

issuance. The agency also intends to review state compliance monitoring and enforcement programs to ensure national consistency.

HAZARDOUS WASTE AND THE 1984 BUDGET

The requested 1984 appropriation for the hazardous waste program is approximately \$110 million (see Table 8). This is an 11 percent reduction in real terms from the 1983 level of \$117 million. It includes real decreases of 7 percent for abatement and control, 21 percent for research and development activities, and a real increase of 41 percent for enforcement activities. Compared to 1981 actual obligations, the 1984 request represents a 34 percent real reduction in funds.

The full-time employment request is lower than the 1983 level by about 3 percent. The largest anticipated reduction in staff (7 percent) will occur in the research and development subprogram. Abatement and control is slated for a 2 percent staff decrease in 1984, while the enforcement staff level is estimated to remain unchanged from 1983. Overall, staff levels for the hazardous waste program in 1984 will decrease by 14 percent from 1981 levels.

Explanation of Changes

Abatement and Control. The abatement and control subprogram consists of three activities: waste management regulations, guidelines, and policies; financial assistance; and waste management strategies implementation. The first activity is directed at developing regulations. Financial assistance provides funding to states for developing and implementing hazardous waste management programs. The waste management strategies activity coordinates EPA regional responsibilities for overseeing and operating state hazardous waste programs.

The proposed 1984 funding level for regulatory development, guidelines, and policy activities is 15 percent lower in real terms than the 1983 level. EPA indicates that the lower level of funding is possible because data collection needed to support promulgation of regulations is anticipated to be completed in 1983. Financial assistance to the states will be decreased by 8 percent in real terms from \$44.1 million to \$42.5 million, reflecting the agency's view that states are more capable of funding their own hazardous waste programs than they have been in the past. However, given that an increasing number of states are anticipated to be administering parts of their hazardous waste programs and that state budgets are generally constrained, this view may be overoptimistic.



TABLE 8. EPA HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM, 1981-1984 (By fiscal year)

	<u>Actual Obligations</u>		<u>Budget Authority</u>		<u>Percent Change</u>
	1981	1982	1983 (Estimated)	1984 (Requested)	1983-1984
Millions of Dollars					
Nominal Dollars, Total	141	111	117	110	-6
Constant 1982 Dollars					
Abatement and Control	109	75	78	72	-7
Enforcement	12	7	2	3	+41
Research and Development	<u>30</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>-21</u>
Total	151	111	112	100	-11

Permanent Full-Time Employees					
Abatement and Control	396	310	429	422	-2
Enforcement	261	170	70	70	0
Research and Development	<u>69</u>	<u>106</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>-7</u>
Total	726	586	643	626	-3

SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office, based on data obtained from EPA.

Note: Percent changes were calculated from annual budget figures before rounding and, therefore, represent actual differences. Budget figures in the table have been rounded to the nearest million and may not produce the same percent differences.

The waste management strategies budget will receive a real increase of over 18 percent, (from \$13.0 million in 1983 to \$16.1 million in 1984). Permitting of facilities and negotiation of cooperative arrangements with the states (delegating portions of the hazardous waste control program) will be the focus of 1984 activities.

Under RCRA, hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal can occur only in accordance with a permit issued by EPA or an authorized state. Development of authorized state programs is a top priority. A 1980 study performed by EPA indicated that the agency would have to issue about 7,500 site permits. By the end of 1983, EPA expects to have issued about 10 percent of that number. Beginning in 1984, the agency plans to begin issuing permits by class of facility. This should reduce the requisite number of permits and the time needed to issue them. In addition, the issuance of some 20,000 permits was estimated to be required through state programs. Approval of state RCRA programs is thus important to carrying out the permitting process.

By the end of 1984, the agency expects that 18 states will be fully authorized and 32 states will have applications under review. EPA hopes to have granted final authorization to 45 states by the end of 1985. At present, 35 states have qualified for partial interim authorization. States with partial authorizations may administer the program parts for which they have received authorization. Federal financial and technical assistance to states operating their own programs is an important incentive for states to assume program responsibility. The planned decrease in financial assistance to states may result in decreased willingness by the states to operate hazardous waste programs. EPA would then be responsible for administering and paying for the program in those nonparticipating states. In that event, budget levels for the program would probably not be sufficient, given that the agency is anticipating a high degree of state program implementation.

