

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1-1. Policy. The policy of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is to plan and execute Recovered Chemical Warfare Materiel (RCWM) response actions in compliance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the National Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), and all other applicable laws and regulations, and to fully meet expectations for quality, timeliness, and cost effectiveness. An acceptable level of quality does not imply perfection; however, there will be no compromise of functional, health, or safety requirements. Adherence to the Quality Management principles outlined in ER 5-1-11 and ER 1110-1-12 will contribute to achieving this goal. RCWM response procedures must be formulated to ensure harmony with the USACE Strategic Vision and will be executed in concert with activities presented in other USACE guidance.

1-2. RCWM Response Action Overview.

a. Description of the RCWM Response Process.

(1) RCWM response activities include actions taken to reduce the risk to human health and the environment from exposure to RCWM resulting from past Department of Defense (DOD) operations at a site. The discussions in this pamphlet apply to all activities at RCWM sites.

(2) A large part of the RCWM response process uses the same procedures required for munitions response to Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC). Therefore, RCWM response actions are conducted in accordance with (IAW) the same procedures used for munitions response actions to MEC. This Engineer Pamphlet (EP) discusses the procedures and requirements that are unique to RCWM actions. A reference will be provided to EP 1110-1-18 for procedures and requirements that are applicable to RCWM but are identical to the requirements for MEC.

b. RCWM Response Actions at Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) and Active and Transferring Installations. A discussion of the requirements for conducting RCWM response actions at FUDS and Active and Transferring Installations is provided in ER 200-3-1.

c. Execution of RCWM Response Actions. IAW ER 1110-1-8153, the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville (USAESCH) is the only USACE command authorized to execute RCWM response actions. If the presence of RCWM is suspected at a site, the Project Manager (PM) must coordinate with the USAESCH prior to beginning any on-site activities.

1-3. RCWM Response Regulatory Authorities.

a. A discussion of the governing laws and regulations for any specific RCWM response project is provided in ER 200-3-1 and EP 1110-1-18. The discussion in these documents provides an overview of the legal authorities for conducting a RCWM response action, including CERCLA, NCP, the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP), which includes the FUDS program and the Installation Restoration Program (IRP). The discussion in these documents also addresses the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Military Munitions Rule, and Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs). The Office of Counsel will be consulted to determine the appropriate legal requirements for the site being addressed.

b. The responsibilities detailed herein are FUDS-specific. Environmental restoration actions necessary at FUDS that are adjacent to and independent from an active DOD installation will be the responsibility of the USACE. Before the USACE begins those environmental restoration activities, the DOD component controlling the active installation retains the “right of first refusal” to accept the restoration responsibility. Once accepted, the DOD component will execute all appropriate actions, as required. If the DOD component does not exercise its right of first refusal, the USACE will proceed to execute FUDS responsibilities at the property. Only the USAESCH Chemical Weapons Design Center (CW-DC) is authorized to execute any phase of a RCWM response action.

1-4. Technical Project Planning (TPP). During RCWM response actions, members of the Project Delivery Team (PDT) implement the TPP process. In summary, the TPP process is a four phased approach involving a series of meetings during which the project goals and objectives, project data needs and data collection methods, and data quality objectives (DQOs) are discussed and agreed upon. The results of these meetings are recorded in a living document that is constantly updated based on the investigation’s findings. Appropriate

implementation of the TPP process ensures that all PDT members, including stakeholders, understand and agree upon the project's objectives, and that they also all concur with what is required to achieve project completion. The TPP process is performed IAW EM 200-1-2, which describes the TPP process in detail and provides related documentation tools.