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What Is the Corrective Action Program?

Hazardous waste management facilities are governed by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed the Corrective Action program in accordance with the 1984 Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) to RCRA.

Since that time, U.S. EPA granted authority to the Ohio EPA to administer the Corrective Action program in the State of Ohio.

The Corrective Action program is an evaluation of past waste management practices at a facility. Any waste treatment, storage or disposal facility seeking a RCRA operating permit from the EPA must perform an investigation of its facility to determine the potential environmental impact related to past waste management practices.

If past practices could possibly pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment, the facility is required to plan and implement corrective measures at its site.



The Corrective Action Program

At Ross Incineration Services, Inc.

What is the Corrective Action Process?

The Corrective Action program first seeks to determine whether an environmental problem exists and then, if necessary, to correct it with appropriate methods. Permitted hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities are required to evaluate areas where past waste management practices have occurred in order to determine if there is any potential for adverse effects on human health and the environment.

In this process the U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA identify potential areas of concern and require the facility owner/operator to investigate those areas and to determine techniques for remediation, if needed. Based on this information and public comments, EPA selects a corrective measure which the facility owner or operator then implements.

STEP 1- RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA)

When a facility applies for a RCRA operating permit, the EPA examines their past and present waste management practices through a RCRA Facility Assessment (RFA) to determine whether a Corrective Action program should be implemented.

An RFA includes:

- A detailed review of records and information on the facility to identify any areas where wastes have been handled, treated, stored or disposed (called solid waste management units) at the site.
- A visual inspection of the entire facility to identify potential areas of concern. Sampling may be recommended as part of this investigation and, if warranted, the EPA may require interim measures to mitigate a problem.

STEP 2- RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI)

If the RFA reveals any potential problems, the EPA can issue the facility an administrative order or can initiate permit conditions that require a detailed investigation. This RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) is conducted to determine if a problem exists and, if so, the full extent of it. This may involve, for example, the installation of groundwater monitoring wells around landfills or storage tanks to study the sources and movement of groundwater.

Enough data must be gathered to provide a clear picture in order to determine if corrective measures are necessary. The results of the RFI are documented by the facility owner/operator in a report subject to examination and approval by the U.S. or Ohio EPA.

STEP 3- Corrective Measures Study (CMS)

If the RFI indicates that corrective measures may be necessary, the owner/operator conducts a Corrective Measures Study (CMS) to identify and

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Why is Ross Incineration Participating in the Corrective Action program?

Ross Incineration has been in operation since 1949. The company began monitoring facility conditions early on because the owners recognized a responsibility to maintain an environmentally-sound facility, and to assure the community that both past and present waste management practices are and remain safe.

Ross Incineration began participating in the Corrective Action program as a condition of its RCRA operating permit granted by the U.S. EPA in 1988. The Corrective Action Program provides a formal framework and process for evaluating environmental conditions at the facility.

Since 1988, the Ohio EPA was granted authority to run this program in the State of Ohio. Ross Incineration is participating in the program under the authority of the Ohio EPA; and it is a condition of the facility's Ohio EPA Operating Permit.

By participating in the Corrective Action Program, Ross Incineration is enhancing its comprehensive monitoring efforts to provide further assurance that conditions at its site do not adversely affect human health or the environment. Ross Incineration has been conducting monitoring activities at its site for decades.



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What is the Corrective Action Process?

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evaluate technologies and techniques for correcting any problems that may pose a risk to human health and the environment. The CMS must demonstrate that the corrective measures are adequate to meet the EPA's cleanup standards for that facility. Under certain circumstances EPA may negotiate Corrective Measures directly with a facility.

STEP 4- Corrective Measures Implementation (CMI)

After EPA selects the remedy, the facility owner/operator performs the Corrective Measures Implementation (CMI) by developing detailed project plans and engineering designs for all measures stipulated in the permit or order. The U.S. and Ohio EPA monitor the implementation to ensure that the facility meets all applicable environmental standards and to guarantee that appropriate procedures are in place for future safe operations.

Where is Ross Incineration in the Process?

Ross Incineration is committed to ensuring that past and present waste management practices do not have an adverse impact on the community or environment. The company has invested millions of dollars in the facility to be certain that its operations meet or exceed EPA requirements for safe waste management operations.

The company has had a comprehensive environmental assessment and monitoring program in place for decades. It includes groundwater monitoring wells placed strategically throughout the facility. In addition, through analytical sampling and subsequent testing at the facility, hundreds of thousands of individual pieces of data have been collected for more than 30 years.

