# Munitions Remediation at RCRA Facilities

#### **Kim Meacham**

**Project Engineer** 

USACE, Huntsville Center Environmental Protection and Utilities Branch

30 May 2013



US Army Corps of Engineers BUILDING STRONG®

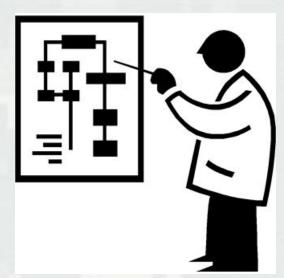






## Agenda

- Brief Overview of RCRA
- RCRA vs CERCLA
- SWMU/HWMU
- MRS





#### RCRA – What is it?

 RCRA is the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act [42 USC 6901 et seq.], which was enacted by Congress in 1976. RCRA is the primary Federal statute regulating the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of solid and hazardous waste.
 RCRA was enacted by Congress to require proper management of waste generated at existing facilities.



#### RCRA – What is it?

 RCRA has kept in stride with current waste management issues and problems by way of Congressional amendments, the most notable being the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA).

- EM1110-35-1 Chapter 9



#### RCRA – What is it?

- Under provisions of HSWA, Congress established the authority for corrective action requirements at permitted or interim status hazardous waste management facilities.
- Some states are RCRA-authorized states and have the authority to regulate the hazardous and solid waste within their state

- EM1110-35-1 Chapter 9



#### **RCRA** Permits

#### Authorized RCRA States

- Achieve Primacy by EPA Acceptance of State Legislation/Codes/Rules
  - Georgia EPD RCRA Guidance
    - Selecting Media Remediation Levels at RCRA SWMUs
  - Utah Administrative Code Title R315
    - Environmental Quality, Solid and Hazardous Waste



#### **RCRA** Permits

#### RCRA Part A

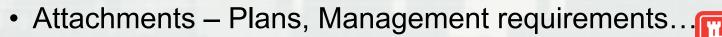
- Consists of EPA Form 8700-23 (includes both the RCRA Subtitle C Site Identification Form and the Hazardous Waste Permit Information Form), maps, drawings, and photographs, as required by 40 CFR 270.13
- Or, State form that requires information not requested in the EPA form
- May obtain interim status until Part B permit is issued

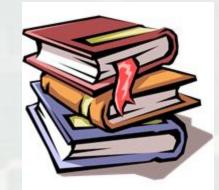


#### **RCRA** Permits

#### RCRA Part B

- Hazardous waste permit application contains detailed, site-specific information
- Negotiations maybe required
- Organized in Modules
  - Standard Permit Conditions
  - General Facility Conditions
  - Corrective Action
  - Post Closure Conditions





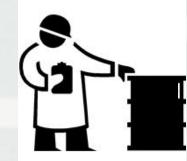
#### Permit/Management

- Other Requirements may include, as applicable
  - Air Modeling
  - Waste Analysis Plans
  - Inspection Plans
  - Contingency Plans
  - Closure Plans
  - Container Management
- Notice of Violation can come with Fines and Penalties



# SWMU/HWMU

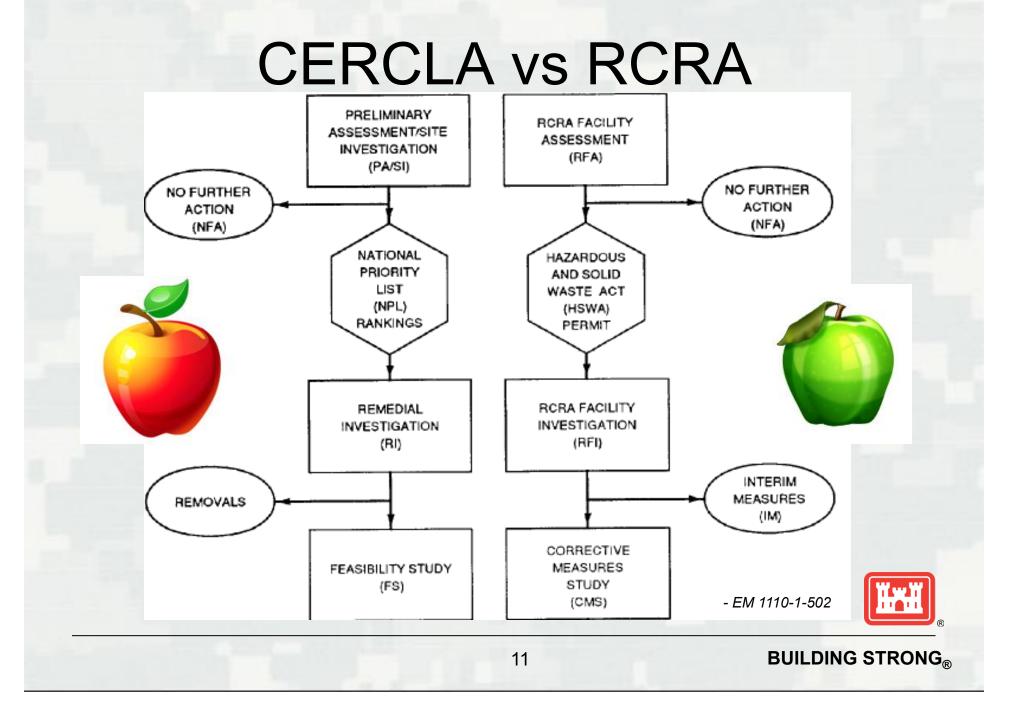
- Solid Waste Management UnitHazardous Waste Management Unit
  - RCRA permitted
    - Regulator is Lead Agency
    - Environmental Remediation
      - Follows RCRA programmatic requirements



