

Annual Report

The Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division

August 28, 2025



COLORADO

**Hazardous Materials
& Waste Management Division**

Department of Public Health & Environment



Tracie White, Director
The Hazardous Materials and
Waste Management Division

As the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division Director, I am pleased to share this annual report. It exemplifies our division's dedication and commitment to upholding and improving our community's health and safety. The report discusses accomplishments in the areas of digital accessibility, the implementation of the Producer Responsibility Program for Statewide Recycling, compliance assistance, environmental cleanup, and environmental justice. Our division mission, "to improve the quality of the environment and public health for the residents of Colorado by continuously improving our efforts to ensure proper management of hazardous materials and waste," is the driving force behind the work we do everyday.

This report includes division highlights from the state fiscal year 2023-2024, followed by relevant statistics for each program within the division. These statistics are a reflection of the steadfast innovation, collaboration, and dedication of our staff, stakeholders, and partners, as we collectively work toward safeguarding public health and the environment for all Coloradans for generations to come.

The Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division (the division) includes five programs: the Administration Program, Radiation Control Program, Solid Waste and Materials Management Program, Remediation Program, and Hazardous Waste Program. This report includes division-wide highlights from the state fiscal year (FY) 2023-2024, which represent accomplishments and initiatives across the division, followed by specific sections dedicated to each program within the division.

Division-wide highlights from fiscal year 2023-2024

Digital accessibility

The Administration Program is leading the division's ongoing digital accessibility effort. This effort works across all of the division's programs to comply with HB 21-1110, the Accessibility Law for Colorado State and Local Government. More importantly, the purpose is to provide equitable access for all Coloradoans to all of the division's documents and services. As part of this effort, the division has remediated over 800 documents and reorganized its online forms and webpages to align with digital accessibility standards. In 2024, the division remediated 539 documents with assistance from a vendor and developed a new process for remediating documents before they are posted on the division website. Further, the division has been proactive in developing guidance, leading trainings, and creating opportunities for both division and department staff to learn about digital accessibility best practices and resources.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances updates

In 2021, Colorado amended the Colorado Hazardous Waste Regulations (6 CCR 1007-3) to adopt a Registration and Certificate Program for facilities and entities using or storing Class B firefighting foam containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). This regulation applies to all persons who store or use Class B firefighting foam containing intentionally-added PFAS, requiring them to register and obtain a certificate from the division. Additionally, as of Jan. 1, 2023, testing fire systems using PFAS-containing foams is prohibited, rendering the requirements in the regulation for capture, containment, and storage of spent firefighting foam generated during testing obsolete. Further, legislation passed in 2022 expanded the capture, containment, storage, and reporting requirements for facilities and entities that use or store PFAS-containing foam. Due to efforts led by the division's Hazardous Waste Program, the Solid and Hazardous Waste Commission held a rulemaking process to incorporate the new statutory requirements into regulation and adopted the changes on

Feb. 20, 2024. Presently, 214 facilities have registered a total of 142,326 gallons of PFAS-containing foams with the division.

In December 2024, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE or department) published the [2024 PFAS Action Plan](#), to provide a framework to continue addressing the risks from PFAS in the environment. The 2024 PFAS Action Plan was a collaborative effort between the department's Water Quality Control Division, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division, and Division of Environmental Health and Sustainability. Progress towards items in the Action Plan is ongoing; a biannual newsletter will provide updates to the public on specific items in the action plan. The division released the first issue of the newsletter in January 2025.

Low Income Radon Mitigation Assistance program

The Radiation Control Program's Low-Income Radon Mitigation Assistance (LIRMA) program provides free radon mitigation systems for individuals meeting certain income limits based on county of residence. Funding for this program was codified in Colorado Revised Statute §25-11-114 as a result of House Bill (HB) 16-1141, which was passed in 2016, to provide mitigation assistance annually. As of March 2025, 39 contractors are qualified to participate in the program. As a result of the LIRMA program, over 1,433 residents of 636 mitigated homes have experienced improved indoor air quality and decreased likelihood of lung cancer. In fiscal year 2024, contractors who are certified and licensed by the division mitigated 155 homes at an average cost of \$2,400 per home. The program has saved participating residents between \$495 and \$6,750 on mitigation systems, improved indoor air quality, and reduced exposure to potentially-harmful levels of radon gas.

