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# Superfund Site Assessment



- Definition of a Superfund (NPL) Site
- Process for evaluating NPL candidates
- Obstacles to placing a site in the NPL
- Preliminary Assessment Petition - Gelman
- NPL sites – Superfund Remedial Program

# What is a Superfund NPL Site?



- **Definition:** A Superfund site is any land in the United States that has been contaminated by not naturally occurring hazardous waste and identified by the EPA as a candidate for cleanup because it poses a risk to human health and/or the environment. These sites are placed on the National Priorities List (NPL).
  - land is contaminated with hazardous substances
  - contamination is not naturally occurring
  - poses a risk human health or the environment
  - placed on NPL

# Superfund eligibility evaluation



- We do a series of site investigations.
- By regulation, we use a numeric scoring system.
- We use the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) to score sites
- Max points 100 but 28.50 or above is considered eligible
- We are guided by the score to make a decision.
- There are considerations other than score.

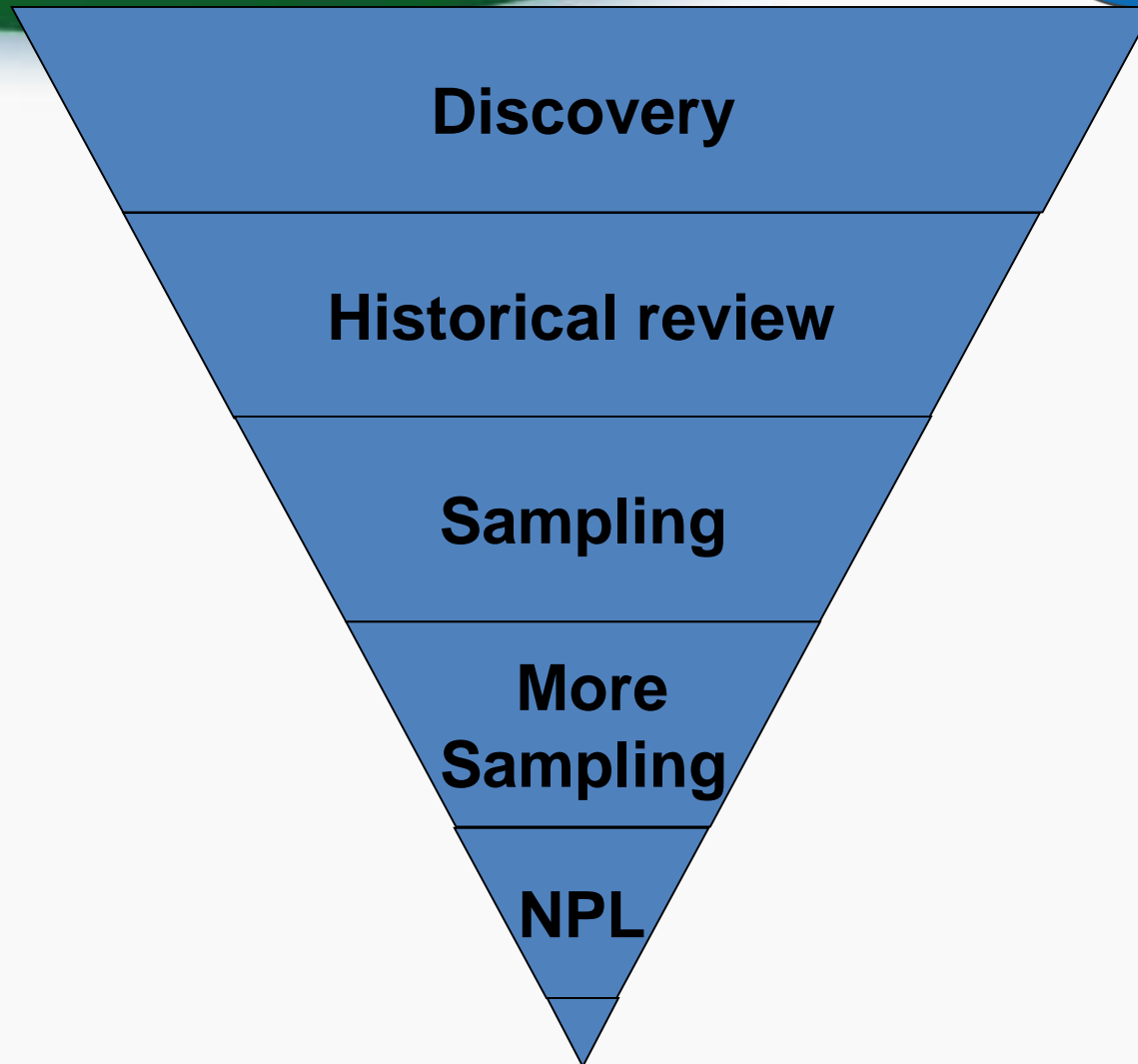
# Superfund eligibility evaluation



## HRS Score basics:

- Toxicity
  - Quantity
  - Population affected
- 
- Other considerations: Sites that are being addressed by a state, tribal or local environmental cleanup program, and do not require further involvement by the federal Superfund program, may be excluded from the Superfund active inventory.

