

Hazardous Waste Generation and Management in Illinois

This report has been prepared in accordance with Section 20.1 of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act.



Executive Summary

Section 20.1 of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act requires the Illinois EPA to annually compile and report data relating to hazardous waste generation, treatment, storage, and disposal in Illinois. This material is intended to help the general public better understand certain aspects of hazardous waste. It is not intended as a comprehensive review nor is it a substitute for the interpretation of any federal or state law, or any related regulations. It cannot impose any legally binding requirements on the Illinois EPA, the US EPA, or the regulated community. It is not intended to modify or affect in any way existing statutory or regulatory requirements or Agency policies.

The hazardous waste program in the State of Illinois is a state implementation of portions of the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). This act was signed into law in 1976, and consisted of amendments to the Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1956. Regulations implementing RCRA became effective on November 8, 1980. Revisions to RCRA, referred to as the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) were made in 1984 as more information has become available about the amount and types of waste we generate.

The intent of the hazardous waste program is to provide a cradle-to-grave management scheme for hazardous wastes to ensure that these wastes are not mismanaged in a manner that will impact human health or the environment.

The regulations pertaining to the proper management of hazardous waste are found in 35 Ill. Adm. Code, Parts 700-739. These can be viewed at the Pollution Control Board's Environmental Regulations page.

For a waste to be considered a hazardous waste, it must first meet the definition of solid waste. Importantly, solid waste is not limited to wastes that are physically solid, but also include liquids, semisolids, and contained gases. For the most part, this includes any discarded material that is abandoned, inherently waste-like, or recycled in certain ways, however, there are many exceptions. A detailed solid waste definitions and descriptions of exceptions can be found in the regulations at Part 721 in Section 721.102.

It is the responsibility of all solid waste generators to determine whether their waste is hazardous. In short, a solid waste is considered a hazardous waste if it is ignitable, corrosive, reactive, and toxic. The procedure for this is called a "hazardous waste determination" and is outlined in Part 722 of the regulations at Section 722.111.

Hazardous Waste Trends in Illinois (Calendar Year 2021)

Entities Reporting

Hazardous waste generators and treatment, storage, and disposal facilities (TSDFs) each have certain reporting requirements applicable to their activities. Each generator is required to annually report to the Illinois EPA (1) if it, in any calendar month, generates 1000 kilograms (2,200 lbs.) or more of hazardous waste or 100 kilograms (220 lbs.) or more of acutely hazardous waste; and (2) where it shipped the waste. Entities that generate this quantity of waste are considered Large Quantity Generators (LQG). Some LQGs only generate this volume of waste in a single year because of a specific one-time event. Such LQGs are not required to continue to report as an LQG if they subsequently do not generate the requisite volume of hazardous waste once normal operations resume. Any generator that manages its own waste on-site must also report its onsite management activities. TSDFs that manage hazardous waste from other sites must report all waste received.

The specific list of entities that must report changes each year, as some businesses close or discontinue certain practices and other businesses open or add certain practices. Facilities that no longer generate or manage hazardous wastes report as "nonregulated" the first year after ceasing regulated operations. Those entities are not required to report operations related to hazardous waste again unless hazardous waste is generated or managed in the future.

For calendar year 2021, the number of LQGs and TSDFs that submitted hazardous waste reports totaled 772.

Waste Generation and Handling

Hazardous waste generated in Illinois is managed at one of three types of locations: at the site of generation, at a commercial TSDF in Illinois, or at a commercial TSDF out-of-state. Most hazardous waste generated in Illinois is managed on site. Over the past decade, the total quantity of hazardous waste generated in Illinois has decreased. At the same time, the quantity of hazardous waste managed onsite has been relatively stable, most of which has been handled at one injection well. The graph below depicts the total quantity of hazardous waste generated in Illinois and a proportional illustration of how that waste was subsequently handled.



Hazardous Waste Shipped Off-site by Management Method Management Method

Generators may ship their waste off site to be managed at facilities throughout the country, and by different management methods. The following table describes the quantity of hazardous waste shipped off-site by management method.

| Management Method | Total Tons |
|--|-------------------|
| Metals recovery | 28,229 |
| Mercury recovery | 12 |
| Solvents recovery | 12,717 |
| Other recovery or reclamation for reuse | 2,833 |
| Incineration | 22,471 |
| Open burning/open detonation | 8 |
| Energy recovery | 28,759 |
| Fuel blending | 13,093 |
| Chemical treatment | 16,714 |
| Biological treatment | <1 |
| Physical treatment Only | 64 |
| Stabilization | 29,882 |
| Combination of chemical, biological, and/or physical treatment | 2,784 |
| Neutralization only | 530 |
| Other treatment | 3,427 |
| Surface impoundment that will be closed as landfill | <1 |
| Land treatment or application | 79 |
| Landfill (with prior treatment and/or stabilization) | 8,805 |
| Deepwell or underground injection | 1,830 |
| Discharge to sewer/POTW or NPDES | 7,031 |
| Storage, bulking and/or transfer off site | 6,967 |

Hazardous Waste Generation and Treatment in Illinois

Entities that generate hazardous waste in Illinois report the type and quantity of waste generated, as well as the quantity of hazardous waste managed at the site of generation. TSDFs in Illinois report the types and quantities of hazardous waste received, and whether that waste was stored or treated. Stored or treated waste may have been generated in Illinois or out-of-state. There are no facilities in Illinois that dispose of hazardous waste generated at another location. Below is a chart reflecting the types and quantities, in tons, of hazardous waste generated, stored, treated, and disposed of in Illinois.