Enforcement. The 1984 request for enforcement funding represents a real increase of 41 percent (from \$2.4 to \$3.5 million), primarily to allow for more travel to support state oversight activities and to automate the reporting of state enforcement data. Hazardous waste permit issuance, formerly funded under this subprogram, is now performed under the abatement and control subprogram.

Research and Development. The research and development subprogram consists of scientific assessment, technical information, monitoring and quality assurance, health effects research, and control technology development. Control technology development activities account for about half the funding level in this subprogram, and these are the activities that will be most affected by the anticipated 21 percent real decrease in

hazardous waste research and development funding for 1984. This decrease reflects the anticipated completion in 1983 of spill control technology development, initial tests for advanced thermal technologies, and technical manuals for storing hazardous waste.

Outstanding Issues

- o One of EPA's primary goals for the hazardous waste program in fiscal years 1983 and 1984 is to authorize states' operation of their own programs. The agency expects one state to receive final authorization in 1983 and 17 more states to be fully authorized in 1984. However, financial assistance to the states in 1984 is estimated to decrease by 8 percent in real terms (a \$1.6 million decrease) in 1984. EPA's premise is that states are better able to fund their programs than they have previously been. The states are facing budget constraints of their own, however, which may limit their ability to replace federal dollars with state dollars.

TOXIC SUBSTANCES

The toxic substances program is one of EPA's newest. A small program existed in the mid-1970s, but obligations grew dramatically following enactment of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) in 1976. The program currently ranks fourth among EPA's regulatory programs with a 1983 budget of \$70 million. The 1984 budget request for toxic substances includes a 9 percent real decrease from the 1983 appropriated level, with over half of the decrease occurring in the area of research and development. This decline reflects a completion of several research projects and a continued lowering of long-term research and development activities performed outside the agency.

BACKGROUND

There are over 4 million known chemical compounds, about 55,000 of which are in commercial production.^{9/} The environmental and health effects of many of these substances have not been adequately studied. The toxicity and persistence in the environment of certain chemicals have often been discovered only after their use has become widespread and after they have become important to industrial, commercial, or agricultural processes.

Before 1976, over two dozen major federal laws exercised control over toxic substances in various forms and places, from pesticides to foods, and from the workplace to the nation's air and water.^{10/} However, a number of important gaps of authority existed in these laws. Perhaps most notably, no authority existed for pre-market screening of chemicals unless they were pesticides, drugs, or food additives.

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9. Environmental Quality: The Twelfth Annual Report of the Council on Environmental Quality (1981)
 10. Environmental Quality: The Tenth Annual Report of the Council on Environmental Quality (December 1979), p. 174.

Congressional Mandate

In response to their proliferation of chemical compounds with unknown health and environmental effects and the lack of adequate controls, the Congress enacted the Toxic Substances Control Act in October 1976 after nearly six years of executive and Congressional deliberation.

The Toxic Substances Control Act contains four major sections. Section 4 authorizes EPA to promulgate testing requirements for particular chemicals, with testing to be conducted by the manufacturers or processors of the chemicals. Section 5 requires manufacturers of new chemicals and manufacturers and processors of chemicals for significant new uses to give EPA at least 90 days' notice before beginning manufacture. Section 6 allows EPA to regulate the manufacture, processing, and commercial distribution of chemicals that present unreasonable risk to human health or the environment as determined by EPA. Section 8 permits EPA to require industry to maintain and report information concerning uses, production levels, number of workers exposed, and health and environmental effects of chemicals.

Program Achievements

The major accomplishments to date have been the publication, in 1979, of the Section 8(b) inventory of existing chemicals; the establishment and operation, also in 1979, of the Section 5 premanufacture notification system (in 1979), and the regulation of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) under Section 6. Final rules were issued under Section 6 in February 1978 for the marking and disposal of PCBs; in March 1978 for prohibiting the use of certain CFCs for all nonessential aerosol applications; in April 1979 for prohibiting the manufacture, processing, distribution, and non-totally-enclosed use of PCBs; and in March and May 1980 for the control of wastes contaminated with dioxin.