While the division encourages testing for radon year-round, January is National Radon Action Month. The division participates every year by doing targeted outreach, as shown on the right, through various channels to encourage people to test their homes for radon.

Radon causes lung cancer.

Test your home: ColoradoRadon.info

COLORADO
Department of Public Health & Environment

Chemical Materials Activity-West

In 2024, the division's Remediation Program collaborated with the Army, local authorities, and stakeholders to continue oversight of environmental remediation efforts and promote the safe and responsible reuse of the Chemical Materials Activity (CMA)-West, previously known as the Pueblo Chemical Depot, while facilitating the transfer of land ownership. The property transfer of approximately 20%, or 5,108 acres, of CMA-West (Parcel 1) from the federal government to the Local Redevelopment Authority, PuebloPlex, occurred on July 11, 2024. This transfer occurred after verification and approval by the division's Remediation Program under a Finding of Suitability to Transfer that the proposed acreage achieved the standards to protect human health and the environment. The property transfer marked a significant milestone in repurposing the site for commercial and industrial development, creating new opportunities for the region while safeguarding public health.

By ensuring compliance with applicable environmental standards, the Remediation Program has helped in responsibly fostering the transformation of CMA-West from a former military installation into a hub for economic growth, while protecting human health and the environment. Additional CMA-West properties are planned for transfer in 2025 and beyond, and the Remediation Program will continue to ensure compliance with all applicable environmental requirements.

Highway 24 Mill Site/A-1 Mobile Home Village

The division's Remediation Program is also working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address imminent threats to public health at the A-1 Mobile Home Village in Colorado Springs, as part of the first-ever state-led non-time-critical removal action. The A-1 Mobile Home Village (referred to as the Highway 24 mill site) sits adjacent to the former Golden Cycle Mill that processed mineral ores from the Cripple Creek Mining District from approximately 1900 to 1950. Mineral processing operations at the Golden Cycle Mill left a large mine waste pile that led to waste migrating to the adjacent Highway 24 mill site through surface and wind erosion. (The Golden Cycle Mill has since been remediated under the division's Voluntary Cleanup and Redevelopment Program.) Sampling of the Highway 24 mill site in 2022 identified elevated lead and arsenic in site soils, but the levels were below risk-based action levels at the time. In 2024, the EPA revised risk thresholds for lead and determined cleanup was necessary to protect local residents. With funding from EPA, the division is conducting community engagement, developing a cleanup plan, and intends to begin removing contaminated soil from the Highway 24 mill site in the fall of 2025.

Producer Responsibility Program for Statewide Recycling

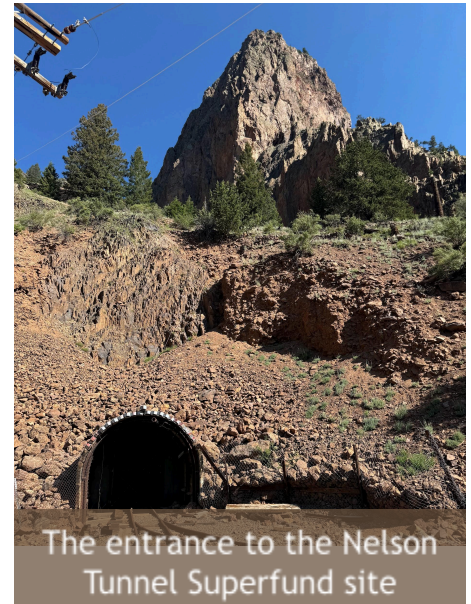
On June 3, 2022, the Producer Responsibility Program for Statewide Recycling Act, HB 22-1355, was signed into law. HB 22-1355 sets up a Producer Responsibility Program that requires companies that sell products in packaging, paper products, and food service ware to fund a statewide recycling system to recycle those materials.

