

CHAPTER 115B

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE AND LIABILITY

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115B.20 ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE, COMPENSATION, AND COMPLIANCE ACCOUNT.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** (a) The environmental response, compensation, and compliance account is in the environmental fund in the state treasury and may be spent only for the purposes provided in subdivision 2.

(b) The commissioner of finance shall administer a response account for the agency and the commissioner of agriculture to take removal, response, and other actions authorized under subdivision 2, clauses (1) to (4) and (10) to (12). The commissioner of finance shall transfer money from the response account to the agency and the commissioner of agriculture to take actions required under subdivision 2, clauses (1) to (4) and (10) to (12).

(c) The commissioner of finance shall administer the account in a manner that allows the commissioner of agriculture and the agency to utilize the money in the account to implement their removal and remedial action duties as effectively as possible.

(d) Amounts appropriated to the commissioner of finance under this subdivision shall not be included in the department of finance budget but shall be included in the pollution control agency and department of agriculture budgets.

(e) All money recovered by the state under section 115B.04 or any other law for injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources resulting from the release of a hazardous substance, or a pollutant or contaminant, must be credited to the environmental response, compensation, and compliance account in the environmental fund and is appropriated to the commissioner of natural resources for purposes of subdivision 2, clause (5), consistent with any applicable term of judgments, consent decrees, consent orders, or other administrative actions requiring payments to the state for such purposes. Before making an expenditure of money appropriated under this paragraph, the commissioner of natural resources shall provide written notice of the proposed expenditure to the chairs of the senate committee on finance, the house of representatives committee on ways and means, the finance division of the senate committee on environment and natural resources, and the house of representatives committee on environment and natural resources finance.

[For text of subs 2 to 5, see M.S.1998]

Subd. 6. Report to legislature. Each year, the commissioner of agriculture and the agency shall submit to the senate finance committee, the house ways and means committee, the environment and natural resources committees of the senate and house of representatives, the finance division of the senate committee on environment and natural resources, and the house of representatives committee on environment and natural resources finance, and the environmental quality board a report detailing the activities for which money from the account has been spent during the previous fiscal year.

History: 1999 c 86 art 1 s 22; art 3 s 13

115B.39 LANDFILL CLEANUP PROGRAM; ESTABLISHMENT.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1998]

Subd. 2. Definitions. (a) In addition to the definitions in this subdivision, the definitions in sections 115A.03 and 115B.02 apply to sections 115B.39 to 115B.445, except as specifically modified in this subdivision.

(b) "Cleanup order" means a consent order between responsible persons and the agency or an order issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under section 106 of the federal Superfund Act.

(c) "Closure" means actions to prevent or minimize the threat to public health and the environment posed by a mixed municipal solid waste disposal facility that has stopped accepting waste by controlling the sources of releases or threatened releases at the facility. "Closure" includes removing contaminated equipment and liners; applying final cover; grading and seeding final cover; installing wells, borings, and other monitoring devices; constructing groundwater and surface water diversion structures; and installing gas control systems and site security systems, as necessary. The commissioner may authorize use of final cover that includes processed materials that meet the requirements in Code of Federal Regulations, title 40, section 503.32, paragraph (a).

(d) "Closure upgrade" means construction activity that will, at a minimum, modify an existing cover so that it satisfies current rule requirements for mixed municipal solid waste land disposal facilities.

(e) "Contingency action" means organized, planned, or coordinated courses of action to be followed in case of fire, explosion, or release of solid waste, waste by-products, or leachate that could threaten human health or the environment.

(f) "Corrective action" means steps taken to repair facility structures including liners, monitoring wells, separation equipment, covers, and aeration devices and to bring the facility into compliance with design, construction, groundwater, surface water, and air emission standards.

(g) "Decomposition gases" means gases produced by chemical or microbial activity during the decomposition of solid waste.

(h) "Dump materials" means nonhazardous mixed municipal solid wastes disposed at a Minnesota waste disposal site other than a qualified facility prior to 1973.

(i) "Environmental response action" means response action at a qualified facility, including corrective action, closure, postclosure care; contingency action; environmental studies, including remedial investigations and feasibility studies; engineering, including remedial design; removal; remedial action; site construction; and other similar cleanup-related activities.

(j) "Environmental response costs" means:

(1) costs of environmental response action, not including legal or administrative expenses; and

(2) costs required to be paid to the federal government under section 107(a) of the federal Superfund Act, as amended.

(k) "Postclosure" or "postclosure care" means actions taken for the care, maintenance, and monitoring of closure actions at a mixed municipal solid waste disposal facility.

(l) "Qualified facility" means a mixed municipal solid waste disposal facility as described in the most recent agency permit, including adjacent property used for solid waste disposal that did not occur under a permit from the agency, that:

(1)(i) is or was permitted by the agency;

(ii) stopped accepting solid waste, except demolition debris, for disposal by April 9, 1994; and

(iii) stopped accepting demolition debris for disposal by June 1, 1994, except that demolition debris may be accepted until May 1, 1995, at a permitted area where disposal of demolition debris is allowed, if the area where the demolition debris is deposited is at least 50 feet from the fill boundary of the area where mixed municipal solid waste was deposited; or

(2)(i) is or was permitted by the agency; and

(ii) stopped accepting waste by January 1, 2000, except that demolition debris, industrial waste, and municipal solid waste combustor ash may be accepted until January 1, 2001, at a permitted area where disposal of such waste is allowed, if the area where the waste is deposited is at least 50 feet from the fill boundary of the area where mixed municipal solid waste was deposited.

History: 1999 c 231 s 133

115B.40 PROGRAM.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1998]

Subd. 2. **Priority list.** (a) The commissioner shall establish a priority list for preventing or responding to releases of hazardous substances, pollutants and contaminants, or decomposition gases at qualified facilities defined in section 115B.39, subdivision 2, paragraph (1), clause (1). The commissioner shall periodically revise the list to reflect changing conditions at facilities that affect priority for response actions. The initial priority list must be established by January 1, 1995.

(b) The priority list required under this subdivision must be based on the relative risk or danger to public health or welfare or the environment, taking into account to the extent possible the population at risk, the hazardous potential of the hazardous substances at the facility, the potential for contamination of drinking water supplies, the potential for direct human contact, and the potential for destruction of sensitive ecosystems.

Subd. 3. **Notification.** By September 1, 1994, the commissioner shall notify the owner or operator of, and persons subject to a cleanup order at, each qualified facility defined in section 115B.39, subdivision 2, paragraph (1), clause (1), of whether the requirements of subdivision 4 or 5 have been met. If the requirements have not been met at a facility, the commissioner, by the earliest practicable date, shall notify the owner or operator and persons subject to a cleanup order of what actions need to be taken.

Subd. 4. **Qualified facility not under cleanup order; duties.** (a) The owner or operator of a qualified facility that is not subject to a cleanup order shall:

(1) complete closure activities at the facility, or enter into a binding agreement with the commissioner to do so, as provided in paragraph (e), within one year from the date the owner or operator is notified by the commissioner under subdivision 3 of the closure activities that are necessary to properly close the facility in compliance with facility's permit, closure orders, or enforcement agreement with the agency, and with the solid waste rules in effect at the time the facility stopped accepting waste;

(2) undertake or continue postclosure care at the facility until the date of notice of compliance under subdivision 7;

(3) in the case of qualified facilities defined in section 115B.39, subdivision 2, paragraph (1), clause (1), transfer to the commissioner of revenue for deposit in the solid waste fund established in section 115B.42 any funds required for proof of financial responsibility under section 116.07, subdivision 4h, that remain after facility closure and any postclosure care and response action undertaken by the owner or operator at the facility including, if proof of financial responsibility is provided through a letter of credit or other financial instrument or mechanism that does not accumulate money in an account, the amount that would have accumulated had the owner or operator utilized a trust fund, less any amount used for closure, postclosure care, and response action at the facility; and

(4) in the case of qualified facilities defined in section 115B.39, subdivision 2, paragraph (1), clause (2), transfer to the commissioner of revenue for deposit in the solid waste fund established in section 115B.42 an amount of cash that is equal to the sum of their approved current contingency action cost estimate and the present value of their approved estimated remaining postclosure care costs required for proof of financial responsibility under section 116.07, subdivision 4h.

