined volume underground. Under RCRA, EPA has established regulatory programs to prevent, detect, and clean up releases from USTs containing petroleum or hazardous substances.