Several chemical control rules have also been proposed. In May 1980, EPA, in conjunction with other agencies, banned the use of PCB-containing equipment in food and feed-processing plants and storage facilities, federally inspected meat, poultry, and egg product establishments, and agricultural chemical facilities where pesticides and fertilizer are manufactured or stored. In September 1980, EPA proposed a rule requiring all primary and secondary schools to identify crumbling ("friable") asbestos.

The toxics program has also experienced several delays. Although the TSCA deadline for publication of the inventory of existing chemicals was set for October 1978, EPA decided to delay publication so that it could issue not just a simple list of existing chemical substances, but an inventory that could be the cornerstone of a chemical information system for regulation of

existing chemicals. This delayed publication until June 1, 1979. Another significant delay has occurred in the Section 4 testing program, under which no final rules have been issued requiring testing of particular chemicals.

Future Program Direction

Activities are underway in all four of TSCA's main regulatory sections. In the Section 4 testing program, EPA will propose or promulgate approximately 34 test rules for chemicals in 1984, which would represent a large increase from estimated 1983 activity levels. In January 1981, a federal court issued an order requiring EPA to respond to the backlog of testing recommendations issued by the Interagency Testing Committee (ITC). Eleven individual chemicals or categories of chemicals were required to be considered for rulemaking in 1981, with another 13 required for each of 1982 and 1983. In 1984, EPA plans to complete these requirements, somewhat less than a year behind schedule.

Under Section 5 of the act, EPA is expected to receive approximately 1,300 premanufacture review notices. Roughly 660 of these notices are expected to receive a full review because of expected high toxicity, while the remaining 640 will be reviewed under a "low-risk" exemption program.

Under Section 6, EPA plans to increase support for regional compliance monitoring and case development activities concerning chemicals now being produced. Recordkeeping activities under Section 6 (requiring reporting by industry of chemicals in use) will increase in 1984 to maintain the approximately 80,000 submissions (on roughly 55,000 chemicals).

A number of changes begun in 1982 and 1983 were directed at reducing the agency's workload in the toxics program. Under Section 4, EPA has begun negotiating voluntary agreements with industry for testing chemicals, rather than promulgating test rules. This has potential for reducing workloads, since development of test rules traditionally has been expensive. In addition, EPA has split the review process for new chemicals into two groups: low-risk and high-risk. By eliminating full scientific assessment for a large portion (roughly 50 percent) of incoming new chemicals judged low-risk, EPA has reduced the required resources in this area.

TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND THE 1984 BUDGET

The requested 1984 budget for EPA's toxic substances program is approximately \$67 million. This represents a 9 percent reduction in real

terms from the 1983 level. The research and development subprogram will be reduced in real terms by 17 percent, while the enforcement subprogram will actually be increased by roughly 23 percent. Since 1981, the program has experienced lower annual funding. Compared to 1981, the 1984 funding for the entire toxics program is 39 percent lower in real terms.

Full-time employment for 1984 in the toxic substances program is reduced by only 3 percent from 1983 levels. The greatest reduction (6 percent) occurs in the abatement and control program, while in enforcement it rises 10 percent. Since 1981, full-time employment has fallen 15 percent. These data are summarized in Table 9.

Explanation of Changes

Abatement and Control. The abatement and control subprogram comprises several activities: testing and evaluation, chemical control, TSCA information, and toxics integration. The overall funding for these activities will decrease in 1984, although some activities will receive slight increases in their budgets. Compared to 1981, however, the 1984 budget for this activity is over 40 percent lower in real terms.

In the majority of circumstances, budget reductions in chemical testing, evaluation, and control reflect a shift in emphasis from a rigid regulatory approach for controlling chemicals toward initiating more voluntary efforts with industry for testing or developing test rules. This shift in EPA's regulatory approach began in 1982. The procedure relies heavily on industry and public interest participation in reaching agreements on chemicals under review. In 1984, EPA expects to complete 5 decisions not to test, 14 negotiated testing agreements, and 14 proposed rulemakings. Resource reductions also will come from finishing a large number of testing guidelines in 1983.

Changes in the proposed distribution of funds also reflect a shift in emphasis in the chemical testing and control activities. Lower salaries and expenses for testing and chemical control are to be offset presumably by greater cooperation by industry in the testing program. By utilizing voluntary agreements, the agency anticipates that it will be able to initiate testing of chemicals with fewer agency resources than would be required to promulgate rules.

The toxic integration activities are designed to coordinate chemical control programs and information within the United States and between the United States and other Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries. Resources in this area are reduced in 1984, primarily because of the cessation of the state toxics integration management substance program. The agency believes a useful network for

TABLE 9. EPA TOXIC SUBSTANCES PROGRAM, 1981-1984 (By fiscal year)

	<u>Actual Obligations</u>		<u>Budget Authority</u>		<u>Percent Change</u>
	1981	1982	1983 (Estimated)	1984 (Requested)	1983-1984
Millions of Dollars					
Nominal Dollars, Total	94	83	70	67	-4
Constant 1982 Dollars					
Abatement and control	63	44	38	36	-5
Enforcement	5	4	3	3	+23
Research and Development	<u>32</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>-17</u>
Total	100	82	67	61	-9
Permanent Full-Time Employees					
Abatement and Control	457	395	397	374	-6
Enforcement	89	73	79	87	+10
Research and Development	<u>170</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>151</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>-4</u>
Total	716	634	627	606	-3

SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office, based on data obtained from EPA.

Note: Percent changes were calculated from annual budget figures before rounding and, therefore, represent actual differences. Budget figures in the table have been rounded to the nearest million and may not produce the same percent differences.



information and distribution between the states and EPA has been established and further assistance in this area is unnecessary. However, the agency will continue to support coordination activities with OECD, maintenance of the chemical substances information network, and national workgroups to present EPA's regulatory strategy to the public and industry.

Enforcement. The 1984 budget for the toxic substances enforcement subprogram rises 23 percent in real terms from the 1983 budget levels. However, it is still roughly 40 percent lower than the 1981 budget. The rise in 1984 funding will be used to support activities that were previously conducted by the National Enforcement Investigation Center. These activities include sample analyses to support TSCA inspections and emergency response work involving TSCA-related chemicals. Additional resources will also support increased import surveillance and liaison with the U.S. Customs Service.

Research and Development. The toxic substances research and development subprogram consists of eight activities covering health effects, environmental processes, and scientific assessments. Funding for the overall subprogram will decline in 1984 by 17 percent in real terms, while employment will decline by 4 percent.

Many of the budget changes in toxics research and development reflect transfer of some programs to the Intermedia subprogram under the Interdisciplinary Program. Other budget changes are due to several unrelated reasons. Under health effects, the budget rises slightly because of some accounting shifts and increased extramural funds to develop and validate test methods, perform scientific assessments, and examine toxicologic tests used in chemical reviews. The budget for environmental processes will decline due to program transfers and the completion in 1983 of a number of studies of chemical life cycles and their effects. The budget for scientific assessments will fall because several projects will be completed in 1983.

However, the overall budget changes between 1983 and 1984 in research and development do not adequately reflect the key shift that has been occurring since 1981—that is, reduced funding for long-term research conducted outside the agency to support test methods development and health effects studies. Between 1981 and 1984, funds available for outside research contracts will have fallen almost 50 percent in real terms, while agency salaries and expenses will have fallen only 1 percent.



Outstanding Issues

- o In the research and development subprogram, overall funds will continue to decline (by 17 percent in real terms from 1983 levels and by 31 percent from 1981 levels). While some of this reduction reflects completion of key research tasks needed to develop testing criteria, much of the remainder reflects the desire to reduce long-term research conducted outside the agency. Such reductions may not affect current efforts, but may hinder progress in developing improved testing methods and risk-assessment procedures.
- o In the abatement and control subprogram, EPA is encouraging voluntary testing of toxic substances by industries. Such cooperative agreements are being encouraged to save agency money, presumably without affecting the goals of the testing program. While this program appears to be hastening chemical reviews, it is unclear whether it is an effective substitute for EPA testing.
- o In the enforcement subprogram, a growing area of emphasis, 1984 funding is expected to rise 23 percent in real terms from 1983 levels. However, most of this increase reflects a transfer of activities previously conducted by a separate program (the National Enforcement Investigation Center) and not an increase of resources to the current program's activities.

SUPERFUND

The Hazardous Substance Response Trust Fund, commonly known as the Superfund, received its first appropriation—\$75 million—in fiscal year 1981. The 1984 budget request is for \$310 million, a 41 percent real increase over 1983. The Superfund is not part of EPA's operating fund. The major share of spending, and the area of major increase in 1984, is for federal spill and site response activity.