The Producer Responsibility Program completed many notable requirements in FY 2024, including:

- Completed the primary rulemaking to establish regulatory requirements for producers, the Producer Responsibility Organization, and individual program plans.
- Continued soliciting meaningful stakeholder feedback for program implementation through the 15-member Producer Responsibility Program Advisory Board.
- Oversaw completion of the statewide needs assessment, which 1) evaluated Colorado's recycling infrastructure and existing gaps; 2) proposed a standardized list of materials to be accepted at all recycling facilities throughout the state; and 3) provided three scenarios for the department to consider in its recommendation to the Colorado Joint Budget Committee to increase Colorado's recycling rates.
- Recommended the "medium scenario" outlined in the statewide needs assessment report, which was approved by the Joint Budget Committee. The medium scenario is projected to increase recycling rates for paper and packaging from 25 percent up to 58 percent by 2035 and expand curbside recycling, at no cost to residents or the state.

Nelson Tunnel Superfund site

The Nelson Tunnel/Commodore Waste Rock Superfund site, located in Mineral County near the town of Creede, has achieved multiple milestones, and vital work at the site is ongoing and planned for future years. The division's Remediation Program worked with the EPA, Mineral County, and key mining claim owners to draft an administrative settlement agreement that was finalized and executed in 2023. Under this agreement, properties containing historic mining structures, including the iconic ore sorting house on the Bachelor Loop, were donated to Mineral County, who became long-term stewards in charge of stabilization and preservation of these structures. As part of the agreement, Mineral County adopted a county ordinance that helps protect human health from existing mine waste and preserve the engineered components of the Superfund remedy.



The Remediation Program and EPA built a technical team consisting of experts from other government agencies (Colorado Department of Reclamation, Mining, and Safety; United States Geological Survey; and United States Forest Service) and private contractors to tackle the complex technical issues at this Superfund site. In 2024, the team continued two parallel efforts to protect human health and the environment: 1) planning the installation of a bypass adit and bulkhead to prevent catastrophic water release, and 2) the investigation of site conditions to implement a final action to remediate contamination-related issues. Bulkhead installation requires drilling and blasting approximately 1,400 feet of new tunnel. Pilot bore drilling in 2024 identified rock quality and proper orientation of the bypass adit. Presuming funding availability, bypass adit and bulkhead installation work will begin in 2026. Preliminary investigations to characterize water quality within the mine workings continued in 2024. Of note, underground drilling identified cleaner water than that discharging from Nelson Tunnel and if diverted, would reduce the volume of contaminated water exiting the mine. Investigation of this water is ongoing, including additional sampling and determining its connection with the Nelson Tunnel. Investigations planned for 2025 will explore options for water treatment and further stabilizing and decreasing the environmental impacts of the Commodore Waste Rock pile.

Environmental justice initiative

The division is committed to systematically addressing health equity and environmental justice through the administration of its programs, as well as ensuring decisions impacting the environment are made with the participation of those most affected. The division continues to closely partner with the Office of Environmental Justice within CDPHE on a number of issues ranging from providing free indoor radon test kits and financial assistance for radon mitigation to low-income households, to creating more opportunities for disproportionately impacted community members to learn about solid waste permits that directly affect where they live, learn, work, and play. The division continues to train staff across all programs on language justice, community engagement best practices, and how to utilize [EnviroScreen](#) to better understand disproportionately impacted communities. Further, the department and division are strongly committed to language justice; in 2024, the division fulfilled 83 translation and interpretation requests. The division continues to work with the Office of Environmental Justice to better listen to and understand all residents of Colorado, especially those who may experience disproportionately higher levels of environmental health harm.

Radiation Control Program

The Radiation Control Program regulates the possession, use, management, and disposal of radioactive materials as well as radiation-producing machinery, such as X-ray machines. The program also works with local public health agencies and members of the public to provide information regarding the dangers of elevated radon levels in homes and other buildings. Further, the program provides free and low-cost radon test kits and funding for radon mitigation systems to low-income homeowners throughout the state.