| Waste category | Generated | Stored off-site | Treated off-site | Managed on-site |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Mixed Media/Debris/Devices | 14,815 | 80 | 3,494 | 7 |
| Inorganic Liquids | 237,653 | 487 | 23,913 | 204,885 |
| Organic Liquids | 50,394 | 10,474 | 43,138 | 282 |
| Inorganic Solids | 50,972 | 266 | 14,439 | <1 |
| Organic Solids | 5,682 | 10 | 6,512 | 2 |
| Inorganic Sludges | 10,348 | 21 | 79,779 | 0 |
| Organic Sludges | 9,648 | 3 | 303 | 0 |
| Total | 379,511 | 11,342 | 171,579 | 205,177 |

Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Sites in Illinois

The table below includes the unique Illinois EPA identification number assigned to each site and the most recently reported organization name and address for each entity that is a permitted TSDF.

| Facility ID | Facility Name | Facility Address | Activity |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| 0438020002 | *Argonne National Laboratory | 9700 S. Cass Avenue BLDG 306 Argonne, IL 60439 | Storage and Treatment |
| 0311260001 | Beaver Oil Co, Inc. | 6037 Lenzi Avenue Hodgkins, IL 60525 | Storage |
| 2018000002 | Clean Harbors Pecatonica LLC | 6125 N. Pecatonica Road Pecatonica, IL 61063 | Storage |
| 0316000053 | Clean Harbors RSC LLC | 1445 W. 42 nd Street Chicago, IL 60609 | Storage and Treatment |
| 1818995004 | Dyno Nobel, Inc. | 5570 Route 3 North Wolf Lake, IL 62998 | Treatment |
| 0311110001 | Envirite of Illinois, Inc. | 16435 South Center Avenue Harvey, IL 60426 | Storage and Treatment |
| 0630600005 | Equistar Chemicals LP | 8805 N. Tabler Road Morris, IL 60450 | Storage |
| 0890105010 | *Fermi National Accelerator Lab | Wilson Road PO Box 500 Batavia, IL 60510 | Storage |
| 0974455001 | Fluorecycle INC | 27780 W. Concrete Drive Ingleside, IL 60041 | Storage |
| 1998620011 | General Dynamics - OTS, TR | 11582 Skyline Dr. Marion, IL 62959 | Storage and Treatment |
| 1998620013 | General Dynamics - OTS, A13 | 6000 W. Ogden Road Marion, IL 62959 | Storage |
| 1278540002 | Honeywell International INC | 2768 N. US 45 Road PO Box 430 Metropolis, IL 62960 | Storage |
| 0338080002 | Marathon Petroleum Co, LP | 100 Marathon Avenue PO Box 1200 Robinson, IL 62454 | Land Disposal and Storage |
| 0630600004 | Nouryon Surface Chemistry LLC | 8005 N. Tabler Road Morris, IL 60450 | Storage |
| 1438120003 | Peoria Disposal Co. | 4349 E. Southport Road Peoria, IL 61615 | Land Disposal, Storage, and Treatment |
| 0310690006 | Safety-Kleen Systems INC | 633 E. 138 th Street Dolton, IL 60419 | Storage and Treatment |
| 0314380001 | Safety-Kleen Systems INC | 1500 E. Villa Street Elgin, IL 60120 | Storage and Treatment |
| 0198270009 | Safety-Kleen Systems INC | 500 W. Anthony Drive Urbana, IL 61802 | Storage and Treatment |
| 1630250007 | Safety-Kleen Systems INC | 20 Tucker Drive Caseyville, IL 62232 | Storage |
| 0198270008 | *University of Illinois Main Campus | 101 S. Gregory Street Urbana, IL 61801 | Storage and Treatment |
| 1631210009 | Veolia Technical Solutions LLC | 7 Mobile Avenue Sauget, IL 62201 | Incineration and Storage |
| als. | | | |

^{*} non-commercial site

On-Site Hazardous Waste Management Method

Each year, a significant portion of the hazardous waste generated is managed by a few companies that inject wastes into deep wells. The next largest management method is waste treatment and recycling. Most wastes managed in this manner are exempt from RCRA regulations and reporting. The following table reflects the on-site waste management methods in Illinois.

| Management Method | Quantity managed On-site (tons) |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Fuel Blending | 7 |
| Wastewater Treatment | 904 |
| Deepwell/Underground | |
| Injection | 204,170 |
| Solvents Recovery | 94 |
| Incineration | 3 |

Off-Site Hazardous Waste Management Method

The following table reflects the off-site waste management methods in Illinois. Stored or treated waste may have been generated in Illinois or out-of-state.

| Management Method | Quantity managed off-site (tons) |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Energy Recovery | 224 |
| Fuel Blending | 4,872 |
| Incineration | 24,175 |
| Metals Recovery | 69,053 |
| Sludge Treatment/Stabilization/Encapsulation | 29,740 |
| Solvents Recovery | 24,028 |
| Storage and/or Transfer | 11,342 |
| Wastewater Treatment | 19,487 |

Commercial TSDF Waste Management

There are several commercial TSDFs in Illinois that manage hazardous waste received from off-site generators. These hazardous wastes may be from generators in Illinois or generators located out-of-state.

There are currently three primary methods of hazardous waste management utilized by commercial TSDFs in Illinois: treatment and recycling, incineration, and storage and transfer. Most hazardous waste managed in Illinois is handled at treatment and recycling facilities. Incineration is the second most common management method, followed by transfer. Until 2008, landfilling was the second most common management method. However, currently there are no permitted hazardous waste disposal sites in Illinois. The graph below reflects the total quantity of hazardous waste managed at commercial TSDFs in Illinois.

Treatment and recycling (include energy recovery, fuel blending, metals recovery, sludge treatment, solvents recovery, wastewater treatment).

