

January 16, 2018 (revised October 22, 2020)

Data Quality Record for Strategic Measures

Strategic Measure Text: By September 30, 2022, make additional Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facilities Ready for Anticipated Use (RAU)

Goal Number/Objective: Goal 1: Core Mission/Objective 1.3: Revitalize Land and Prevent Contamination

NPM Lead: Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM)

1a. Purpose of Strategic Measure:

The intent of this measure is to show that RCRA Corrective Action facilities are progressing through cleanup and have met the important RAU milestone. RCRA RAU means that although all cleanup standards may not yet be met:

- human exposures are under control;
- cleanup goals have been achieved for media that may affect current and reasonably anticipated future uses so there are no unacceptable risks; and,
- all institutional and engineering controls required to ensure long-term protection from any existing contamination and in place.

The number of RCRA Corrective Action facilities determined to meet RAU communicates progress made by the RCRA program, specifically with:

- addressing contamination from hazardous waste at RCRA facilities;
- protecting communities around RCRA facilities;
- supporting economic activity involving use/reuse/redevelopment at RCRA facilities; and,
- minimizing clean-up costs by mitigating the spread of contamination.

1b. Performance Measure Term Definitions:

RCRA Ready for Anticipated Use (RAU) is defined in EPA's 2007 "Guidance for Documenting and Reporting RCRA Subtitle C Corrective Action Land Revitalization Indicators and Performance Measures."

https://archive.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/web/pdf/lr_guid.pdf

For a facility to be RAU the criteria must be met for the entire facility. RCRA RAU is the event by which the authorized state or EPA makes an RAU determination for a particular facility cleanup. RCRA is a state-delegated program (45 states are authorized for Corrective Action). The state or region that has the "lead" for the cleanup at a particular facility reports RAU in RCRAinfo.

The following criteria are required for RCRA RAU designations:

- The Human Exposure Under Control Environmental Indicator has been met (this milestone is also referred to as Protective for People or PFP)
- Cleanup goals have been achieved for media that may affect current and reasonably anticipated future land uses of the facility so that there are no unacceptable risks
- All institutional or other controls, identified as part of a response action or remedy as required to help ensure long-term protection, are in place

1c. Unit of Measure: RCRA Corrective Action facilities. Measure tracks additional RCRA facilities made RAU (RAU/CA800determinations) per year.

2a. Data Source:

RCRAinfo, the national program management database of record for the RCRA Hazardous Waste Management Program. The RAU data element is CA800. The state or region that has the lead for the cleanup at a particular facility reports RAU in RCRAinfo. There are 45 states that are authorized to

implement the RCRA Corrective Action program. All 10 EPA regional offices also oversee RCRA Corrective Action cleanups.

RAUs are entered into RCRAinfo any time throughout the year as determinations are made. EPA's RCRA program reports national RAU accomplishments annually. Historically, RAUs had been tracked biannually, however, EPA expects to increase frequency to meet tracking needs. As directed by the OLEM National Program Manager Guidance, authorized states and regions implementing the RCRA program conduct effective Corrective Action data collection and management and enter and maintain these data in the RCRAinfo system.

2b. Data needed for interpretation of (calculated) Performance Result:

The 2020 universe was 3,779 facilities. The current 2021 universe is 3,924 facilities. Additional facilities will be identified for inclusion for 2022 and future years. Performance is currently reported on an annual basis.

3. Methodology:

RCRA Corrective Action project managers in the states and EPA regional offices, depending which entity is the lead, make facility-specific RAU determinations by entering the CA800 code into RCRAinfo when the criteria are met for a particular facility. EPA headquarters reports the national result using the data from RCRAinfo at the end of the fiscal year.

4. Data Limitations/Qualifications:

To address identified limitations/qualifications, the RCRA Corrective Action program will prioritize and complete improvements to RCRA RAU and its implementation. An important limitation is that the RAU milestone does NOT necessarily indicate that a piece of real property is safe for unrestricted use. Contamination may remain in some areas (on-site or off-site) that is above 'unrestricted use' health-based standards and controls may still be required to be maintained at the facility, including Engineering Controls (i.e., engineered structures in or on the ground) and Institutional Controls (e.g., restrictions on digging where contamination remains or restrictions on drinking groundwater). Thus, communities, property owners, purchasers, real estate developers, and title insurers should be cautioned not to interpret RAU as meaning that all cleanup is completed.

The RCRA RAU determination does not include extensive facility information or documentation, such as the type of 'anticipated use' (e.g., parking lot vs. daycare center) or controls required. Documentation may be lacking for past RAU determinations.

45 states are authorized to implement RCRA Corrective Action. Increasing RAU determinations will require coordination with the states.

5. Technical Contact:

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6. Certification Statement/Signature

I certify the information in this DQR is complete and accurate.

DAA Signature