(b) The owner or operator of a qualified facility that is not subject to a cleanup order shall:

(1) in the case of qualified facilities defined in section 115B.39, subdivision 2, paragraph (1), clause (1), provide the commissioner with a copy of all applicable comprehensive general liability insurance policies and other liability policies relating to property damage, certificates, or other evidence of insurance coverage held during the life of the facility; and

(2) enter into a binding agreement with the commissioner to:

(i) in the case of qualified facilities defined in section 115B.39, subdivision 2, paragraph (1), clause (1), take any actions necessary to preserve the owner or operator's rights to payment or defense under insurance policies included in clause (1); cooperate with the commissioner in asserting claims under the policies; and, within 60 days of a request by the commis-

sioner, but no earlier than July 1, 1996, assign only those rights under the policies related to environmental response costs;

(ii) cooperate with the commissioner or other persons acting at the direction of the commissioner in taking additional environmental response actions necessary to address releases or threatened releases and to avoid any action that interferes with environmental response actions, including allowing entry to the property and to the facility's records and allowing entry and installation of equipment; and

(iii) refrain from developing or altering the use of property described in any permit for the facility except after consultation with the commissioner and in conformance with any conditions established by the commissioner for that property, including use restrictions, to protect public health and welfare and the environment.

(c) The owner or operator of a qualified facility defined in section 115B.39, subdivision 2, paragraph (1), clause (1), that is a political subdivision may use a portion of any funds established for response at the facility, which are available directly or through a financial instrument or other financial arrangement, for closure or postclosure care at the facility if funds available for closure or postclosure care are inadequate and shall assign the rights to any remainder to the commissioner.

(d) The agreement required in paragraph (b), clause (2), must be in writing and must apply to and be binding upon the successors and assigns of the owner. The owner shall record the agreement, or a memorandum approved by the commissioner that summarizes the agreement, with the county recorder or registrar of titles of the county where the property is located.

(e) A binding agreement entered into under paragraph (a), clause (1), may include a provision that the owner or operator will reimburse the commissioner for the costs of closing the facility to the standard required in that clause.

Subd. 5. Qualified facility under cleanup order; duties. (a) For a qualified facility that is subject to a cleanup order, persons identified in the order shall complete construction of the remedy required under the cleanup order and:

(1) for a federal order, receive a concurrent determination of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the agency or commissioner that the remedy is functioning properly and is performing as designed; or

(2) for a state order, receive acknowledgment from the agency or commissioner that the obligations under the order for construction of the remedy have been met.

(b) The owner or operator of a qualified facility that is subject to a cleanup order, in addition to any applicable requirement in paragraph (a), shall comply with subdivision 4, paragraphs (a), clause (3) or (4); and (b).

Subd. 6. Commissioner; duties. (a) If the owner or operator of a qualified facility that is subject to the requirements of subdivision 4, paragraph (a), fails to comply with subdivision 4, paragraph (a), clause (1) or (2), the commissioner shall:

(1) undertake or complete closure activities at the facility in compliance with the solid waste rules in effect at the time the commissioner takes action under this clause; and

(2) undertake or continue postclosure care at the facility as required under subdivision 2.

(b) If a facility has been properly closed under subdivision 4, but the applicable closure requirements are less environmentally protective than closure requirements in the solid waste rules in effect on January 1, 1993, the commissioner shall determine whether the facility should be closed to the higher standards and, if so, shall undertake additional closure activities at the facility to meet those standards. The commissioner may determine that additional closure activities are unnecessary only if it is likely that response actions will be taken in the near future and that those response actions will result in removal or significant alteration of the closure activities or render the closure activities unnecessary.

Subd. 7. Notice of compliance; effects. (a) The commissioner shall provide written notice of compliance to the appropriate owner or operator or person subject to a cleanup order when:

(1) the commissioner determines that the requirements of subdivision 4 or 5 have been met; and

(2) the person who will receive the notice has submitted to the commissioner a written waiver of any claims the person may have against any other person for recovery of any environmental response costs related to a qualified facility that were incurred prior to the date of notice of compliance.

(b) Beginning on the date of the notice of compliance:

(1) the commissioner shall assume all obligations of the owner or operator or person for environmental response actions under the federal Superfund Act and any federal or state cleanup orders and shall undertake all further action under subdivision 1 at or related to the facility that the commissioner deems appropriate and in accordance with the priority list; and

(2) the commissioner may not seek recovery against the owner or operator of the facility or any responsible person of any costs incurred by the commissioner for environmental response action at or related to the facility, except:

(i) in the case of qualified facilities defined in section 115B.39, subdivision 2, paragraph (1), clause (1), to the extent of insurance coverage held by the owner or operator or responsible person; or

(ii) as provided in section 115B.402.

