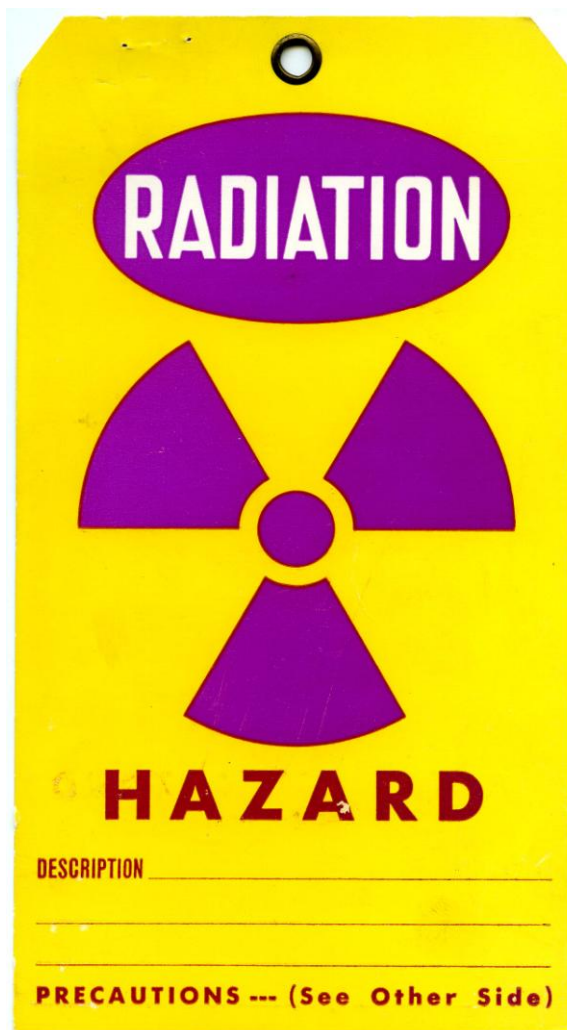


Resource Guide: Environmental Hazards

A resource guide to records available for research on environmental hazards located at the National Archives at Atlanta



Radiation Hazard tag from Research & Medical Division Files, Box 39, RG 326

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Introduction

The Environmental Movement: A History

The first real wellspring of concern for the environment in the United States came in the late nineteenth to early twentieth century with the somewhat conflicting conservation and preservation movements, advocated respectively by Gifford Pinchot and John Muir.¹

Conservationists concentrated on “the human management and wise use of nature,”² that is, conserving nature for the inevitable (but responsible) consumption and use by humans.

Preservationists believed nature should be left in its natural state, untouched by man. The debate between conservationists and preservationists arose in the Progressive era, a time of reforms in response to social conditions created by unchecked industrialization and urbanization. While Pinchot and Muir’s views conflicted, they both recognized the importance of the environment and the threats industry and urbanization posed to it. The modern environmental movement was spawned in the 1960s with concern about air and water pollution. Such concerns were highlighted in 1962 with Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring* which exposed the hazardous effects of the pesticide DDT. The 1960s and 1970s were witness to several acts passed by Congress designed to help the environment, including the Clean Air Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the Clean Water Act.

Environmental Hazards: The Main Issue

Communities around America have been built upon sites that were used to store toxic waste or were formerly used defense sites. An example of the affect of environmental hazards upon a community is the story of Love Canal, a neighborhood in Niagara Falls, New York, that

¹ Stacy J. Silveira, “The American Environmental Movement: Surviving Through Diversity,” *Boston College Environmental Affairs Law Review* 28 (2004): 499-501. Accessed April 6, 2015. <http://bit.ly/xEVagO>

² Chris H. Lewis, “What is Conservation and Preservation?” *Understanding the Ecology of Nature*. 8 April 2009. Accessed April 6, 2015. <http://www.colorado.edu/AmStudies/lewis/west/conser.htm#def>

was built in the late 1950s over 21,000 tons of toxic waste left by the Hooker Chemical Company (who sold the land to the Niagara Falls School District in 1953). The effect of this toxic waste became serious in the 1970s. Children had burns on their hands and face from the contaminated soil, women in the neighborhood were experiencing a high rate of miscarriage, and five birth defect cases were detected in the area.³ In 1978, President Jimmy Carter declared Love Canal to be a federal health emergency. The Love Canal disaster spurred Congress to action and in 1980 it passed the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) which created a “Superfund” to finance future environmental cleanups. Love Canal is just one example of how environmental hazards affect American societies and the long-term impacts they can have on the afflicted communities. It was not until March 2004 that the neighborhood was finally declared clean by federal officials. The legacy that environmental hazards leave behind is largely negative, but it is a legacy we can learn from with the help of archival records.

Records about environmental hazards in the National Archives at Atlanta are found within record groups for different federal government agencies. One agency that was created specifically in response to growing concerns about environmental pollution is the Environmental Protection Agency, established on December 2, 1970.⁴ Other agencies, such as the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) created offices within their framework to address environmental issues. For example, the TVA includes the Division of Services and Field Operations, which in its first iteration was known as the Division of Environmental Research and Development.

³ Eckardt C. Beck, “The Love Canal Tragedy,” *EPA Journal*. Jan. 1979. Accessed March 27, 2012. <http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/history/topics/lovecanal/01.html>

⁴ “EPA History” *United States Environmental Protection Agency*. Accessed March 6, 2012. <http://www.epa.gov/history/>

The records contained within these record groups vary in their subject matter. Atomic Energy Commission records address the issues of nuclear waste disposal, radiation exposure, environmental pollution and environmental controls. Some Tennessee Valley Authority record series contain several boxes including documents addressing air and water pollution. Other TVA records include many documents discussing environmental controls designed to abate future pollution and prevent environmental hazards.

All of the records referenced in this guide are contributory to research on environmental hazards. The researcher will find that some of the records' relation to environmental hazards is not overt, as with records such as Environmental Impact Statement prep files or public hearings regarding National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits. Records such as these are very specific in their subject matter. For example, an entire series of adjudicatory hearings focuses on the Carolina Power and Light Company's Brunswick Steam Electric Plant's seawater cooling system and its effect on the immediate ocean's temperature. Due to the specificity of many of the records, it is not feasible for this guide to list the many organizations/businesses/companies/formerly used defense sites, etc. mentioned. The researcher will find that many of the record series described below have a finding aid that is available by request in the research room.

The information contained in this resource guide is intended to aid the researcher in identifying records that speak to the impact environmental hazards have on the natural world and public health. In addition, many of the records contribute to an understanding of how pollution problems spur government agencies and/or private organizations to address how environmental hazards can be controlled and prevented.

Glossary note:

The term accession, which will be used frequently in this resource guide, refers to “materials physically and legally transferred to a repository as a unit at a single time; an acquisition.”⁵ The National Archives at Atlanta has several accessions of records that have the same record series title.

For More Information:

All records in this document are available for public review in the research room of the National Archives at Atlanta. Advance notification of your visit is requested. Please call 770-968-2100 or email atlanta.archives@nara.gov to make an appointment. All users must apply for a researcher’s card, which requires a photo identification card.

⁵ Pearce-Moses, Richard, “Accession,” *A Glossary of Archival and Records Terminology*. Accessed March 20, 2012. http://www.archivists.org/glossary/term_details.asp?DefinitionKey=115

Record Group 77: Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers

1. Real Property Historical Files

Dates: 1856-1998

NAID#: [7367944](#)

This series contains maps, property inventory reports, historical reports, correspondence, property disposal reports, and photographs of military property in Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Records in this series concern subjects related to land acquisition and sales. As with the property disposal case files found in RG 103, 270, and 291, researchers will find the records in this series helpful in locating documents of relevance to environmental hazards, especially in regards to formerly used defense sites.

Finding aids: See online finding aid at <http://www.friendsnas.org/findingAids/rg77-7367944.html>

Record Group 103: Records of the Farm Credit Administration

1. Surplus Real Property Case Files

Dates: 1945-1951

NAID #: [1253293](#), [1256997](#), [1256873](#)

These records relate to disposal of tracts of agricultural and forest land under the Surplus Property Act of 1944 (Federal land banks functioned as agents for the Farm Credit Administration in these proceedings). The tracts sold were located on military installations such as auxiliary airfields, ordnance plants, engineer works, prisoner-of-war camps, quartermaster depots, air stations, bombing and gunnery ranges in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The records include appraisal reports, correspondence, descriptions of tracts and the names of their former owners, offers to purchase, and title opinions. Nontextual records may include photographs, maps, and architectural drawings.

Finding aids: See online finding aids listed under “Property Disposals” at http://www.archives.gov/atlanta/finding-aids/agriculture.html#rg_103

Record Group 121: Records of the Public Buildings Service

1. Real Property Disposal Case Files

Dates: 1943-1984

NAID#: [4662620](#)

(There are 43 accessions of this record series title)

This series consists of administrative correspondence, reports, declarations, copies of instruments of conveyance and mortgages, trust deeds and releases thereof, and applications for conversion to wildlife status. Among the real properties listed are air fields, forts, post office sites, military

camp, bombing ranges, rights of way, hospitals, ranger stations and flood control areas. Similar to the Real Property Disposal Case Files that can be found in Record Groups 103, 270, and 291, these records can be helpful to a researcher in determining where bombs and other ordnance were stored on formerly used defense sites.

Finding aids: A box list inventory of these records is available upon request.

Record Group 142: Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority

General note

There are many record series within the records of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in which researchers are likely to find records of relevance to environmental issues. Highlighted below are only two. If a researcher is interested in environmental issues specific to the TVA, it is recommended that they contact the archives ahead of his/her visit so that an archivist can assist them with locating records of relevance to their specific topic.

1. Environmental Quality Staff Correspondence Files

Dates: 1969 – 1999

NAID #: [782721](#), [7226523](#), [7415503](#)

(There are 5 accessions of this record series title)

Included in this record series are both administrative and program records. The administrative records do not address the functions for which the organization existed and will not be useful to the researcher of environmental hazards.

The program records document the activities of the division in developing, recommending and carrying out plans, policies, and programs pertaining to TVA's interests in the promotion of environmental quality studies and in conducting technical guidance and assistance to other divisions. The records also document the division's activities in representing TVA with their governmental agencies with regard to environmental quality controls for TVA installations. For example, the series contains documentation that references TVA's Ten Year Plan for Environmental Leadership, in which plans to control and prevent environmental hazards are outlined. Program records include case files created for TVA's environmental impact statements, Environmental Protection Agency preliminary and final reports, and public and industrial safety task force findings, and include analyses, correspondence, reports, and studies.

This series contains documentation regarding many federal laws that were passed to help circumvent environmental hazards, such as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Water Pollution Control Act, Toxic Substance Control Act and Nuclear Waste Policy Act. Also included are files referring to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), uranium exploration, oil slicks and many other topics that would be helpful to a researcher of environmental hazards.

This series is extensive in size. It is important to note that there are several accessions with the title "Environmental Quality Staff Correspondence Files" held at the National Archives at Atlanta. Therefore, it is recommended that a researcher contact the archives ahead of his/her

visit so that an archivist can assist them with narrowing down what records would be the most helpful.

Finding aids: A box list inventory of these records is available upon request.

2. Chief Engineer, Office Manager Files

Dates: 1933-1984

NAID #: [4529877](#)

This record series contains a variety of documents pertaining to the environment and environmental hazards. Of interest, in a folder with records about TVA's General Environmental Programs is a copy of President Jimmy Carter's second environmental message. In the same folder, there is an article that details TVA's role in and its effect upon the environment. Other records in this series include environmental monitoring statements and evaluations of TVA nuclear power plants, air pollution compliance schedules, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System applications. This series also contains records related to the snail darter controversy, which involved the delay of the construction of the Tellico Dam because of concern for the damage the dam may cause to the snail darter's natural environment. Several boxes address air and water pollution resulting from TVA activities.

Finding aids: A box list inventory of these records is available upon request.

Record Group 270: Records of the War Assets Administration

1. Real Property Disposal Case Files

Dates: 1944 – 1949

NAID #: [630563](#)

The records document disposal, through sale or donation, of surplus real property, such as Army Air Corps training bases, Army and Navy ordnance plants, prisoner-of-war camps, recruit depots, shipyards, and other Federal installations in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. They include the reporting of property as excess, notification of availability, inspection and appraisal, and approval of disposition. The records are case files, which generally include correspondence, deeds, memorandums, narrative reports, reports of survey and title searches. Property descriptions provide the researcher with information about where bombs and other ordnance were stored on site. Nontextual records include architectural and engineering plans, blueprints, maps, and photographs.

Finding aids: See online finding aid at <http://www.archives.gov/atlanta/finding-aids/rg270-630563.html>

Record Group 291: Records of the Federal Property Resources Service

1. Real Property Disposal Case Files

Dates: 1959-1971

NAID#: [281563](#)

These holdings of the Regional Office relate to the disposal of excess and surplus federal government real property such as military bases, industrial complexes, research and development facilities, lighthouses, parks and monuments, wildlife refuge, United States postal facilities, courthouses, Veterans Administration hospitals and other government buildings. The records consist of correspondence, lease agreements, memorandums, appraisal reports, site management files, title papers, and analysis reports. Also interspersed within the holdings are blueprints, maps of installations, and photographs. Similar to the Real Property Disposal Case Files that can be found in Record Group 270, these records can be helpful to a researcher in determining where bombs and other ordnance were stored on formerly used defense sites.

Finding aids: A database index of these records is available upon request

Record Group 326: Records of the Atomic Energy Commission

General note

There are many record series within the records of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) in which researchers may find records of relevance to environmental issues. Highlighted below are only four record series. If a researcher is interested in environmental issues specific to the AEC, it is recommended that they contact the archives ahead of his/her visit so that an archivist can assist them with locating records of relevance to their specific topic.

1. Joseph A. Lenhard Reading File

Dates: 1957 – 1971

NAID #: [6207464](#)

This record series was created and maintained by Joseph A. Lenhard, an AEC Oak Ridge employee. Lenhard was a health physicist who was employed by the Biology Branch of the Oak Ridge Operations Office Research Division. In 1967, Lenhard became Director of the Oak Ridge Safety Division, and later served as Director of the Safety and Environmental Control Division. The files document effluent and other pollution control, compliance with environmental protection laws, occupational health and safety, fire protection, waste disposal, isotopes handling and radiological safety, procedures for handling contaminated Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies (ORINS) patients, and fallout reports. Much of the documentation consists of occupational correspondence with other AEC officials and with Oak Ridge contractors.

2. Office of Public Information Correspondence

Dates: 1944 – 1968

NAID#: [281567](#)

This record series contains several documents regarding environmental hazards; however, they are dispersed throughout this fairly extensive collection of 232 boxes. Some noted records

include the following: In Box 92, the researcher will find a summary report of the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works Uranium Division's off-site environmental sampling programs. Box 104 contains quarterly reports on the environmental levels of radioactivity for the Oak Ridge Operations area and Box 109 holds Environmental Monitoring Reports. Other records include documents detailing information on nuclear fallout from test explosions and the predicted environmental and public health ramifications from such tests. One folder contains photographs showing Oak Ridge's waste disposal processes.

Finding aids: A box list inventory of these records is available upon request.

3. Water and Sewer Records

Dates: 1941 – 1961

NAID#: [6003026](#)

This record series consists of memorandum, correspondence, studies and reports pertaining to the water and sewage facilities in the city of Oak Ridge, Tennessee. There are documents which reference the pollution of East Fork Poplar Creek and the Clinch River, two bodies of water which still experience pollution problems today. Other documents speak to the importance of keeping the water supply safe from contamination due to the nuclear production activities at the Y-12 Plant.

4. Research and Medical Division Files

Dates: 1945-1952

NAID#: [6925759](#)

This series contains correspondence, reports, handwritten notes, forms, press releases, memos, graphs, and medical records. Topics include effects of radiation, safety, budgeting, expenses, personnel, and medical testing. The records include documents detailing the health hazards of materials such as beryllium and plutonium, the hazards in handling hydrogen fluoride, and the medical impacts of radiation exposure. Researchers interested in researching the hazardous effects of radiation on the human body may find records of relevance to their research in this series. For example, there are studies such as "The Genetic Effects of Non-Sterilising Doses of Penetrating Radiation" and reports such as "The Exposure of Employees to Radiation."⁶ There are also some records detailing the disposal of contaminated property, waste and contaminated material.⁷

Finding aids: A box list inventory of these records is available upon request.

⁶ These documents can be found in Box 39 of the series.

⁷ See Box 40 for documents relevant to these topics.

RG 412: Records of the Environmental Protection Agency

Administrative Historical Note

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established in the executive branch as an independent agency pursuant to Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1970, effective December 2, 1970. The EPA was created to coordinate Federal action in cooperation with State and local governments to abate and control pollution in the areas of air, water, solid waste, pesticides, radiation, and toxic substances. It conducts research, monitoring, standards setting, and enforcement activities.⁸

1. 180 Day Notices Files

Dates: 1972 – 1973

NAID#: [281594](#)

This series is composed of files of informal hearing transcripts, in which the pollution problem is outlined, violations of the party discussed, and what actions must be taken to abate any future pollution are considered. The following is a list of cities for which there are files.

- a. City of Henderson, KY
Violation: Discharging inadequately treated sewage into the Ohio River
- b. City of West Point, KY
Violation: Inadequately treated sewage
- c. City of Natchez, MS
Violation: Inadequately treated sewage being released into Mississippi River
- d. City of Biloxi, MS
Violation: Inadequate sewage facilities
- e. City of Pascagoula, MS
Violation: Inadequate sewage facilities that has led to adverse impact on Pascagoula River
- f. City of Yazoo City, MS
Violation: Discharging inadequately treated sewage into the Yazoo River, which flows into the Mississippi River
- g. City of Bogalusa, LA
Violation: Sewage discharged into Bogalusa Creek and Pearl River. There is a reel to reel tape of the transcript proceedings included in the file.

2. Adjudicatory Hearing Files

Dates: 1972 – 1985

NAID#: [281589](#)

(There are 19 accessions of this record series title)

The purpose of an adjudicatory hearing is to review the determinations of the EPA Regional Administrator with respect to a particular National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. These hearings concern NPDES permits for businesses, discussing the issues of fact concerning regulation enforcement as outlined in the NPDES permit. “The NPDES permit program controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into

⁸ “Administrative History,” *Records of the Environmental Protection Agency*: National Archives at Atlanta. Accessed April 5, 2015. <http://www.archives.gov/atlanta/holdings/rg-300-600.html#412>

waters of the United States.”⁹ Environmental issues are alluded to, but not discussed directly (if researching a specific company’s connection to environmental hazards and control, these records could prove helpful). The files are comprised of administrative documents arranging hearings, public notice of hearings, and pre-hearing transcripts. In addition to these documents are the Administrative Law Judge judgment orders, transcripts of hearings and exhibit materials are usually included. The exhibits contain studies and reports to address the environmental/ecological impact the business’s practices might have on the affected area.

One series specifically focuses on the NPDES permit for Carolina Power and Light Company. Within this series the researcher will find correspondence, exhibits, related court cases, research, and transcripts that detail the Carolina Power and Light Company’s Brunswick Steam Electric Plant from 1974 to 1980. The problem revolved around the plant’s seawater cooling system and its effect on the immediate ocean’s temperature, which it would raise by five degrees, presenting an adverse impact on the Cape Fear Estuary. Two folders of note are the Thermal Pollution Findings report issued by the Subcommittee on Investigations and Review and a book printed by the EPA compiled *Basic Documents Concerning Federal Programs to Control Environmental Pollution from Federal Government Activities*.

Another series of Adjudicatory Hearing Files is important to note because of its overlap with records in another Record Group. Several of the companies listed in Adjudicatory Hearing Files (Accession Number 412-85-0025) have Public Health Assessment studies that are found in the records for the Centers for Disease Control (RG 442). The list of companies is as follows:

- J.P. Stevens and Company
- Monsanto
- Ford Motor Company
- General Electric
- Sanford Gasification Plant
- B.F. Goodrich
- Mobil Chemical Company
- Olin Corporation

It is important to note that there are many accessions with the title “Adjudicatory Hearing Files” held at the National Archives at Atlanta. Therefore, it is recommended that a researcher contact the archives ahead of his/her visit so that an archivist can assist them with narrowing down what records would be the most helpful, especially if the researcher is looking for the adjudicatory hearing file for a specific company/organization/corporation.

⁹ “Overview,” *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System*: Environmental Protection Agency website. Accessed April 5, 2015. <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/npdes/index.cfm>

3. Air Quality In-House Project Files

Dates: 1978 – 1995 (gaps in years)

NAID#: [281586](#)

(There are 12 accessions of this record series title)

This record series is composed of studies and reports which address a variety of air pollution problems: asbestos, sulfur-oxide emissions, coal cleaning processes, smelting operations, volatile organic chemicals, and other air pollutants. The air quality modeling reports are applicable to the assessment and impact of hazardous air pollutants. These reports contain studies, architectural and engineering drawings and maps used as models for documenting various types of hazardous air pollutants. Included in these reports are levels of toxic materials emitted from fuels, crushed stone, and municipal sewage sludge which contain materials such as coal, lead, zinc, copper, sulfur, arsenic, trichloroethylene, and mercury. The project files also provide risk assessment information and assistance on air pollution problems for the EPA regions, other Federal agencies, and state and local authorities. The researcher will find that many of the studies discuss environmental controls designed to abate future air pollution.

Highlights from the records:

1. A Natural Resources Defense Council report on the “Impact of Airborne Fine Particulates on Health and the Environment” (Accession 412-94-0051, Folder labeled “Box #12”)
2. Correspondence expressing opposition to and support of the EPA’s 1978 “Proposed Standards of Performance for Electric Steam Generating Units.” (Accession 412-94A0051, Box 1, Folder labeled “Box #11”)
3. American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO) emissions and monitoring reports for plants in Columbus, Ohio and El Paso, Texas, respectively (Accession 412-94A0054, Box 1, Folder labeled “ASARCO”).
 - Note: There are six public health studies of ASARCO, though none of the studies refer to the plants in Columbus or El Paso. These records can be found in RG 442: Centers for Disease Control in the following accessions:
 - Accession 442-97-029
 - Accession 442-00-007
 - Accession 442-00-002
 - Accession 442-03-066
 - Accession 442-06-003
4. Kennecott Copper Corporation: Correspondence regarding emissions control (Accession 412-94A0054, Box 1, Folder labeled “Kennecott Copper Corporation”)
 - Note: There are two Public Health Assessment studies of Kennecott, specifically their Utah Copper Division, RG 442: Centers for Disease Control
 - Accession 442-00-009
 - Accession 442-00-008
5. Potential Secondary Pollution Resulting from Air Pollution Control (Accession 412-94A0054, Box 1, Folder labeled “Secondary Pollution – Non-Ferrous”)
6. The Impact of Air Pollution Abatement on the Copper Industry: An Engineering-Economic Analysis Related to Sulfur Oxide Recovery – study to determine the cost to the

copper industry of conformance with the existing and anticipated air quality regulations. (Accession 412-94A0077, Box 2)

It is important to note that there are several accessions with the title “Air Quality In-House Project Files” held at the National Archives at Atlanta. Therefore, it is recommended that a researcher contact the archives ahead of his/her visit so that an archivist can assist them with narrowing down what records would be the most helpful, especially if the researcher is looking for air quality project files regarding a specific company/organization/corporation.

Finding aids: A detailed listing of contents of boxes is available upon request.

4. Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Files

Dates: 1974 – 1992 (gaps in years)

NAID#: [4545800](#)

(There are 9 accessions of this record series title)

These files contain statements submitted for the public hearing record, correspondence regarding the public hearing and concerned citizens’ letters, and news articles/releases about the company/organization/corporation whose environmental practices are in question. In addition, there are lists of the registrants at the public hearing, agendas, public notice of the hearing, and fact sheets included in the files. Many of the hearings are tape recorded (format: reel to reel and cassette tapes). Some files contain exhibits submitted by the permit applicant to help argue why they should be granted the permit. Environmental assessments, special studies and other supplementary material such as photographs may be enclosed.

It is important to note that there are several accessions with the title “Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Files” held at the National Archives at Atlanta. Therefore, it is recommended that a researcher contact the archives ahead of his/her visit so that an archivist can assist them with narrowing down what records would be the most helpful, especially if the researcher is looking for environment impact statement preparation files regarding a specific company/organization/corporation.

Finding aids: A box list inventory of these records is available upon request.

5. Public Hearing Files

Dates: 1973 – 1985 (excluding 1978-1981)

NAID#: [281590](#)

(There are 5 accessions of this record series title)

This record series contains the public hearings files that are held as part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit process. The series contains records used in conducting public hearings at which interested groups comment on proposed indirect sources of pollution regulations, compliance schedules and transportation control regulations. The records consist of citizen and congressional inquiries, administrative documentation for the arrangement and scheduling of hearings, public notice of hearings and copies of hearing transcripts. Several

of the public hearing files have transcripts that have been recorded (format: reel to reel and cassette tapes).

Finding aids: A box list inventory of these records is available upon request.

6. Regional Hearing Files

Dates: 1975 – 1986 (excluding 1979 – 1981)

NAID#: [6158042](#)

(There are 2 accessions of this record series title)

This series contains official public hearing files for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, including the following types of documents:

- Comments submitted for the hearing record
- Draft permits
- Fact sheets
- Correspondence from concerned citizens

The content of these records mirrors what the researcher would find in the Public Hearing files for NPDES permits (see description for Public Hearings Files above). The NPDES permits in question are all in the Southeast United States. One of the accessions (412-84A0030) contains hearing documents, testimony, transcripts, memoranda, orders and correspondence pertaining to the NPDES permit for the Beker Phosphate Corporation's property located in Manatee County, Florida.

7. Water Quality Standards Conference Proceedings

Dates: 1969 – 1971

NAID#: [281593](#)

This records series contains transcripts of conferences designed to discuss the establishment of water quality standards, along with other issues. For example, topics of discussion at a conference held in Montgomery, Alabama in 1971 include temperature criteria for shellfish harvesting, dissolved oxygen criteria for waters designated for shellfish harvesting, and adequate bacteriological criteria for protection of public water supply and recreational uses. One of the conferences contains records discussing pollution in the Mississippi River Basin. These conference records provide insight into the efforts of states to implement environmental controls so as to combat the threat of environmental hazards.

Listing of conference records contained in this record series:

Conference to Consider the Establishment of Water Quality Standards for Interstate Waters Subject to the Jurisdiction of the State of Alabama, Montgomery, Alabama, April 5-7, 1971

- One folder contains letters of private citizens sharing their views on the pollution affecting Alabama's waters.

Conference to Consider the Establishment of Water Quality Standards for the Mississippi River Basin Interstate Waters – State of Iowa, Davenport, Iowa, April 8-9, 1969

- This conference references pollution in the Mississippi River.
- One purpose of this conference was to consider the data and information available on the status of pollution of the rivers of Iowa and relate this in reasonable perspective to the requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act for the protection of public health and welfare and the enhancement of the quality of the water.

Conference to Consider the Establishment of Water Quality Standards for the Mississippi River Basin Interstate Waters – State of Iowa, Council Bluffs, Iowa, April 15-16, 1969

Water Quality Standards – Mississippi Air & Water Pollution Control Commission, Jackson, Mississippi, June 19, 1967

- As part of the review in adapting water standards, main causes of pollution for the waterways are given in the reports.

Water Quality Standards for Waters of Alabama and A Plan for Implementation, June 1967

- In reports for individual river basins, plans were given for the abatement of pollution caused by industrial wastes. Lists of municipal and industrial wastes discharged to interstate waters were given for each river basin.

8. Superfund Site Removal Records

Dates: 1942-1998 (gaps in years)

NAID#: [6281132](#)

(There are 57 accessions of this record series title)

This series consists of site-specific removal records relating to emergency, time-critical, and non time-critical activities conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and non-EPA lead entities. This series consists of correspondence, data, memos, reports, and work plans. Topics covered include quality assurance, financial and technical progress, data sampling and analysis, pollution, work and other site-specific contract documentation relating to Superfund removal sites and removal response.

Note: Many of the Superfund sites found in the records may have related records which can be found in series of Health Consultation Files, Health Studies Final Reports and/or Public Health Assessment Files, RG 442: Records of the Centers for Disease Control.

It is important to note that there are many accessions with the title “Superfund Site Removal Records” held at the National Archives at Atlanta. Therefore, it is recommended that a researcher contact the archives ahead of his/her visit so that an archivist can assist them with narrowing down what records would be the most helpful, especially if the researcher is looking for removal records regarding a specific company/organization/corporation.

9. Review and Comment Files (Environmental Impact Statements)

Dates: 1979-1995

NAID#: [6282594](#)

(There are 45 accessions of this record series title)

This series contains comments by Environmental Protection Agency staff and other stakeholders about the review of draft and final environmental impact statements (EIS) for proposed projects. It appears that researchers will find draft and final EIS studies more often than finding substantive comments or review of the EIS files. These review and comment files may contain correspondence, reports and studies that provide context to the EIS being considered. Some of the files contain responses by the party whose EIS is being considered in which they address environmental concerns that have been raised by the EPA. The environmental impact statement studies often indicate the agencies and organizations from which comments were requested.

These review and comment files are made pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Air Act regarding environmental impact statements (EISs), regulations, legislation and other major Federal actions.

It is important to note that there are many accessions with the title “Review and Comment Files (Environmental Impact Statements)” held at the National Archives at Atlanta. Therefore, it is recommended that a researcher contact the archives ahead of his/her visit so that an archivist can assist them with narrowing down what records would be the most helpful, especially if the researcher is looking for the EIS review and comment files for a specific project/site.

10. Regulations, Standards, and Guidelines

Dates: 1977-1978

NAID#: [16545585](#)

(There are 3 accessions of this record series title)

These files contain information relating to the development, review, and approval of published and unpublished rules and regulations pursuant to environmental legislation passed by Congress. Records include drafts of proposed regulations and guidelines, the final regulations and guidelines, public and internal comments including concurring and dissenting opinions, OMB request for comments, hearing transcripts, meeting minutes, background documents and other technical support material generated during the process to develop and approve the regulation, standard, or guideline, along with current indexes of documents both included and cited as precedent. Files may include confidential business information or other information to which access is restricted. These draft and final regulations were prepared in accordance with the August 1977 Clean Air Act Amendments and were intended to serve as the basis for evaluating the need to promulgate National Ambient Air Quality Standards specific to the harmful substances under review (e.g. nitrogen oxides, atmospheric lead, and ozone). Detailed reviews and comments on the draft regulation documents can be found in the files, along with the EPA’s response to comments.

11. Criteria Health Assessments

Dates: 1982-1983

NAID#: [16601862](#)

This series contains records similar in nature to what can be found in the Regulations, Standards, and Guidelines files. Specifically, these records document the establishment of air quality criteria for nitrogen oxides and assess the impact of nitrogen oxides on people's health. Documentation included relates to the development of health, risk and exposure assessments; risk assessment guidelines; and air criteria documents used in assessing the risk of exposure to hazardous pollutants.

12. Environmental Impact Statements

Dates: 1970-1994 (gaps)

NAID#: [16357218](#)

(There are 20 accessions of this record series title)

“An environmental impact statement (EIS) is a detailed analysis that serves to insure that the policies and goals defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are infused into the ongoing programs and actions of the federal agency. EISs are generally prepared for projects that the proposing agency views as having significant prospective environmental impacts. The EIS should provide a discussion of significant environmental impacts and reasonable alternatives (including a No Action alternative) which would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance the quality of the human environment. The standard format for the EIS as outlined in [Section 1502.10](#) of the NEPA Regulations should be followed. Agencies should allow at least a 45-day comment period for draft EISs and a 30-day comment period for final EISs.”¹⁰

An EIS analysis is generally composed of the following content sections:

- Description of project
- Environmental impacts of project on:
 - Land & atmosphere
 - Water use
 - Terrestrial and aquatic ecology
 - Man
- Adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided
- Alternatives to the proposed project
- Relationship between short-term use of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long term productivity
- Irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources
- Discussion of comments received on EIS

Along with the draft and final EISs, this series may include supporting materials such as photos, reports, studies, surveys, etc. Some EIS files may contain more detailed information about the

¹⁰ “Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements,” *Environmental Protection Agency*, Accessed March 27, 2015, <http://www.epa.gov/reg3esd1/nepa/eis.htm>

project in question. For example, the EIS for the Atomic Energy Commission's Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactor Program provides information on the historical background for the program and details on how the program was to be carried out (planning, studies, etc.) [See accession 412-80-0017, Box 2]. Researchers may find of interest the draft and final EIS for the proposed idea of building floating nuclear power plants (see accession 412-80-0017, Box 4).

Project categories for environmental impact statements include transportation, urban renewal, water resources, energy development and Federal land use plans. Issues addressed include housing developments, highway construction, erosion in navigable water areas, geological changes, parks and recreational facilities, nuclear power plants, and plant and wildlife conditions.

13. Environmental Impact Statements Coordination Files

Dates: 1973-1976

NAID#: [281588](#)

(There are 9 accessions of this record series title)

This series contains documentation similar to what can be found in the Environmental Impact Statements series (NAID#16357218).

Project categories seen in the Coordination Files include transportation, urban renewal, water resources, energy development and Federal land use plans. Issues addressed include housing developments, highway construction, erosion in navigable water areas, geological changes, parks and recreational facilities, and plant and wildlife conditions.

14. Hazardous Waste Superfund Files

Dates: 1981-2001

NAID#: [16375183](#)

(There are 30 accessions of this record series title)

These files were created as a result of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as Superfund. This law created a tax on the chemical and petroleum industries and provided broad Federal authority to respond directly to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health or the environment. The files document the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to enforce hazardous waste cleanup.

This series includes site-specific records relating to hazardous waste sites at federal facilities that have been submitted under Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) or CERCLA for preliminary assessments. Specific types of records include correspondence, memoranda, meeting notes, work plans, financial and technical progress reports, statements of work and other site-specific contract documentation, hazardous ranking system (HRS) packages, national priorities list (NPL) determination, preliminary assessments (PA), site assessments (SA), sampling and analysis data, pollution reports (POLREPs), endangerment assessments, risk assessments, health and safety plans, remedial investigations (RI) reports, feasibility study (FS) reports, proposed plans for selected remedial action, and applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs), concurrence memoranda, concurrence reports, remedial design and remedial action

(RD/RA) reports, community relations plans (CRPs), public meeting notes, RCRA closure and post closure reports, RCRA compliance reports, delisting correspondence, and other related records needed to document the RCRA, CERCLA, or preliminary assessment activities conducted at federal facility hazardous waste sites.

15. Resource Conservation & Recovery Act Generators, Transporters, and Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facilities Files

Dates: 1980-1992 (gaps in years)

NAID#: [6281121](#)

About the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act: “The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) gives EPA the authority to control hazardous waste from the "cradle-to-grave." This includes the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste. RCRA also set forth a framework for the management of non-hazardous solid wastes. The 1986 amendments to RCRA enabled EPA to address environmental problems that could result from underground tanks storing petroleum and other hazardous substances. HSWA - the Federal Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments - are the 1984 amendments to RCRA that focused on waste minimization and phasing out land disposal of hazardous waste as well as corrective action for releases. Some of the other mandates of this law include increased enforcement authority for EPA, more stringent hazardous waste management standards, and a comprehensive underground storage tank program.”¹¹

These records relate to generators, transporters, and treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facilities as required by Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The records include notification forms, permit applications and modifications, background and supporting documentation, public notices, drafts and final permits, comments and records of public meetings, fact sheets, exception reports, appeals, import and export notifications, closure and post-closure documents, inspection reports, court orders, manifests, de-listings, correspondence, financial assurance documents, records relating to interim status, and other related records. The series includes Regional Off-Site Contact (ROC) records related to facilities approved to receive CERCLA wastes, including phone logs, inspection reports, and related records.

16. State Implementation Plan Files

Dates: 1972-1989

NAID#: [281591](#)

(There are 27 accessions of this record series title)

About State Implementation Plans (SIPs): “SIPs typically consist of narratives, or rules, or both. Sometimes SIPs include other forms of requirements such as stipulations, agreements, or permits. The states prepare SIPs and submit them to EPA for approval to meet specific requirements of the Clean Air Act, including the requirement to attain and maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). SIP narratives describe how the plan, including any rules or other requirements, will comply with these requirements and maintain the NAAQS. SIP

¹¹ “Summary of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act,” *Environmental Protection Agency*, Accessed April 2, 2015, <http://www2.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-resource-conservation-and-recovery-act>

narratives also sometimes include state promises for future action, which we call commitments. Once EPA approves a SIP, EPA and citizens may enforce the SIP rules, requirements, and commitments in Federal court.”¹²

This series contains copies of plans developed by the states for the attainment and maintenance of national ambient air quality standards, as required by section 110 of the Clean Air Act. Other plans found in these files address the emergency response of states in the case of an event involving hazardous materials. The records includes plans and amendments, public and industrial comments, public hearing documents, compliance schedules, status reports, initial documents, section 307 lawsuit documents, contracts, and progress reports. Other types of records which can be found in the series include data sheets, studies, correspondence, memorandum and other records relevant to the documentation of state plans for hazardous waste emergencies.

17. Enforcement Action Files

Dates: 1990-1993

NAID#: [6281116](#)

(There are 6 accessions of this record series title)

These records document violations of EPA regulations and U.S. laws (e.g. the Clean Water Act) that result in civil penalties being brought against the violator by the EPA. The document contents of enforcement action files vary depending on what program they stem from (e.g. Toxic Substance Program, Air Pollution Program, etc.) but generally include correspondence, meeting documentation, inspections, field notebooks, evaluations, documentation of administrative actions including notices of violation, notices of deficiency, information requests, warning letters, administrative compliance orders, documentation of civil and criminal actions, corrective action orders, attorney work products, case summaries, pleadings, state and local enforcement records, settlement documents including consent decrees, discovery requests, and notices of intent to sue..

One series of enforcement action files in our holdings contains records in relation to EPA’s Toxic Substances Program (Accession number 412-03-0440). The series is composed mostly of correspondence and memorandum about various environmental and health issues caused by toxic substances. Of interest is correspondence discussing the development of a computer assisted Sentinel Environmental Disease and Injury Management Information System (SEDIMIS) which was to provide a broad picture of the actual relative toxicity of Toxic Release Inventory releases into the environment. An entire folder contains citizens’ requests to the Toxic Substances Program for information on toxic substances.

As noted above, the enforcement action files may include photocopies of pleadings from court cases filed in U.S. District Courts. It is possible we have the complete court case file in our U.S. District Court holdings (Record Group 21) if the case was filed in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, or Tennessee. It appears that for a case to be filed by the U.S. government in U.S. District Court requires a civil litigation report by the

¹² “State Implementation Plan (SIP),” *Environmental Protection Agency*, Accessed April 9, 2015, <http://www2.epa.gov/region8/state-implementation-plan-sip>

EPA in which all evidence against the violator is compiled. These civil litigation reports contain a description of the defendant, the defendant's violations, enforcement history, injunctive relief sought, recommended penalties, the litigation strategy of the U.S. government and exhibits.

18. Routine and Landmark Case Files

Dates: 1978-1992 (gaps in years)

NAID#: 16614744

(There are 14 accessions of this record series title)

This series includes case records relating to formal adjudications before the Administrative Law Judge¹³, under the Administrative Procedure Act. Cases consist of hearings concerning various environmental legislation including the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, NPDES permits, Civil Penalty cases, and others. Records consist of administrative documents arranging hearings, public notices of hearings, prehearing transcripts, orders, transcripts of hearings, all exhibits entered, and other related records. These cases are designated as landmark cases. Examples of possible landmark cases would be cases that may have the largest award, or the first case of the kind or some other special distinction, or results in a legal precedent. A landmark case may establish or affirm Agency policy with respect to environmental actions of national importance (e.g., banning a hazardous substance) or other actions affecting EPA's relationship with an entire industry or major pollution source.

Access Restriction(s): Restricted - Possibly

Specific Access Restriction: FOIA (b)(4) Trade Secrets and Commercial or Financial Information, FOIA (b)(6) Personal Information

Note: These records are subject to screening on demand and must be screened by NARA staff for personal information and trade secrets prior to being served to researchers.

Finding aids: Database index of case files available upon request.

19. Remedial Site Files

Dates: 1980-1983

NAID# : [6282621](#)

(There are 6 accessions of this record series title)

This series consists of site-specific records relating to activities conducted at remedial sites by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and non-EPA lead entities. The records represented may include:

Pre-record of decision (ROD) records -Examples of specific documents include correspondence and memoranda, quality assurance project plans (QAPPs), endangerment assessment, risk assessment, health and safety plans, potentially responsible party (PRP) searches and investigations, projects operations plans (POPs), remedial investigation (RI) reports, feasibility study (FS) reports, proposed plans for selected remedial action, and applicable or relevant and

¹³ For background information on the Office of Administrative Law Judges, please see <http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-administrative-law-judges-oalj>

appropriate requirements (ARARs), congressional inquiries, community relations plans and other site-specific public awareness records. Also includes a headquarters pre-ROD review package, including site-specific review requirement and review.

Post-ROD records -Examples of specific documents include correspondence and memoranda, the ROD, state concurrence letters, ROD delegation documents, responsiveness summaries, work assignments, progress reports, and other documents related to the remedial design and remedial action phases.

Operation and Maintenance (O and M) records -Examples of specific documents related to long-term treatment measures needed to achieve cleanup objectives include correspondence and memoranda, operation and maintenance plans, monitoring agreements, sampling and analysis data, inspection reports, construction completion documentation packages, site close out, and NPL deletion packages.

RG 442: Records of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Administrative Historical Note

In 1946, the Communicable Disease Center was set up in Atlanta, Georgia. The agency received its current name, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), by the Preventative Health Amendments of 1992. The CDC was established to address public health concerns, largely through research and studies of diseases that have impacted the health and general welfare of society.

In response to environmental hazards, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) was established in 1980 “to implement the health-related sections of laws that protect the public from hazardous wastes and environmental spills of hazardous substances. The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), commonly known as the "Superfund" Act, provided a Congressional mandate to remove or clean up abandoned and inactive hazardous waste sites and to provide federal assistance in toxic emergencies. As the lead Agency within the Public Health Service for implementing the health-related provisions of CERCLA, ATSDR is charged under the Superfund Act to assess the presence and nature of health hazards at specific Superfund sites, to help prevent or reduce further exposure and the illnesses that result from such exposures, and to expand the knowledge base about health effects from exposure to hazardous substances.”¹⁴ The ATSDR meets these stated goals through the publishing of public health assessments, health consultations, health studies, and other means which provide public awareness of the health effects of hazardous substances.

1. Environmental Medicine Case Studies

Dates: 1989 – 1997

NAID#: [6120348](#)

(There are 2 accessions of this record series title)

This record series contains monographs intended to increase the primary care provider’s knowledge of hazardous substances in the environment and to aid in the evaluation of potentially exposed patients. The studies contains information such as case studies about hazardous substances, exposure pathways, who is at risk, physiologic effects, clinical evaluation, and recommended treatments for people affected by a hazardous substance. Topics of the case studies range from “Ionizing Radiation” to “Skin Lesions and Environmental Exposures.” Each monograph provides objectives. For example, the case study on “Lead Toxicity” outlines objectives such as: explain why lead continues to be a chemical hazard of great concern, describe the known factors contributing to lead poisoning, assess a patient’s environmental or occupational exposure to lead, identify evaluation and treatment protocols for lead-exposed patients and list sources of information on lead.

Finding aids: A box list inventory of these records is available upon request.

¹⁴ “ATSDR Background and Congressional Mandates,” 16 July 2009. Accessed March 17, 2012. <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/about/congress.html>

2. Hazardous Substances and Public Health Newsletter

Dates: 1990 – 1996

NAID#: [6120352](#)

This newsletter is a publication of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. The topics in this newsletter vary, addressing hazardous substances, threats to public health, revolutions in waste disposal and other relevant topics. Due to the broadness of topics covered in this series, it would be impossible for the researcher to know ahead of time whether these records could be helpful to them or not. Since it is a small series of just twenty-three issues with an average of eleven pages per issue, it is recommended the researcher look through the entire series. This will be the best way to determine if there are materials present helpful to their research.

Finding aids: A box list inventory of these records is available upon request.

3. Health Consultation Files

Dates: 1998 – 2009

NAID#: [6120354](#)

(There are 12 accessions of this record series title)

This series consists of findings called "Health Consultations," that are final published reports of public health assessments conducted throughout the United States. They include investigations into abnormally high reports of illness around locations that may contain toxins, such as city dumps, formerly used defense sites, polluted waterways, mines, and factories. Health Consultations are a verbal or written response from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to a specific request for information about health risks related to a specific site, a chemical release, or the presence of hazardous material. In order to prevent or mitigate exposures, a consultation may lead to specific actions, such as restricting use of or replacing water supplies; intensifying environmental sampling; restricting site access; or removing the contaminated material. In addition, consultations may recommend additional public health actions, such as conducting health surveillance activities to evaluate exposure or trends in adverse health outcomes; conducting biological indicators of exposure studies to assess exposure; and providing health education for health care providers and community members. The health consultations cover a range of businesses, corporations, and military sites in multiple states and not just those within the Southeast region.

Finding aids: A box list inventory of these records is available upon request.

4. Health Studies Final Reports

Dates: 1981 – 2002

NAID#: [6120393](#)

(There are 4 accessions of this record series title)

This series contains studies which are carried out under the auspices of the Division of Health Studies within the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. These studies are often prompted by a citizen's complaint about an environmental hazard the citizen feels is impacting

on the public health of the community. The reports include background information on the purported hazard, methods used to study the issue and the results/conclusion of the study. The studies contain priority health consideration case files and final reports on human exposure to toxins in many locations throughout the United States including Mount St. Helens, Washington and New Bedford, Massachusetts. Supplemental information in the form of tables and questionnaires are often present.

Finding aids: A box list inventory of these records is available upon request.

5. Public Health Assessments

Dates: 1981 – 2001

NAID#: [6120397](#)

(There are 8 accessions of this record series title)

Public Health Assessments are prepared by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). Since 1986, the ATSDR has been required by law to conduct a public health assessment at each of the sites on the Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List. The aim of these evaluations is to find out if people are being exposed to hazardous substances and, if so, whether that exposure is harmful and should be stopped or reduced. The ATSDR will also conduct assessment studies when petitioned by concerned individuals, if appropriate. Similar in form to the Health Studies Final Reports, the assessments contain: background information about the site, evaluation of environmental contamination and exposure pathways, public health implications, community health concerns, conclusions and recommended public health actions. The public health assessments cover a range of businesses, corporations, military sites, etc, including some sites that are part of the Superfund project. Also, the assessments do not pertain to the Southeast region of the United States alone. There are even some international studies included in the record series.

Finding aids: A box list inventory of these records is available upon request.

6. Toxicological Profiles

Dates: 1988 – 1993 (excluding 1994-1996)

NAID#: [6094750](#)

(There are 4 accessions of this record series title)

“By Congressional mandate, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) produces "toxicological profiles" for hazardous substances found at National Priorities List (NPL) sites. These hazardous substances are ranked based on frequency of occurrence at NPL sites, toxicity, and potential for human exposure. Toxicological profiles are developed from a priority list of 275 substances. ATSDR also prepares toxicological profiles for the Department of Defense (DOD) and the Department of Energy (DOE) on substances related to federal sites. So far, 310 toxicological profiles have been published or are under development as “finals” or “drafts for public comment.””¹⁵ Over 150 of these toxicological profiles are in the CDC records

¹⁵ “Background,” *Toxic Substances Portal*: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry website. Accessed March 27, 2012. <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/index.asp#bookmark01>

of the National Archives at Atlanta. The records contain a public health statement describing a substance's relevant toxicological properties, a discussion of production and use of the substance, a discussion of levels of significant human exposure, and any significant health effects of exposure to public health.

Finding aids: A box list inventory of these records is available upon request.