By participating in the Corrective Action program, the company is enhancing its comprehensive investigative efforts to provide further assurances that it is operating in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment.

As part of the Corrective Action program Ross Incineration completed its RFI, which evaluated the environmental conditions and documented the environmental quality of the site. Investigations of the solid waste management units at the site were conducted to determine if there have been releases of hazardous substances from these units.

In addition, Ross Incineration completed human health and ecological risk assessment studies to determine if the units pose an unacceptable risk to human health. Testing showed that, to date, there are no imminent risks to human health or the environment.

Since 1986, Ross Incineration has spent more than \$9 million and hundreds of thousands of hours on this program. The company has analyzed hundreds of thousands of data points. In addition to the testing and risk assessments, the company has completed a number of projects to ensure that its site has no adverse impacts on the environment. Projects have included the cleanup and closure of former waste management areas; the addition of concrete in many areas throughout the plant; removal of certain soils and sludge; and the construction of additional cover on past waste management areas. RIS continues to maintain and monitor these areas.

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RIS continues to conduct groundwater monitoring, as it has for more than three decades. RIS has implemented an expanded groundwater monitoring program, which samples more wells for a significantly increased number of constituents. The monitoring continues to demonstrate that the facility has had no adverse impact on groundwater in the area.

The Ohio EPA approved RIS' final RFI Report in 2011. Since then, Ohio EPA and Ross Incineration have used the findings of the RFI Report to determine what corrective measures should be implemented at the site to further minimize risk.

In the case of Ross Incineration Services, the Ohio EPA did not require the company to submit a CMS. Rather, Ohio EPA worked towards reaching consensus with Ross Incineration on final remedies and implementation timelines.

On December 22, 2017, the Ohio EPA published the Statement of Basis (SB) and a Director Initiated Permit Modification (DIPM) for the Ross Incineration facility. The SB outlines the very specific actions that Ross Incineration has taken to ensure that its facility remains protective of human health and the environment. The DIPM revised RIS' RCRA Part B Operating Permit to incorporate the required Corrective Measures and a schedule into RIS' RCRA Part B Operating Permit.

What Happens Next?

All Corrective Measures have been implemented. These included:

- Implementation of a facility-wide Environmental Covenant to restrict future use of the facility to industrial use;
- Implementation of remediation projects in specific limited areas of the facility where waste management activities took place in the past, which involved removal of material and addition of covers to areas;
- Implementation of a site-wide integrated groundwater monitoring program that samples more wells for more constituents;
- Implementation of a sediment management plan, a soil management plan and a health and safety plan for the facility;
- Implementation of inspections and maintenance plans for certain identified areas;
- Implementation of a waterfowl deterrent system in a lake located on the site; and
- Submittal of financial assurance to ensure the continued implementation of the relevant programs.

Ross Incineration has completed all corrective measures required and is now awaiting final documentation of completion from the Ohio EPA.

The ownership and management of the Ross companies are committed to protection of the environment and to safe operations that protect its associates and the community. This includes the current and past practices at the site.

What are Permit Modifications and How Does Public Participation Work?

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) requires each hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facility to operate in accordance with a permit issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or a state agency that has a federally approved hazardous waste program. In Ohio, the Ohio EPA has authority to operate the program.

A RCRA permit establishes the facility's operating conditions for managing hazardous waste. U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA use the permit to specify the administrative and technical standards for each facility. Over time, however, a facility may need to modify its permit to improve equipment or make changes in response to new standards or requirements. Recognizing this, EPA established procedures for modifying permits.

According to Federal and State regulations, there are three classes of permit modifications. Class 1 modifications apply to minor changes that keep the permit current with routine changes to the facility or its operations. Class 2 modifications are necessary to enable a company to respond to technological advancements, new regulations or variations in the type and quantity of wastes managed at the facility. Class 3 modifications are those that substantially alter the facility or its operations.

The Ohio EPA reviews all permit modifications and then requires the company to discuss the modifications with the local community through public participation. The type of public participation is determined by the classification of the modification and can include mailings, public notices and public meetings or hearings.

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About the Ross Group of Companies

Ross Environmental Services, Ross Incineration Services, and Ross Transportation Services, help to protect the environment by providing industry with safe and reliable waste management services. The companies have been locally owned and operated safely and efficiently in rural Lorain County since their founding in 1949.

We are proud of the part we play in protecting the environment. We are always happy to discuss our operations with members of the local community. If you would like to review work plans, reports and other information relating to the Corrective Action Program, you can find the information at:

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