(c) The commissioner and the attorney general shall communicate with the United States Environmental Protection Agency addressing the manner and procedure for the state's assumption of federal obligations under paragraph (b), clause (1).

Subd. 8. Statutes of limitations. (a) With respect to claims for recovery of environmental response costs related to qualified facilities defined in section 115B.39, subdivision 2, paragraph (1), clause (1), the running of all applicable periods of limitation under state law is suspended until July 1, 2004.

(b) A waiver of claims for recovery of environmental response costs under this section or section 115B.43 is extinguished for that portion of reimbursable costs under section 115B.43 that have not been reimbursed by July 1, 2004.

History: 1999 c 231 s 134-140

115B.405 EXCLUDED FACILITIES.

Subdivision 1. Application. The owner or operator of a qualified facility may apply to the commissioner for exclusion from the landfill cleanup program under sections 115B.39, 115B.40, 115B.41, 115B.412, and 115B.43. Applications for qualified facilities defined in section 115B.39, subdivision 2, paragraph (1), clause (1), must be received by the commissioner by February 1, 1995. Applications for qualified facilities defined in section 115B.39, subdivision 2, paragraph (1), clause (2), must be received by the commissioner by December 31, 1999. The owner or operator of a qualified facility that is subject to a federal cleanup order or that includes any portion that is tax-forfeited may not apply for exclusion under this section. In addition to other information required by the commissioner, an application must include a disclosure of all financial assurance accounts established for the facility. Applications for exclusion must:

(1) show that the operator or owner is complying with the agency's rules adopted under section 116.07, subdivision 4h, and is complying with a financial assurance plan for the facility that the commissioner has approved after determining that the plan is adequate to provide for closure, postclosure care, and contingency action;

(2) demonstrate that the facility is closed or is in compliance with a closure schedule approved by the commissioner; and

(3) include a waiver of all claims for recovery of costs incurred under sections 115B.01 to 115B.24 and the federal Superfund Act at or related to a qualified facility.

[For text of subds 2 to 4, see M.S.1998]

History: 1999 c 231 s 141

115B.42 SOLID WASTE FUND.

Subdivision 1. Establishment; appropriation; separate accounting. (a) The solid waste fund is established in the state treasury. The fund consists of money credited to the fund

and interest earned on the money in the fund. Except as provided in subdivision 2, clauses (7) and (8), money in the fund is annually appropriated to the commissioner for the purposes listed in subdivision 2.

(b) The commissioner of finance shall separately account for revenue deposited in the fund from financial assurance funds or other mechanisms, the metropolitan landfill contingency action trust fund, and all other sources of revenue.

Subd. 2. **Expenditures.** Money in the fund may be spent by the commissioner to:

- (1) inspect permitted mixed municipal solid waste disposal facilities to:
 - (i) evaluate the adequacy of final cover, slopes, vegetation, and erosion control;
 - (ii) determine the presence and concentration of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants, and decomposition gases; and
 - (iii) determine the boundaries of fill areas;
- (2) monitor and take, or reimburse others for, environmental response actions, including emergency response actions, at qualified facilities;
- (3) acquire and dispose of property under section 115B.412, subdivision 3;
- (4) recover costs under section 115B.39;
- (5) administer, including providing staff and administrative support for, sections 115B.39 to 115B.445;
- (6) enforce sections 115B.39 to 115B.445;
- (7) subject to appropriation, administer the agency's groundwater and solid waste management programs;
- (8) pay for private water supply well monitoring and health assessment costs of the commissioner of health in areas affected by unpermitted mixed municipal solid waste disposal facilities;
- (9) reimburse persons under section 115B.43;
- (10) reimburse mediation expenses up to a total of \$250,000 annually or defense costs up to a total of \$250,000 annually for third-party claims for response costs under state or federal law as provided in section 115B.414; and
- (11) perform environmental assessments, up to \$1,000,000, at unpermitted mixed municipal solid waste disposal facilities.

History: 1999 c 231 s 142

115B.421 CLOSED LANDFILL INVESTMENT FUND.

The closed landfill investment fund is established in the state treasury. The fund consists of money credited to the fund, and interest and other earnings on money in the fund. The commissioner of finance shall transfer an initial amount of \$5,100,000 from the balance in the solid waste fund beginning in fiscal year 2000 and shall continue to transfer \$5,100,000 for each following fiscal year, ceasing after 2003. The fund shall be managed to maximize long-term gain through the state board of investment. Money in the fund may be spent by the commissioner after fiscal year 2020 in accordance with section 115B.42, subdivision 2, clauses (1) to (6).