X-Ray Program



20,499 Registered radiation producing machines



5,402 Registered facilities



49% Registered facilities are dental facilities



10,264 Total machine inspections performed in 2024



4,676 Inspections performed at hospitals and other medical facilities



4,899 Inspections performed at dental facilities



134 Inspections performed at mammography facilities

Radon Program



\$319,181.67 Given to 31 grantees



17,708 Homes, schools and other buildings installed radon mitigation systems



16,721 Free radon test kits distributed



65 Colorado cities and counties require radon resistant systems in new homes



35,208 Homes, schools and other buildings tested for radon

The X-ray Certification Unit (XRCU) enforces regulations that ensure the safe use of radiation-producing machines. The XRCU performs compliance audits and inspections of facilities that have radiation-producing machines and maintains the registration of X-ray facilities, qualified inspectors, service companies, and machine operators.

Learn more about radon



coloradoradon.info

Radiation Control Program

Radioactive Materials Program: Licenses, actions, and inspections



Inspection facts

- 97 total inspections
- 99% inspections required no escalated enforcement
- 41 inspections with no violations
- 55 inspections with minor violations

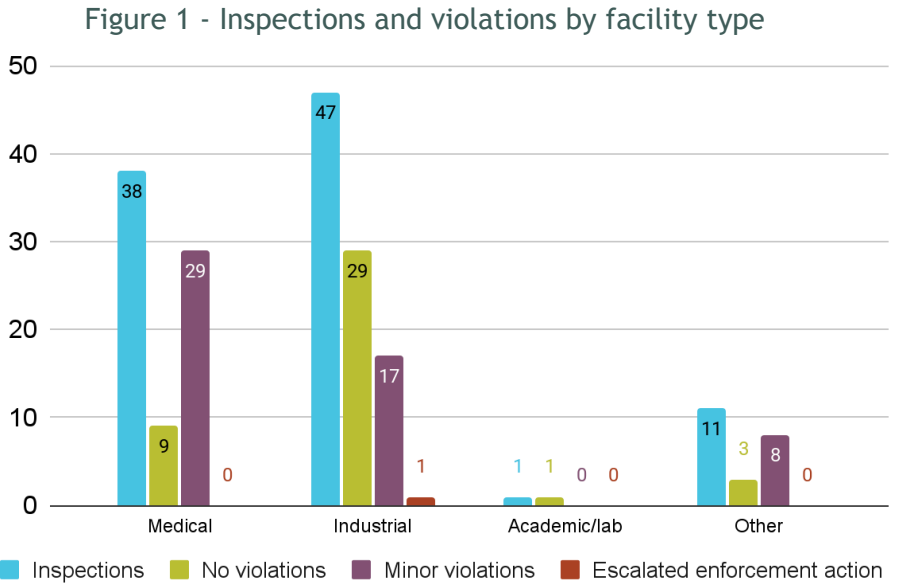
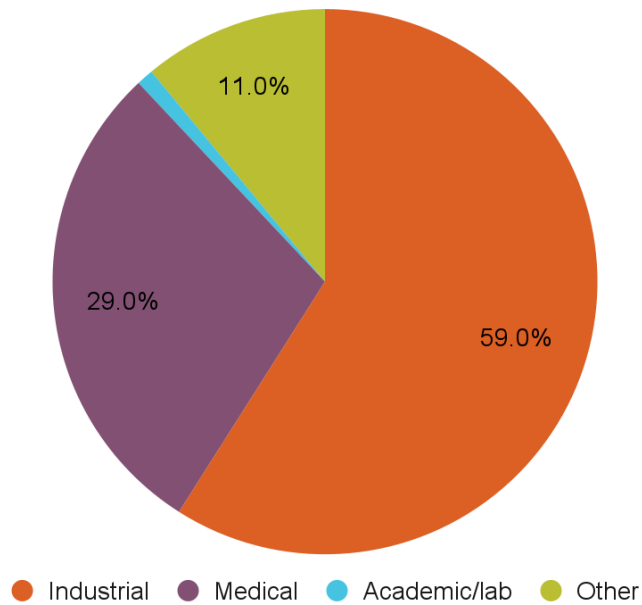


Figure 2 - Types of specific radioactive materials licenses



There are a total of 302 specific radioactive materials licenses in Colorado. Some examples of the types of licenses illustrated in Figure 2 include industrial facilities using radiography to ensure the integrity of pipe welds; nuclear medical departments performing heart scans; and universities performing DNA sequencing. In addition to these licenses, the Radiation Control Program registers 708 generally-licensed entities who manage devices containing radioactive materials received through an authorized transfer by a device manufacturer or distributor.

