

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MANUAL 50-5116

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Safety and Environmental

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This manual supersedes NWSM 50-5116, dated September 2, 2008 and includes the following changes:

Introduction: Made editorial changes to remove duplicates and outdated acronyms. Added a definition of “Liquefied Petroleum Gas.” Removed references to Regional Environmental Compliance Officer (RECO) and Regional Safety Manager (RSM) since these job categories do not formally exist under the current NOAA Safety and Environmental Compliance Office (SECO) organizational structure.

- (1) Section 1, Hazardous Material Storage: Added definitions of “Liquefied Petroleum Gas” and “Station Manager.” Added wording “made liquid by pressure” at the end of definition of “Liquefied Petroleum Gas” (1.2). Modified questions 5 and 6 of the Checklist to clarify acceptable tank integrity testing and recordkeeping requirements. Corrected the titles of NFPA 30 and NFPA 58 (1.4.2). Removed details related to the Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) first responder training (1.8.1d). Added a link to the SPCC training template posted on OPS1 web site (1.8.1d). Removed reference to NOAA RECO and replaced with “NOAA environmental personnel.” Removed sentences mentioning old SPCC plan requirements (1.8.1d). Revised the paragraph to clarify that visual inspection is acceptable equivalent of integrity testing method for ConVault tanks (1.8.1d). Added a statement about verification of State/County specific aboveground tanks registration and permitting requirements (1.8.2). Added a web link to the State-specific Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) reporting requirements (1.8.4). Revised the subsection to address requirements for ethylene glycol based antifreeze (1.9.3). Updated subsection to address requirements for the propylene glycol used in rain gauges (1.9.4). Updated reference for radiosonde water disposal (NWSM 10-1401, Appendix O) (1.9.5). Added a reference to resources for recycling of electronic equipment (1.9.11). Removed information on electronic waste disposal from 1.9.13 and added reference to Section 2 of the NWSM 50-5116, subsection 2.11.3. Removed reference to annual assessments of national and regional headquarters facilities by NWSH Environmental and Safety staff (1.10.1). Removed reference to assessments of regional headquarters and field offices by Regional Environmental and Safety Coordinator (1.10.2). These are not mandatory requirements. Clarified that

assistance of Professional Engineer will be procured only when required (1.10.2). Clarified Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan self-certification versus PE recertification requirements (1.10.3e). Replaced Attachment B with the latest SPCC Best Management Practices Plan (BMP) template.

- (2) Section 2, Management of Waste: Removed references to NOAA RSM and RECO and replaced with NOAA SECO personnel. Added acronyms for CPU, SQG, TCLP, and NRC. Added a reference to procedure 33 (Bloodborne Pathogens) of NWSM 50-1115 in regard to the medical waste management requirements (2.8.2). Eliminated reference to nonexistent Attachment B (2.10.3). Removed reference to old transformers from the list of examples of NWS-generated wastes (2.11). Clarified that only technical (food) grade propylene glycol is used in rain gauges as antifreeze. Added a note to check local requirements for the sites with septic system (2.11.2). Revised the subsection to address requirements for ethylene glycol and propylene glycol mixture separately (2.11.3). Expanded and revised e-waste disposal requirements (2.11.4). In the subsection 2.11.4, Note, replaced the wording "removed by Federal Court" with the statement that "the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ban was vacated by the 5th Circuit Federal Court of Appeals." Removed the requirement for inspection of facilities by accredited Certified Industrial Hygienist for consistency with NWSM 50-1115. NOAA SECO or NWS HQ will arrange for appropriate personnel to address any asbestos related issues (2.11.5). Removed reference to annual assessments of national and regional headquarters facilities by NWSH E/S Office staff. (2.12.1). Removed reference to assessments of regional headquarters and field offices by Regional Environmental and Safety Coordinator. (2.12.2d, e). These are not mandatory requirements.
 - (3) Section 3, Transportation of Hazardous Materials and Waste: Updated definitions and acronyms. Removed reference to NOAA RECO and replaced with NOAA SECO personnel. Removed reference to NOAA's contract with CHEMTREC since it was discontinued (3.9b). Revised subsection to clarify the difference between transportation requirements for propylene glycol and ethylene glycol based antifreeze (3.11.3). Removed reference to annual assessments of national and regional headquarters facilities by NWSH E/S Office staff (3.12.1). Removed reference to assessments of regional headquarters and field offices by Regional Environmental and Safety Coordinator (3.12.2d, e). These are not mandatory requirements.
 - (4) Section 4, Emergency Reporting: Updated acronyms and replaced reference to RECO with NOAA SECO personnel. Added clarification on Toxic Release Inventory Program and removed the note (4.4.1). Replaced Emergency Action Plan with Occupant Emergency Plan (4.4.3, 4.7). Revised Hazardous Substance (HS) and Extremely Hazardous Substance (EHS) Release Reporting to clarify that Station Manager can report the release to National Response Center, if required. (4.6). Removed reference to annual assessments of national and regional headquarters facilities by NWSH E/S Office staff (4.8.1). Removed reference to assessments of regional headquarters and field offices by Regional Environmental and Safety Coordinator (4.8.2). These are not mandatory requirements.
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- (5) Section 5, Drinking Water: Replaced RECO with NOAA SECO personnel and made minor editorial changes. Updated web link for Water Testing Laboratories State Certification Officers (5.5.2). Removed reference to annual assessments of national and regional headquarters facilities by NWSH E/S Office staff (5.7.1). Removed reference to assessments of regional headquarters and field offices by Regional Environmental and Safety Coordinator (5.7.2). These are not mandatory requirements.
 - (6) Section 6, Pollution Prevention: Removed a broken link and made minor editorial changes. Removed references to revoked Executive Orders (EOs) and added two active EOs (6.5). Revised the content of pollution prevention requirements in accordance with NOAA Energy and Environmental Management Manual (Final Draft dated July 2012) (6.6). Added the web link to the Hazardous Technical Information Service (HTIS) (6.7b). Removed reference to annual assessments of national and regional headquarters facilities by NWSH E/S Office staff (6.8.1). Removed reference to assessments of regional headquarters and field offices by Regional Environmental and Safety Coordinator (6.8.2). These are not mandatory requirements. Updated the list of references (6.9).
 - (7) Section 7, Water Discharge and Wetlands: Made editorial changes to replace RECO with NOAA SECO personnel. Replaced “antifreeze-water mixtures” with “propylene glycol-water mixtures” (7.5.1). Removed the reference to annual assessments of national and regional headquarters facilities by NWSH E/S Office staff (7.9.1). Removed the reference to assessments of regional headquarters and field offices by Regional Environmental and Safety Coordinator (7.9.2). These are not mandatory requirements.
 - (8) Section 8, Air Discharge: Made editorial changes to replace RECO with NOAA SECO personnel. Removed reference to annual assessments of national and regional headquarters facilities by NWSH E/S Office staff (8.9.1). Removed reference to assessments of regional headquarters and field offices by Regional Environmental and Safety Coordinator (8.9.2). These are not mandatory requirements.
 - (9) Section 9, Procurement: Added reference to Commerce Acquisition Manual (CAM) 1323.70 (revised May 2009) in synopsis. Modified the checklist to reference the requirements of CAM and Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR). Added a subsection on DOC requirements and referenced DOC Energy and Environmental Management Manual and CAM. Added a reference to DOC Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (9.4.2). Revised the title of FAR 23 and updated the link. Replaced references to revoked Executive Orders (EOs) with current ones (9.4.3). Updated subsection on E.O. with the current information. Replaced revoked E.O. 12873 with E.O. 13423 (Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management). Replaced revoked EO 13101 with EO 13514 (Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance) (9.5). Removed the DOC Policy paragraph since information is addressed in 9.4.2 (9.6). Shortened information on Green Procurement Guidelines (CPG) and added a link that will provide the latest information. Removed reference to annual assessments of national and regional headquarters facilities by NWSH E/S Office staff. Updated NWS policy consistent with EO 13423, Commerce Acquisition Manual, FAR, and DOC Energy
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and Environmental Management Manual (9.7). Removed reference to annual assessments of national and regional headquarters facilities by NWSH E/S Office staff. Removed reference to assessments of regional headquarters and field offices by Regional Environmental and Safety Coordinator. These are not mandatory requirements. Updated References section. Removed Attachment A. The web link provided in this section contains the most updated information.

- (10) Section 10, Pesticides: Replaced RECO with NOAA SECO personnel. Added a note stating clarifying certification and training requirements for employees using insecticides for personal protection (e.g., mosquitoes, wasp sprays). Removed reference to annual assessments of national and regional headquarters facilities by NWSH E/S Office staff (10.5.1). Removed reference to assessments of regional headquarters and field offices by Regional Environmental and Safety Coordinator (10.5.2). These are not mandatory requirements.
 - (11) Section 11, Asbestos Management: Removed reference to RSM and RECO and replaced with NOAA SECO personnel. Replaced “EPA approved” with “State licensed” and “Asbestos Removal” with “Asbestos Abatement” in synopsis. Made changes to the training related questions in the checklist. Revised EPA requirements for banning asbestos containing materials (11.1). Revised definitions of friable and non-friable Category II Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) (11.2). Added a reference to OSHA General Industry and Construction standards (11.4.1a). Added requirements for Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). Clarified why friable ACMs are potentially more hazardous to health (11.5.1). Added direction to contact NWS Headquarters, Regional E/S Coordinators in addition to NOAA SECO, if presence of ACMs is detected (11.5.2). Clarified OSHA permissible exposure limits (11.5.2d). Changed the title “Asbestos Removal Plan” to “Asbestos Management Plan” and revised options for asbestos management. Replaced “removal of materials” with “asbestos abatement activities.” Clarified that NOAA SECO and NWS headquarters staff can assist with the review of Asbestos Management Plan (11.6). Revised requirements for recordkeeping (11.6.2). Revised requirements for packing and transportation of ACM (1.6.3). Removed reference to annual assessments of national and regional headquarters facilities by NWSH E/S Office staff (11.7.1). Removed reference to assessments of regional headquarters and field offices by Regional Environmental and Safety Coordinator (11.7.2). These are not mandatory requirements. Clarified responsibilities of Station Managers (11.7.3).
 - (12) Section 12, Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs): Replaced RECO with NOAA SECO personnel. Removed reference to annual assessments of national and regional headquarters facilities by NWSH E/S Office staff (12.2.1). Removed reference to assessments of regional headquarters and field offices by Regional Environmental and Safety Coordinator (12.2.2). These are not mandatory requirements.
 - (13) Section 13, Lead Based Paint: Replaced RECO with NOAA SECO personnel. Removed reference to annual assessments of national and regional headquarters facilities by NWSH E/S Office staff (13.7.1). Removed reference to assessments of regional headquarters and field offices by Regional Environmental and Safety Coordinator (13.7.2). These are not mandatory requirements.
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- (14) Section 14, Implementation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): Revised synopsis to direct personnel to contact NOAA SECO, NWS Responsible Program Manager and/or NOAA NEPA Coordinator to determine if the proposed action is deemed a Categorical Exclusion or requires preparation of Environmental Assessment (EA). Removed reference to the deleted Attachment A in Checklist. Expanded description of NEPA overview (14.4.1). Included a new paragraph about the new NAO 216-6 which is being currently finalized along with its Companion Manual. Section 14 will need to be updated on emergency basis when the new NAO is issued (14.4.3). Revised subsection to remove reference to old version of NAO 216-6 and included guidance on NEPA compliance (14.5). Removed discussion of Categorical Exclusions since this information will be included in the Companion Manual to the new NAO 216-6 (14.6.1). Shortened the description of EA requirements and included reference to the upcoming new NAO 216-6 and its Companion Manual (14.6.2). Changed the reference from NOAA SECO to National headquarters and NOAA Office of Program Planning and Integration (PPI) staff in regard to preparation of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (14.6.3). Added direction to contact National headquarters environmental/safety staff regarding NEPA applicability to proposed actions (14.7). Removed reference to annual assessments of national and regional headquarters facilities by NWSH E/S Office staff (14.8.1). Removed the reference to assessments of regional headquarters and field offices by Regional Environmental and Safety Coordinator (14.8.2). These are not mandatory requirements. Removed reference to funding of NEPA implementation by field offices. Added reference to Regional and National headquarters for NEPA planning coordination (14.8.3). Updated reference to the upcoming new version of NAO 216-6 and its Companion Manual (14.9). Removed Attachment A per PPI recommendation and will include updated information in the emergency revision of Section 14 of this Manual, once new NAO 216-6 and its Companion Manual are issued.
- (15) Section 15, Past Site Contamination and Real Property Acquisition: Expanded the section title to include Real Property Acquisition. Added reference to Real Property Management Division and National headquarters environmental/safety staff as points of contact for the property transfer (15.5.1c). Removed reference to annual assessments of national and regional headquarters facilities by NWSH E/S Office staff (15.6.1). Removed reference to assessments of regional headquarters and field offices by Regional Environmental and Safety Coordinator (15.6.2). These are not mandatory requirements. Clarified the need for National headquarters and NOAA SECO oversight when chemical contamination is discovered on site (15.6.3d).
- (16) Section 16, NECSAS: This section was removed due to being outdated. It will be reinstated in coordination with NOAA SECO to reflect the latest NOAA NECSAS program requirements.
- (17) Section 17, Training: Section 17 was changed to Section 16 and renumbered. Once former Section 16 is reinstated, appropriate numbering changes will be made during emergency Manual revision. Replaced RECO with NOAA SECO personnel. Deleted reference to the Designated Responsible Official (DRO) awareness course which currently does not exist. Added reference to the NOAA's Annual Safety and Environmental Awareness course

(16.5). Removed the following from the bulleted list of training areas: lead worker protection, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and confined space entry. Combined AST testing, inspection and operation with SPCC plan training (16.6). Expanded definition of large and small quantity generators (16.6.1). Clarified applicability of HAZWOPER training requirements and added AST inspection, testing and operation provisions (16.6.2). Removed Lead Worker Protection training requirements since they do not apply to NWS personnel. Revised Asbestos training subsection to focus on requirements that are potentially applicable to NWS facilities and personnel (16.6.5). Added a note that Pesticide Applicator certification is not required for off the shelf insecticide sprays used for personal protection. Removed description of categories of commercial applicators (16.6.7). Removed hazardous materials spill response training requirements not applicable to NWS personnel (16.6.10). Removed PPE training subsection since it is addressed in NWSM 50-1115 (16.6.11). Moved information on AST training to the SPCC Plan subsection (16.6.13). Removed Confined Space Entry training subsection since it is addressed in NWSM 50-1115 (16.6.14). Removed reference to annual assessments of national and regional headquarters facilities by National headquarters E/S Office staff (16.7.1). Removed reference to assessments of regional headquarters and field offices by Regional Environmental and Safety Coordinator (16.7.2). These are not mandatory requirements. Added “as applicable” since not all training requirements would apply to facilities personnel and operations (16.7.3c)

Signed by
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Director, Office of Operational Systems

January 16, 2013
Date

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