

## **Environmental Acts – From the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) websites**

Clean Water Act – establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters

Clean Air Act – law that defines EPA's responsibilities for protecting and improving the nation's air quality and the stratospheric ozone layer.

EPCRA – The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) of 1986 (EPCRA) was created to help communities plan for emergencies involving hazardous substances. The Act establishes requirements for federal, state and local governments, Indian tribes, and industry regarding emergency planning and "Community Right-to-Know" reporting on hazardous and toxic chemicals. The Community Right-to-Know provisions help increase the public's knowledge and access to information on chemicals at individual facilities, their uses, and releases into the environment. States and communities, working with facilities, can use the information to improve chemical safety and protect public health and the environment.

NHPA – National Historic Preservation Act is legislation intended to preserve historical and archaeological sites in the United States of America

HMTA – The Hazardous Material Transportation Act (HMTA) was published in 1975. Its primary objective is to provide adequate protection against the risks to life and property inherent in the transportation of hazardous material in commerce by improving the regulatory and enforcement authority of the Secretary of Transportation. A hazardous material, as defined by the Secretary of Transportation is, any "particular quantity or form" of a material that "may pose an unreasonable risk to health and safety or property.

CERCLA – The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as Superfund

- established prohibitions and requirements concerning closed and abandoned hazardous waste sites;
- provided for liability of persons responsible for releases of hazardous waste at these sites; and
- established a trust fund to provide for cleanup when no responsible party could be identified.

Resource Cons. & Recovery –

- Protecting human health and the natural environment from the potential hazards of waste disposal.
- Energy conservation and natural resources.
- Reducing the amount of waste generated, through source reduction and recycling
- Ensuring the management of waste in an environmentally sound manner

PCB's Regulation – Laws governing the management, cleanup, and disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyls

Endangered Species Act – is to protect and recover imperiled species and the ecosystems upon which they depend

NEPA – is to assure that all branches of government give proper consideration to the environment prior to undertaking any major federal action that could significantly affect the environment. Environmental assessments (EA's) and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS's), which are assessments of the likelihood of impacts from alternative courses of action, are required from all federal agencies and are the most visible NEPA requirements. NEPA establishes the requirement that all federal agencies' funding or permitting decisions be made with full consideration of the impact to the natural and human environment. And it requires agencies disclose these impacts to interested parties and the general public