Visit the website

 cdphe.colorado.gov/hm/radiation-management

Solid Waste and Materials Management Program

The Solid Waste and Materials Management Program is responsible for ensuring compliance with laws and regulations concerning the management of solid waste. The authority for this program is in the Colorado Solid Waste Act, §30-20-100.5, et seq., C.R.S. Colorado's Solid Waste Management Program is approved by the Environmental Protection Agency, therefore the authority to implement requirements for managing solid waste in Colorado rests completely with the state.

Figure 3 - Solid Waste Program: Facility inspections

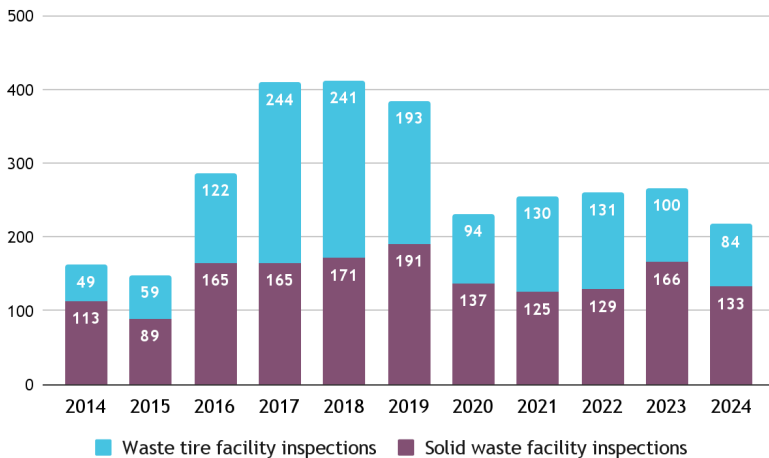
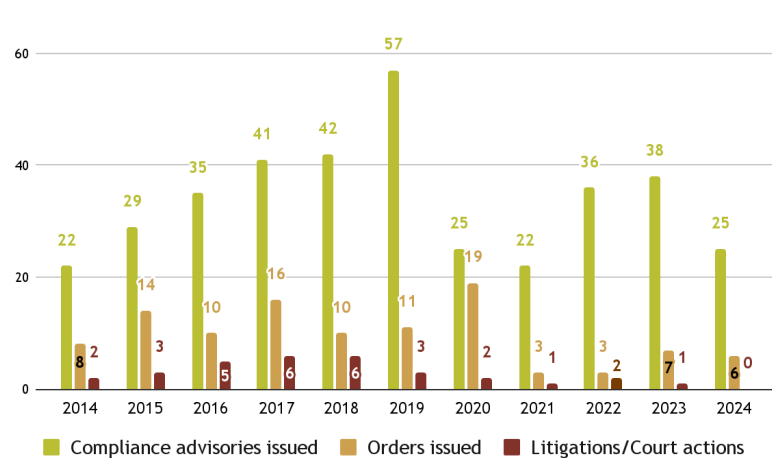


Figure 4 - Solid Waste Program: Enforcement actions



The number of overall inspections decreased from FY 2023 to FY 2024 due to a staff retirement. The program has shifted its inspection priorities to focus on facilities that are known or suspected to be out of compliance with the solid waste regulations, which often results in enforcement. Inspections with enforcement actions require more time and resources.

Closed Landfill Remediation Grant Program

HB 23-1194, Closed Landfills Remediation Local Governments Grants, created a grant program to provide funding to local governments that own closed landfills contaminating groundwater, creating landfill gas, or having other conditions that present a risk to human health and the environment. In 2024, the Solid and Hazardous Waste Commission adopted rules for implementing the program and appointed five members to the Closed Landfill Grant Program Advisory Committee. The Solid Waste and Materials Management Program solicited applications for the first grant cycle, covering state fiscal years 2024/2025 and 2025/2026. The program received four applications. The committee held its first grant application review meeting on October 23, 2024, and recommended approval of all four applications to local governments totaling \$687,594 in eligible costs for state fiscal year 2024/2025 and \$8,304,135 for state fiscal year 2025/2026.

