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# **TWO MINUTE TRAINING**

# TO: CH2M HILL PLATEAU REMEDIATION COMPANY

**FROM:** PAUL W. MARTIN, RCRA Subject Matter Expert CHPRC Environmental Protection, Hanford, WA

## SUBJECT: SATELLITE ACCUMULATION AND "AT OR NEAR"

### **DATE:** OCTOBER 26, 2017

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#### **TWO MINUTE TRAINING**

#### **SUBJECT:** Satellite Accumulation and "At or Near"

- Q: A customer at a large facility with radiologically controlled areas (RCAs) frequently replaces nickelcadmium (Ni-Cad) batteries from monitoring devices mounted in various locations throughout the facility. Since the Ni-Cad batteries are in an RCA, free release of the batteries for management as universal waste is not allowed. The customer would like to collect the Ni-Cad batteries as dangerous waste in the Centralized Maintenance Workshop at a satellite accumulation area (SAA) as opposed to multiple SAAs near each monitoring device. The customer is concerned and that the centralized maintenance workshop would not be considered "at or near" the point of generation. Can the customer accumulate the Ni-Cad batteries in a central SAA and be in compliance with the SAA requirements?
- A: <u>WAC 173-303-200(2)</u> [ $40 \ CFR \ 262.34(c)^*$ ] basically states that a generator may accumulate as much as 55 gallons of dangerous waste or 1 quart of acutely hazardous waste in containers at or near any point of generation where waste initially accumulates, under the control of the operator of the process generating the waste or secured at all times to prevent improper additions of wastes to a satellite container. [Note that "or secured at all times" is Washington State wording and not present in the Federal regulations.]

The phrase "at or near" is not defined in terms of a measured distance. However, an EPA guidance memo entitled, <u>Clarification of the Satellite Accumulation Provision for Hazardous Waste Generators</u>, dated February 23, 1993 stated:

"For like wastes generated from many individual locations (e.g., nickel-cadmium batteries), we would interpret the "at or near the point of generation..." language to include a specific satellite area designated by the generator that facilitates the accumulation of this material prior to moving it to a designated hazardous waste storage area. A generator should be able to define the locations of waste generation being served by a satellite accumulation area (within a generator facility or part of a facility). This is to ensure that a determination can be made as to when the 55-gallon limit has been reached for a particular satellite area."

Per the above wording, like wastes can be generated from many individual locations and accumulated in a specific SAA within the facility as designated by the generator. This means that the customer's spent Ni-Cad batteries could be removed from the monitoring devices located throughout the facility and then accumulated at a specific SAA at the Centralized Maintenance Workshop.

#### **SUMMARY:**

- SAA requirements are identified at WAC 173-303-200(2).
- The phrase "at or near" is not specifically defined in the regulations.
- Per an EPA memo, like wastes from many individual locations can be accumulated at a specific SAA within the generator's facility.

Excerpts from WAC 173-303-200(2), WAC 173-303-040 and 40 CFR 262.34(c) are attached. If you have any questions, please contact me at <u>Paul W Martin@rl.gov</u> or at (509) 376-6620.

ł	FROM:	Paul W. Martin	DATE:	10/26/17	<b>FILE:</b> 2MT\2017\102617.rtf	<b>PG:</b> 1
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# **TWO MINUTE TRAINING - ATTACHMENT**

### SUBJECT: Satellite Accumulation and "At or Near"

**Radiologically Controlled Area (RCA)** - Any area to which access is controlled in order to protect individuals from exposure to radiation and to radioactive materials.

## WAC 173-303-200 Accumulating dangerous waste on-site.

(2) Satellite accumulation.

(a) A generator may accumulate as much as fifty-five gallons of dangerous waste or one quart of acutely hazardous waste (as defined in WAC 173-303-040) in containers at or near any point of generation where waste initially accumulates (defined as a satellite accumulation area in WAC 173-303-040). The satellite area must be under the control of the operator of the process generating the waste or secured at all times to prevent improper additions of wastes to a satellite container. Satellite accumulation is allowed without a permit provided the generator:

(i) Complies with <u>WAC 173-303-630(2)</u>, (4), (5) (a) and (b), (8)(a), and (9) (a) and (b); and (ii) Complies with subsection (1)(d) of this section.

(b) When fifty-five gallons of dangerous waste or one quart of acutely hazardous waste (as defined in WAC 173-303-040) is accumulated, the container(s) must be marked immediately with the accumulation date and moved within three days to a designated storage or accumulation area.

(c) On a case-by-case basis the department may require the satellite area to be managed in accordance with all or some of the requirements under subsection (1) of this section, if the nature of the wastes being accumulated, a history of spills or releases from accumulated containers, or other factors are determined by the department to be a threat or potential threat to human health or the environment.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the ninety-day accumulation period begins on the date that:

(a) The generator first generates a dangerous waste; or

(b) The quantity (or aggregated quantity) of dangerous waste being accumulated by a small quantity generator first exceeds the accumulation limit for such waste (or wastes); or

(c) Fifty-five gallons of dangerous waste or one quart of acutely hazardous waste (as defined in WAC 173-303-040) is accumulated in a satellite accumulation area.

FROM: Paul W. Martin

**DATE:** 10/26/17

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## **TWO MINUTE TRAINING - ATTACHMENT**

### **SUBJECT:** Satellite Accumulation and "At or Near"

### WAC 173-303-040 Definitions.

"Satellite accumulation area" means a location at or near any point of generation where hazardous waste is initially accumulated in containers (during routine operations) prior to consolidation at a designated ninety-day accumulation area or storage area. The area must be under the control of the operator of the process generating the waste or secured at all times to prevent improper additions of wastes into the satellite containers.

### **<u>40 CFR 262.34</u>**\* Accumulation time.

(c)

(1) A generator may accumulate as much as 55 gallons of hazardous waste or one quart of acutely hazardous waste listed in  $\frac{261.31 \text{ or } 261.33(e)}{261.33(e)}$  in containers at or near any point of generation where wastes initially accumulate which is under the control of the operator of the process generating the waste, without a permit or interim status and without complying with paragraph (a) or (d) of this section provided he:

(i) Complies with <u>§§265.171, 265.172, and 265.173(a)</u> of this chapter; and
(ii) Marks his containers either with the words "Hazardous Waste" or with other words that identify the contents of the containers.

(2) A generator who accumulates either hazardous waste or acutely hazardous waste listed in 261.31 or 261.33(e) in excess of the amounts listed in paragraph (c)(1) of this section at or near any point of generation must, with respect to that amount of excess waste, comply within three days with paragraph (a) of this section or other applicable provisions of this chapter. During the three day period the generator must continue to comply with paragraphs (c)(1)(i) and (ii) of this section. The generator must mark the container holding the excess accumulation of hazardous waste with the date the excess amount began accumulating.

\* 40 CFR 262.34 was removed and reserved in the November 28, 2016, Federal Register, "Hazardous Waste Generator Improvements Rule". However, Washington state and several other states have not yet adopted the new rules; hence the reference above to 40 CFR 262.34. The new rule is <u>40 CFR 262.15</u>, "Satellite accumulation area regulations for small and large quantity generators".

FROM: Paul W. Martin

**DATE:** 10/26/17

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