BACKGROUND

The potential danger of the nearly 50 million metric tons of hazardous waste generated annually in the United States has not always been recognized. The locations of many older disposal sites are not known and disposal practices used at many of those sites pose risks to public health and the environment. Potential threats include contamination of surface water and ground water (sometimes used for drinking); destruction of fish, wildlife, and plant life; fires and explosions.

Congressional Mandate

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA, Public Law 96-510) created the Superfund to help clean up old hazardous waste sites and spills of hazardous substances threatening public health or the environment. The fund is financed by excise taxes on petroleum and certain chemicals; appropriations from the general fund of the U.S. Treasury; and penalties, recoveries, and interest earned on the fund balance. The taxes, in effect since April 1981, will terminate on September 30, 1985, or before, depending on the amount collected and the size of unobligated balances in the fund. At present, it appears that termination of the tax before the end of fiscal year 1985 is unlikely. Use of the money in the Superfund is authorized indefinitely for payment of federal or state government emergency response costs, claims, and damage assessments. Federal cleanup activity may not be initiated in a state until that state commits itself to covering 10 percent of the costs. The fund does not provide for victim compensation.



Program Accomplishments

The focus of the program to date has been on monitoring private, state, and local government cleanup efforts, coordinating emergency spill responses, and identifying and evaluating abandoned and uncontrolled hazardous waste disposal sites. Total outlays for the program through fiscal year 1982 were about \$88 million, and fiscal year 1983 outlays through February were about \$46 million. During 1981, 500 preliminary assessments of sites and 500 site inspections were conducted. Cleanup action was initiated for only 1 site. In 1982, EPA estimated that it would conduct 8,000 preliminary assessments and 1,500 site inspections, with cleanups occurring at 7 sites. The actual accomplishments in 1982 included 1,500 preliminary site assessments, 1,300 site inspections, and 14 cleanups.

Other Superfund program activities have included preparing a national priority list, establishing a national site notification system to identify the abandoned and uncontrolled hazardous waste dumpsites, developing a computerized data base for past hazardous substance incident response, and awarding cooperative agreements to 18 qualifying states.

Future Program Direction

The Administration plans to terminate the Superfund program in the late 1980s. Unless it is extended legislatively, the excise taxes will not be applied after 1985; the authorization for general fund appropriations will also expire after 1985. Money in the fund will remain available for appropriation until it is expended. For fiscal years 1984-1986, the Administration plans annual appropriations between \$300 million and \$400 million, diminishing thereafter until the fund is depleted.

By 1985, EPA plans to have completed screening and assessing all reported uncontrolled hazardous waste sites to verify its priority list ranking. Remedial investigations and planning at new sites will continue while on-site cleanup occurs where designs have been completed. States will be encouraged to manage response actions, and efforts will be made to have responsible parties bear the costs of response.

Enforcement activities will concentrate on developing cases against parties responsible for uncontrolled sites or spills. For those parties who do not voluntarily assume the cost of response, the agency will initiate administrative and legal actions. When responsible parties can be found for actions already financed by the fund, legal or administrative efforts will be made to recover costs.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE RESPONSE AND THE 1984 BUDGET

The 1984 appropriation request of \$310 million is \$100 million higher than the 1983 level, representing a 41 percent increase in real terms (see Table 10). Most of the dollar increase and the greatest percentage increase are in the largest subprogram area—hazardous substance response actions.

The 1984 request for the research and development subprogram is 4 percent lower in real terms than the 1983 level. Most activities in this subprogram are to provide technical support to implement research conducted under other EPA programs. EPA expects to increase sample analyses from waste sites and to complete engineering studies associated with developing Superfund program implementation manuals. The real funding level for management and support activities will decrease by 4 percent in 1984 relative to 1983. The proposed 1984 budget for the enforcement subprogram is 44 percent higher in real terms than the 1983 level. This increase is to finance an intensified effort by EPA to arrange private financing for hazardous substance release response. The Superfund program staff level will decrease slightly from 624 permanent workyears in 1983 to 619 in 1984.

Explanation of Changes

Management and Support. The funding level for management and support declines slightly in real terms between 1983 and 1984. Expenses in this subprogram include rents, utilities, program analyses, and budget formulation.