Fast facts



34

Complaints in FY 2023



6

Complaints investigated/inspected by staff



28

Complaints referred to local governments/other agencies



446

Spill reports



126

Spill reports reviewed, ensuring appropriate cleanup actions were completed



320

Spill reports referred to local governments/other agencies

Solid Waste and Materials Management Program

Paint Stewardship

On July 1, 2015, the Architectural Paint Stewardship Act began requiring PaintCare, a non-profit organization, to manage unused paint in Colorado. In this program, fees on new paint sales fund the end-of-life management of unused paint. The division ensures PaintCare follows all aspects of the Act and the approved program plan.



Waste tires

Every year, the division's Waste Tire Program oversees the management of millions of waste tires, which present fire hazards and can create prime mosquito breeding grounds. The program conducts inspections, initiates enforcement actions, and promotes the recycling of waste tires into various tire-derived products.



Visit the website



cdphe.colorado.gov/solidwaste

Remediation Program

The Remediation Program performs preliminary assessments and site investigations of potentially-contaminated sites to determine whether they should be included on the National Priorities List for Superfund designation. The program also oversees remediation activities at Superfund and federal facilities sites, encourages the cleanup of historically-contaminated sites under its Brownfields Program and Voluntary Cleanup and Redevelopment Program, and assures cleanup of sites contaminated by uranium mill tailings.

Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action program

The Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) program provides guidance and outlines resources for building contractors, private citizens, utility companies, and local governments when faced with radioactive uranium mill tailings.

UMTRA Program



3,002 Building permit reports prepared



12,911 Direct communication received



14% Percentage of properties surveyed with contamination



6,333 Environmental reports prepared



375.5 Total cubic yards of mill tailings removed

Visit the website



[cdphe.colorado.gov/
environmental-cleanup](https://cdphe.colorado.gov/environmental-cleanup)

Brownfields program

Brownfields are properties whose use is hindered by either real or perceived environmental contamination. During the past year, the Brownfields program:

- Completed 13 Targeted Brownfields Assessments for eight local governments and two non-profit organizations;
- Provided \$372,889 of cleanup grant funding to local governments and nonprofits; and
- Conducted workshops, webinars, and technical assistance meetings to support the efforts of local governments in addressing and redeveloping brownfields properties.

In 2024, the Remediation Program, in partnership with the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, continued servicing four loans through the Colorado Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund. Of the \$4.2 million of cleanup funding provided by these loans, \$2.7 million addressed contaminated sites in disproportionately impacted communities. Additionally, in 2024, the fund approved two new subgrants, providing an additional \$600,000 of cleanup funding.

Treatment of mine impacted water

Colorado is home to hundreds of abandoned gold and silver mines. Many of Colorado's abandoned mines discharge metals-contaminated water, which pose significant environmental impacts to streams and rivers. Since the 1990s, the Remediation Program has worked with the EPA to address abandoned mines that cause the most-severe environmental impacts. This includes treating

Remediation Program

mine-impacted water at water treatment facilities operated by the division’s Remediation Program, as well as those operated by responsible parties.

The Remediation Program is responsible for operating the Argo, North Clear Creek, and Summitville water treatment plants, which provide significant water quality improvements in the Clear Creek and Alamosa River basins. In 2024, the Argo Tunnel water treatment plant, constructed in 1998 in Idaho Springs, treated approximately 129 million gallons of metals-contaminated water. The North Clear Creek water treatment plant, completed in 2016 in Black Hawk, treated approximately 76 million gallons. The Summitville water treatment plant, constructed in 2011 near Del Norte, treated approximately 281 million gallons.



Treatment of mine-impacted water by responsible parties in 2024 included approximately 403 million gallons at the Yak Tunnel facility near Leadville, 81 million gallons at the Eagle Mine facility near Minturn, and 17.13 million gallons at the Wellington-Oro facility near Breckenridge. Treating mine-impacted water not only improves water quality and biological density and diversity in receiving streams, but in the case of the Argo and North Clear Creek facilities, protects the drinking water supply for approximately 350,000 people in the Denver metro area.

