

# HIFI, A SECURE GEOLOGIC REPOSITORY FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE

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## SECTION I. OVERVIEW OF HAZARDOUS WASTE REGULATIONS

Since its establishment in 1970, the United States Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] has been the primary federal entity charged with protecting the Nations' air and water resources. To date, this mission has been guided by more than a dozen federal Statutes including The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 [RCRA] and The Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 [CERCLA]. These two acts embody what is referred to as the "cradle to grave and beyond" perspective on hazardous waste management.

RCRA primarily addresses the management and disposal of wastes produced as by-products of current production and consumption activities. They are commonly categorized according to characteristics of ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity and toxicity. These are the wastes produced daily by numerous chemical plants, automobile manufacturers, pharmaceutical producers and households.

CERCLA, commonly known as the Superfund program provides for management of waste produced in the past and which were originally stored or disposed improperly. Superfund focuses on remediating environmental contamination resulting from inadequate management practices.