



# The National Park Service EnviroFact Sheet

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## Managing Hazardous Waste: Choosing a TSDF (HW-3) **DRAFT**

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**TSDFs** are the final step in the hazardous waste management process. Hazardous waste generators have the responsibility for the waste they produce from “cradle to grave.” In other words, generators face a potential liability if their wastes cause a problem during any stage of the disposal process—from generation to ultimate disposal at a hazardous waste facility.

According to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as Superfund, waste generators are liable for damages caused by their waste even after its disposal.

It is very important to select a TSDF to minimize future liability. Quality and reliability of service should be a primary concern.

You should obtain information about the regulatory status, safety record, customer satisfaction, and waste stream capabilities of a TSDF before selecting them to service your facility.

### FOR MORE INFO...

EPA Region 9, Waste Programs “Document Services Choosing Reliable Services:”

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/rcra/ca/services.htm#TSDFs>

RCRA Training Modules:

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hotline/modules.htm>

### APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

Under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), hazardous waste generators are required to ensure that their hazardous waste is sent only to a properly permitted treatment, storage, and disposal facility (TSDF). TSDFs are regulated under 40 CFR 264, 265, 270, and 300.

### TSDF REQUIREMENTS

It would be difficult for an NPS facility to definitively determine if a TSDF is appropriately meeting *all* regulatory requirements applicable to them. However, at a minimum, a park should ensure the TSDF selected by the park:

- Has an EPA or state Hazardous Waste Identification Number;
- Has authorization to accept and treat hazardous waste by having the appropriate RCRA permit;
- Has the appropriate local, regional, or state permits, such as an Industrial Waste Discharge Permit or Air Quality District Permit; and
- Will profile the waste stream’s identifying characteristics before accepting it (or provide that service through another vendor).

The easiest way to find this information is to request it from the TSDF. The validity of the documentation produced should then be confirmed by contacting the hazardous waste office of the TSDF’s state environmental agency.

### FURTHER REQUIREMENTS TO CONFIRM

In addition to the information above, an NPS facility may want to evaluate the following elements of TSDF operations:

- Training and safety standards applicable to waste handlers;
- Facility Contingency Plans;
- Facility plans that address operations, particularly pertaining to equipment maintenance and security;
- Compliance assistance activities both within the company and provided to customers (e.g., how they keep informed about new regulations and any assistance they may provide customers in preparing manifests and conducting waste sampling and profiling);
- Liability coverage (e.g., coverage for sudden and accidental occurrences as well as non-sudden accidental occurrences if facility contains surface impoundments, landfills, and land treatment units);
- Financial records to ensure future viability of the company;
- Inspection reports to evaluate the facility requirements (e.g., labeling requirements met on tanks and containers, the condition of emergency equipment such as fire extinguishers, eyewash facilities, breathing apparatus, etc.) and operation records;
- General site and compliance violation history; and
- The extent to which waste profiling services are provided (some may require outside chemical analysis).



Additionally, parks can request that the TSDF provide a list of customers in the immediate area with similar waste streams. Several customers should be contacted to determine their experience and satisfaction with the TSDF.

If the NPS facility is a large quantity generator of hazardous waste, a site visit to the TSDF is a good idea. Things to look for include when visiting a TSDF include, but are not limited to: facility cleanliness; equipment maintenance records; the condition of containers and storage areas; safety precautions; the presence and accessibility of safety and emergency response equipment; control points and spill containment possibilities; security; and record keeping processes.

## TSDf SELECTION CHECKLIST

Checklist Item	Notes
<p>1. Ensure that TSDfS used by the park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an EPA or state Hazardous Waste Identification number;</li> <li>• Have authorization to accept and treat hazardous waste by having the appropriate RCRA permit;</li> <li>• Have the appropriate local, regional, state permits, such as an industrial waste discharge permit or air quality district permit; and</li> <li>• Will profile a waste stream's identifying characteristics before accepting it (or provide that service through another vendor).</li> </ul> <p>Documentation to request from the TSDf:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial records of the TSDf or of subsidiaries or holding companies of the TSDf;</li> <li>• Information/documentation regarding outstanding NOVs, consent agreements, correction notices, or other corrective action regulatory documents;</li> <li>• Training and safety standards applicable to waste handlers;</li> <li>• Facility Contingency Plans;</li> <li>• Facility plans that address operations, particularly pertaining to equipment maintenance and security; and</li> <li>• Inspection reports to evaluate the facility requirements.</li> </ul>	
<p>2. Contact your state environmental regulatory agency and request any available information regarding the TSDf (e.g. violations, spills or contamination associated with their operations).</p>	
<p>3. Access the Better Business Bureau reliability report and verify that the facility has no complaints against it.</p>	
<p>4. Review the NPS document entitled "List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Non-Procurement Programs," available through your park's contracting officer, to ensure your TSDf is not listed.</p>	
<p>5. Assemble all data for each site and determine if an environmental consultant should be used to further assess the potential liability associated with each facility.</p>	