Voluntary Cleanup and Redevelopment program

The Voluntary Cleanup and Redevelopment program (VCUP) facilitates redevelopment and transfer of contaminated properties, in conjunction with the Brownfields program. Below is FY 2023-2024 information for the VCUP.

The Voluntary Cleanup Program	201 Acres cleaned	1,966 Homes, condos, apartments built	937 Jobs created	54 Voluntary Cleanup Program applications
 Rural tax credits:	\$675,000	Capital improvements:	\$939,836,574	
Projected tax credits to be issued:		\$1,644,874		

Hazardous Waste Program

The Hazardous Waste Program is responsible for ensuring compliance with statutes and regulations pertaining to the management of hazardous waste. Primary elements of the program include compliance assistance, compliance monitoring and enforcement, corrective action, permitting, and information management. The corrective action staff oversee the remediation and cleanup of more than 200 individual facilities ranging in size and complexity, from large complex sites such as Rocky Flats, to smaller facilities such as neighborhood dry cleaners and plating shops.

Approximately
5,580

Regulated facilities
in the Hazardous Waste
Program

Corrective
action

370

Corrective action
document reviews

64

Reviews per full-time
employee

Chemical Materials Activity-West (previously known as Pueblo Chemical Depot)

The Pueblo Chemical-Agent Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) completed munitions destruction operations on June 22, 2023, ahead of the treaty deadline of September 30, 2023. During the life of the project, PCAPP destroyed 780,089 chemical weapons containing 2,613 tons of mustard agent. With approval of PCAPP's final closure plan on March 29, 2024, the project entered into the permitted facility closure process. This process, which involves facility decommissioning, decontamination, and verification sampling, will take several years to complete.



Munitions processing
at PCAPP

780,089

chemical weapons
destroyed

Mission complete

Immobilized Cell Bioreactors modules floor rinsate sampling



Immobilized Cell Bioreactor media cleanout



Hazardous Waste Program

Fast facts



Staff spent **11.6%** of their time on compliance assistance



Hosted **642** total participants at the hazardous waste regulations training



11,623 web hits for the main Hazardous Waste Program webpage.



Staff completed **314** total inspections

Environmental Indicators

45%

Sites meet corrective action indicator

86%

Sites meet remedy constructed indicator

98%

Sites with human exposures under control

98%

Sites with groundwater releases under control

Hazardous waste regulations training

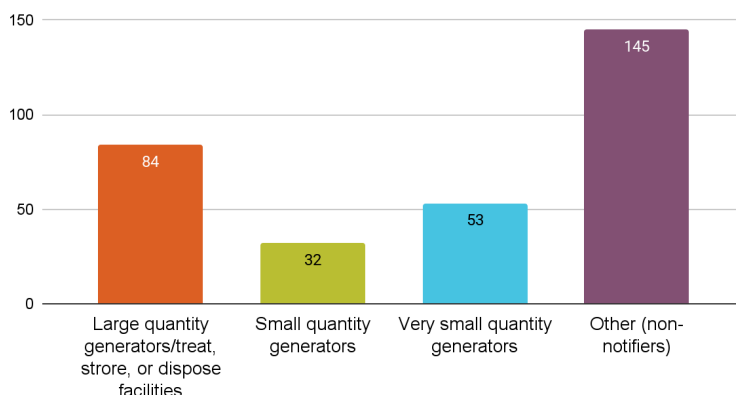
As part of its compliance assistance efforts, the Hazardous Waste Compliance Assurance Unit hosts a training every year for facilities that generate hazardous waste. The training presents an overview of the Colorado Hazardous Waste Regulations. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic required a shift to the new remote format. Pivoting to a webinar-based platform made the training more accessible to a greater number of people and facilities located throughout the state. In 2020, the first year of the webinar-based platform, 382 people registered. After more outreach the following year, 695 individuals attended the training in October 2021. In October 2022, 812 individuals attended, and 854 individuals attended in October 2023. In September 2024, an in-person training session was offered for the first time since 2019, in addition to the remote training. There were a total of 642 participants in 2024. The number of 2024 attendees decreased from the 2023 training, likely due to the reinstatement of a registration fee to cover the costs of the in-person training.

Visit the website



cdphe.colorado.gov/hazwaste

Figure 5 - Total inspections



The Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division

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