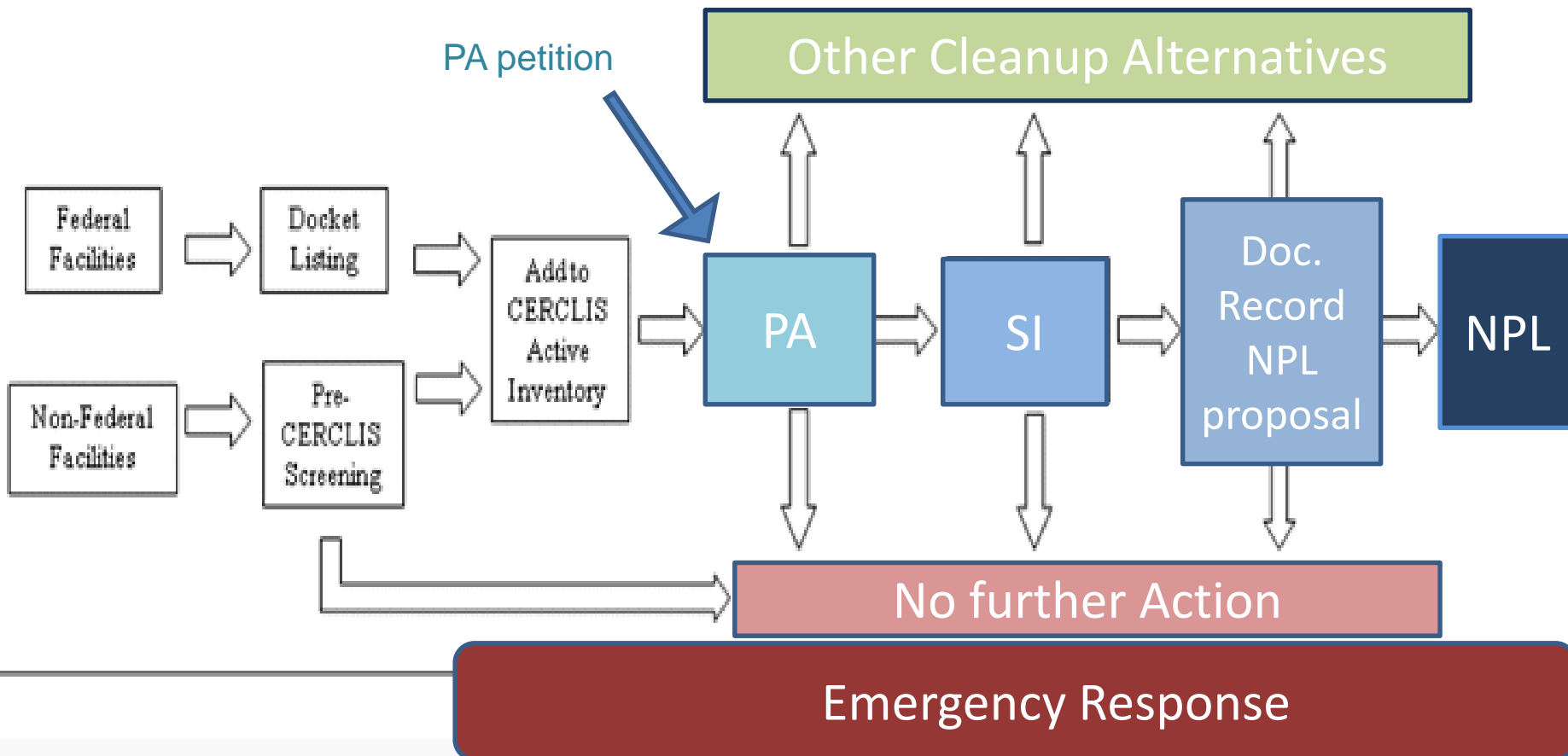
# Site Assessment– HRS Process



# Site Assessment Process



## EPA Superfund Site Assessment Process



# PA Petition –Gelman



- Preliminary Assessment Petition – is a request for EPA to initiate evaluating the site under the HRS Process. There is no petition process to add a site to the NPL.
- EPA is still evaluating whether a PA is appropriate
- EPA has 1 year from date of receipt to either complete the Preliminary Assessment Report or deny the petition.
- Remedial Project Manager has been assigned to review the State Response Action.
- On average it takes 3 - 4 years to move a site from PA to NPL proposal.
- Not all sites that enter the HRS process become a Superfund site. Many sites that score above 28.5 are addressed by other authorities.



# Potential Obstacle's to NPL Listing



- **Proposed NPL Sites require concurrence from the state (a Governor's Letter)**

**By statute if a site requires federal funding for cleanup:**

- **State pays 10% cleanup funding, and**
- **States are responsible for conducting any needed operation and maintenance of the implemented cleanup action.**

- HRS Documentation Records – must be legally defensible (lengthy Quality Assurance Review)
- Proposals have 60 days of comment period
- Final NPL – 90 days to contest the listing.

# Superfund Remedial Program



The Superfund NPL cleanup process is designed to address contamination that cannot be addressed by other existing cleanup authorities at the federal, state or local level.

The Superfund NPL cleanup process is a partnership between the state and the federal EPA. The Superfund law prescribes significant input by the states in identifying, investigating, and cleaning up NPL sites.



# Superfund Pipeline



Major Phases – Remedial Project Manager duties:

