Superfund
And the
National Priorities Listing Process

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The Governor of the State of California has requested U.S. EPA to add the Former Exide Facility and surrounding industrial and residential areas to the National Priorities List (NPL) of Superfund sites. U.S. EPA will now implement process to propose this Superfund listing, in accordance with the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

What is Superfund?

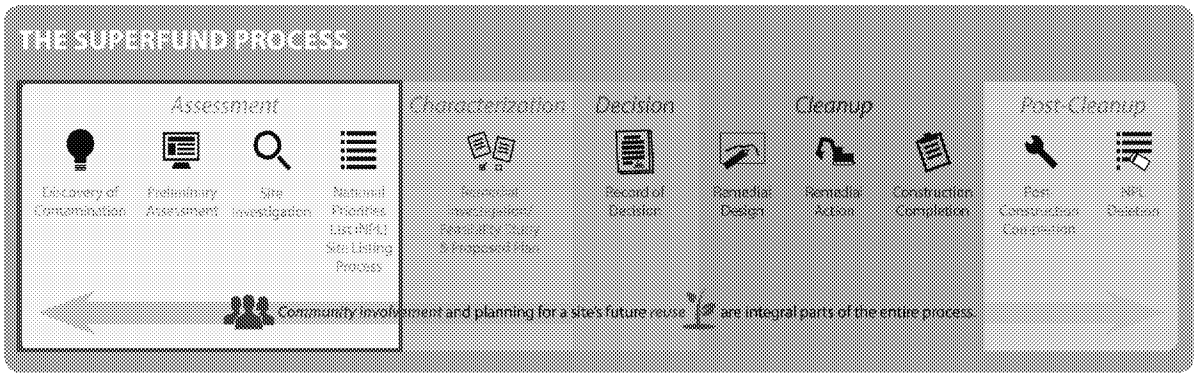
- The CERCLA (Superfund) program was established to identify, and, if necessary, remediate releases of hazardous substances that pose a significant threat to human health and the environment.

What are the Goals of Superfund?

- Protect human health and the environment by cleaning up polluted sites
- Involve communities in the cleanup process
- Make responsible parties pay for cleanups
- Return previously-polluted land to productive use

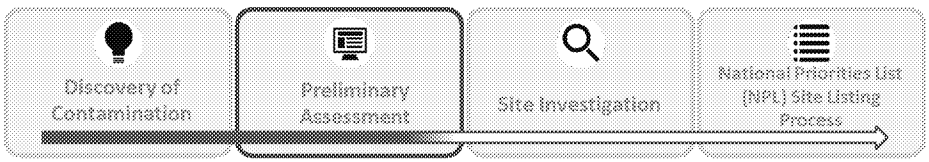
How Sites Qualify for Superfund

- Potential contamination is reported by residents, local, state, tribal or federal agencies, or businesses
- EPA has a set of criteria to identify, evaluate, and rank contaminated sites
- This process determines if a site poses risk to communities and/or the environment



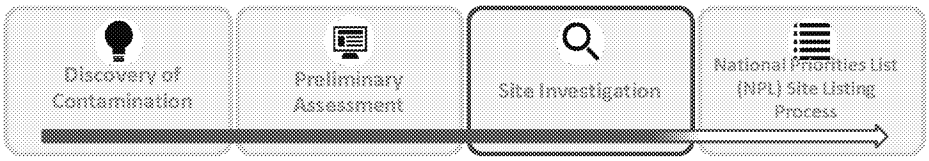
PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT (PA)

- Once a site is identified, EPA looks at existing information, and may interview nearby residents to find out the history of the site and its effects on community and the environment
- EPA uses this information to determine if a site may pose a threat to human health and/or the environment and requires further investigation
- A **Preliminary Assessment** is limited in scope



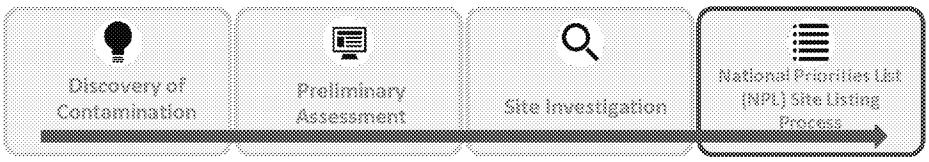
SITE INVESTIGATION (SI)

- A S**ite Investigation** builds on information gathered during the PA
- A site investigation may involve sampling at the Site

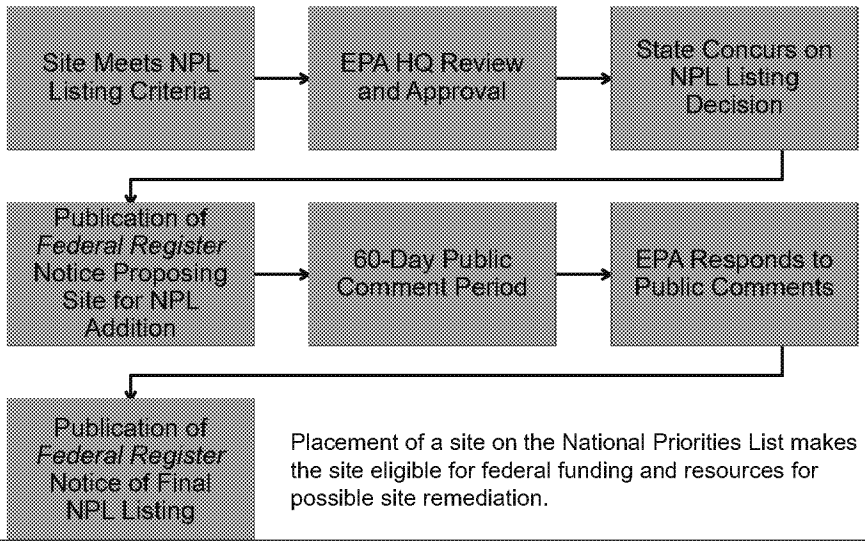


Hazard Ranking System (HRS)

- The HRS is an initial screening tool for identifying releases at sites that may warrant further investigation and possible remediation. **Not a site-specific risk assessment.**
- The HRS uses PA/SI data and compares that to certain criteria to arrive at a numerical score. The criteria are:
  - » Amount and toxicity of contaminant
  - » Potential for pollution to spread
  - » Threat of soil exposure or migration to surface water, groundwater and air
  - » Risk to human health and the environment
- Sites scoring at or above 28.50 (max score 100) are proposed for listing on the NPL



NPL Listing Process



Placement of a site on the National Priorities List makes the site eligible for federal funding and resources for possible site remediation.

Questions?