Enforcement. Superfund enforcement activities are of three types: technical support, technical enforcement, and legal enforcement. Technical enforcement is the largest component of this subprogram, accounting for 79 percent of the funding request in 1984. The appropriation allocation for technical enforcement increases by 91 percent in real terms from the 1983 level of \$8.7 million, and will fund an increased level of negotiating voluntary settlements with responsible parties, developing evidence for litigation in instances where voluntary settlements cannot be negotiated, and recovering costs from responsible parties after expenses have already been incurred by EPA.

Research and Development. The research and development subprogram receives less than 5 percent of the Superfund appropriation in 1983 and 1984. Because the Administration assumes this subprogram will be relatively short-lived, long-term research is not performed. Rather, resources in this subprogram are used to apply research products from other EPA programs to Superfund programs. The funding level of \$6.4 million in 1984 for Superfund

TABLE 10. EPA SUPERFUND PROGRAM, 1981-1984 (By fiscal year)

	<u>Actual Obligations</u>		<u>Budget Authority</u>		<u>Percent Change</u>
	1981	1982	1983 (Estimated)	1984 (Requested)	1983-1984
Millions of Dollars					
Nominal Dollars, Total	40	181	210	310	+48
Constant 1982 Dollars					
Management and Support	2	10	15	14	-4
Enforcement	3	8	14	20	+44
Research and Development	5	14	6	6	-4
Hazardous Substance Response Actions	<u>33</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>243</u>	<u>+46</u>
Total	43	181	201	283	+41

Permanent Full-Time Employees					
Management and Support	3	56	94	91	-3
Enforcement	22	145	212	206	-3
Research and Development	3	26	25	25	0
Hazardous Substance Response Actions	<u>39</u>	<u>238</u>	<u>293</u>	<u>298</u>	<u>+2</u>
Total	67	465	624	619	-1

SOURCE: Congressional Budget Office based on data obtained from EPA.

Note: Percent changes were calculated from annual budget figures before rounding and, therefore, represent actual differences. Budget figures in the table have been rounded to the nearest million and may not produce the same percent differences.

research and development is slightly higher than the 1983 level but represents a 4 percent decrease in real terms.

Hazardous Substance Response Actions. Ongoing activities in this subprogram are EPA hazardous substance response and interagency hazardous substance response. The 1984 funding request for these activities (\$265.7 million) reflects a 54 percent real increase over the 1983 level for these two activities. In 1983, an additional appropriation of \$10 million was made under this subprogram for a one-year Congressionally mandated inventory program to provide financial assistance to states in assessing and inspecting hazardous waste sites. Interagency activities include policy development, guidance, and training, as well as equipment procurement and maintenance. Funding for these activities accounts for a small portion of the subprogram budget (6 percent in 1983, 3 percent in 1984). EPA hazardous substance cleanup activities constitute the bulk of Superfund efforts. The 63 percent real increase for that category in 1984 reflects a shift in emphasis from policy and guidance development to remedial project design and implementation.

EPA expects that all reported uncontrolled hazardous waste sites will be screened and assessed to reconfirm the priority list order by the end of 1984. Also by the end of 1984, EPA estimates that planning efforts will have been initiated at 130 to 140 sites, and engineering design or remedial action will have begun at about 75 sites.

Outstanding Issues

- o The Administration does not intend to continue this program beyond its currently legislated lifetime. Under CERCLA, the excise taxes on oil and chemicals that provide the bulk of Superfund resources expire after 1985, as does the authorization for appropriations to the Superfund from the general fund. The Administration anticipates that 1986 will be the peak year for funding, with appropriation of the remaining balance in the fund occurring over the next couple of years until the fund is exhausted. Thousands of sites require remedial action, and by the end of fiscal year 1982 the agency had initiated cleanup action at only 15 sites. It is not clear that the amount in the fund or the time frame being considered by the Administration is adequate to complete the program. How far the Superfund goes in mitigating the problem of uncontrolled hazardous substance disposal sites depends, in part, on EPA's success in recovering expenses from responsible parties and negotiating with responsible parties to pay for or conduct remedial actions.

- o Under CERCLA, no federal remedial action may be initiated in a state unless the state has assured payment of 10 percent of the costs. State budget constraints may make fulfillment of this mandate troublesome and may result in delayed implementation of needed remedial actions. At present, only eight states have mechanisms providing continued funding for the state cost-sharing requirement.