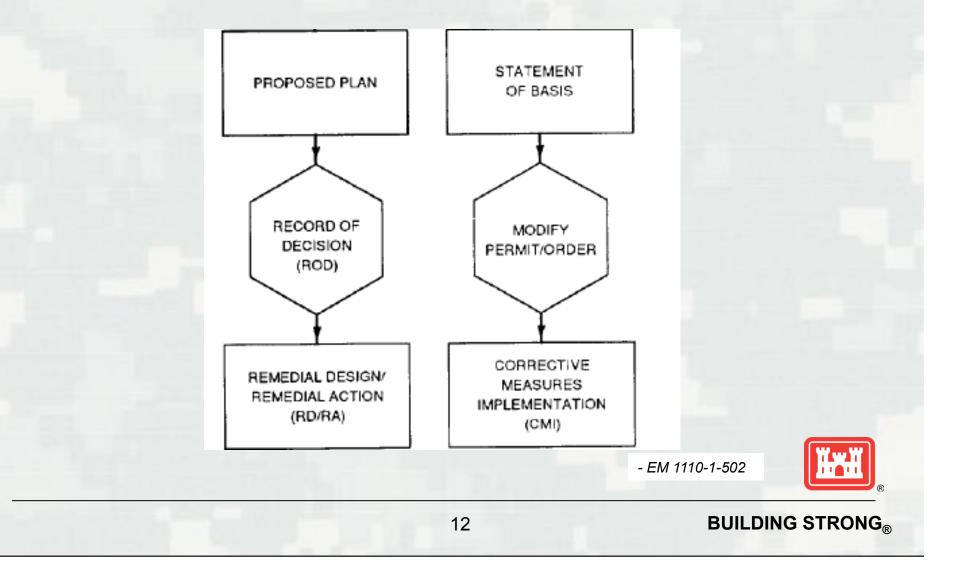
- Facility specific requirements
- SWMU in the past called Operable Units



**BUILDING STRONG** 



#### **CERCLA vs RCRA**



### **Project SWMUs**

- Site Description
  - Multiple burial pits
    - Munitions
    - Drums
  - Open burning and/or dumping trenches,
  - Open burn/open demolition sites, including ash piles





# Objectives

#### First SWMU

Perform surface stabilization

- Surface clearance for Kick-outs from OB/OD
- Removal of materials from pits and trenches
- Collect surface samples to determine presence/ absence of contamination
- Surface items were removed from burial pits as long as no digging was required
- Dispose of conventional munitions



## Specifics to the RCRA Permit

- Air Modeling required for burning of incendiaries
  - Resulted in Modification of the Permit
- Unacceptable to move items BIP'd
  - Required Emergency Permit
- Staging of Hazardous Waste
  - No Hazardous Waste left the SMWU until properly manifested and ready for shippment



#### Objectives

- Second SWMU
  Perform Interim Removal
  Achieve Response Complete
  Sampling to confirm presence/absence
  Remove contaminated soil
  Resample
  Prepare required closure Documents
- HWMU
  - ► Achieve Closure





**BUILDING STRONG** 

#### Specifics to the RCRA Permit

- Air Modeling
- Unacceptable to move items BIP'd
- Closure Plan part of RCRA Permit
  - Required to use EPA Regional Screening Levels
  - RCRA Facility Quality Assurance Project Plan
  - RCRA Facility Risk Assumptions Document



#### Specifics to the RCRA Permit

- Federal government is exempted from the financial requirements of:
  - ► 40 CFR § 270.14(b)(15) ► 40 CFR § 270.14(b)(17)
    - Closure Cost Estimate
    - Financial Assurance Mechanism for Closure
  - ► 40 CFR § 270.14(b)(16)
    - Post-Closure Cost Estimate
    - Financial Assurance
      Mechanism for Post-Closure
      Care

- Liability Requirements
- ► 40 CFR § 270.14(b)(18)
  - State Financial Mechanism



# MRS

Munitions Response Site

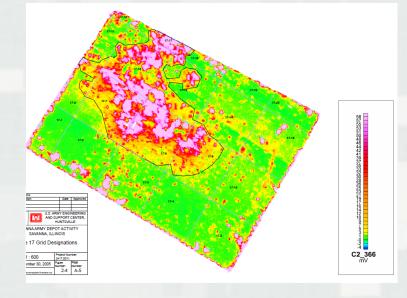
- RCRA or CERCLA
- Regulator may allow CERCLA
  - Must still meet the substantive requirements of the RCRA Permit

RCRA Facility risk assessment may be more streamlined than required in CERCLA



#### **Project MRS**

- Site Description
  - Potential for multiple munitions burial pits
  - ► Open burning and/or dumping trenches,
  - ► Barracks



20



### Objectives

Perform RCRA Facility Investigation
 Reacquire/Resolve anomalies

- Collect samples for Risk Assessment
- ► Prepare RFI Report
- If required, perform Corrective Measures Study





#### Specifics to the RCRA Permit

- Little difference from CERCLA
- Disposal of DMM and Unacceptable to move items
  - Required Emergency Permit
- Followed RCRA
  Facility Risk
  Assessment
  Protocols