History: 1999 c 231 s 143

115B.43 REIMBURSABLE PARTIES AND EXPENSES.

Subdivision 1. **Generally.** Environmental response costs at qualified facilities defined in section 115B.39, subdivision 2, paragraph (1), clause (1), for which a notice of compliance has been issued under section 115B.40, subdivision 7, are reimbursable as provided in this section.

[For text of subs 2 to 6, see M.S.1998]

History: 1999 c 231 s 144

115B.442 SETTLEMENT PROCESS; INFORMATION GATHERING.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1998]

Subd. 1a. **Definition of qualified facilities.** For the purposes of sections 115B.441 to 115B.445, "qualified facility" means only those qualified facilities defined in section 115B.39, subdivision 2, paragraph (1), clause (1).

[For text of subds 2 to 6, see M.S.1998]

History: 1999 c 231 s 145

115B.49 DRYCLEANER ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE AND REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNT.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1998]

Subd. 2. **Revenue sources.** Revenue from the following sources must be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the account:

- (1) the proceeds of the fees imposed by subdivision 4;
- (2) interest attributable to investment of money in the account;
- (3) penalties and interest collected under subdivision 4, paragraph (c); and
- (4) money received by the commissioner for deposit in the account in the form of gifts, grants, and appropriations.

[For text of subd 3, see M.S.1998]

Subd. 4. **Registration; fees.** (a) The owner or operator of a drycleaning facility shall register on or before July 1 of each year with the commissioner of revenue in a manner prescribed by the commissioner of revenue and pay a registration fee for the facility. The amount of the fee is:

- (1) \$500, for facilities with a full-time equivalence of fewer than five;
- (2) \$1,000, for facilities with a full-time equivalence of five to ten; and
- (3) \$1,500, for facilities with a full-time equivalence of more than ten.

(b) A person who sells drycleaning solvents for use by drycleaning facilities in the state shall collect and remit to the commissioner of revenue in a manner prescribed by the commissioner of revenue, on or before the 20th day of the month following the month in which the sales of drycleaning solvents are made, a fee of:

- (1) \$3.50 for each gallon of perchloroethylene sold for use by drycleaning facilities in the state; and
- (2) 70 cents for each gallon of hydrocarbon-based drycleaning solvent sold for use by drycleaning facilities in the state.

(c) To enforce this subdivision, the commissioner of revenue may examine documents, assess and collect fees, conduct investigations, issue subpoenas, grant extensions to file returns and pay fees, impose penalties and interest on the annual registration fee under paragraph (a) and the monthly fee under paragraph (b), abate penalties and interest, and administer appeals, in the manner provided in chapters 270 and 289A. The penalties and interest imposed on taxes under chapter 297A apply to the fees imposed under this subdivision. Disclosure of data collected by the commissioner of revenue under this subdivision is governed by chapter 270B.

History: 1999 c 250 art 3 s 14,15

NOTE: The amendments to subdivisions 2 and 4 by Laws 1999, chapter 250, article 3, sections 14 and 15, are effective July 1, 2001. Laws 1999, chapter 250, article 3, section 29.

115B.491 DRYCLEANING FACILITY USE FEE; FACILITIES TO FILE RETURN.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1998]

Subd. 2. **Return required.** On or before the 20th of each calendar month, every drycleaning facility that has purchased drycleaning solvents for use in this state during the pre-

ceding calendar month, upon which the fee imposed by section 115B.49, subdivision 4, paragraph (b), has not been paid to the seller of the drycleaning solvents, shall file a return with the commissioner of revenue showing the quantity of solvents purchased and a computation of the fee under section 115B.49, subdivision 4, paragraph (c). The fee must accompany the return. The return must be made upon a form furnished and prescribed by the commissioner of revenue and must contain such other information as the commissioner of revenue may require.

Subd. 3. **Applicability.** All of the provisions of section 115B.49, subdivision 4, paragraph (c), apply to this section.

History: 1999 c 250 art 3 s 16,17

NOTE: The amendments to subdivisions 2 and 3 by Laws 1999, chapter 250, article 3, sections 16 and 17, are effective July 1, 2001. Laws 1999, chapter 250, article 3, section 29.