

Assessment of the Effectiveness of Municipal Waste Left in Place Ordinances Attachment C – Policy Academy Instrument Web Version

Form Approved
OMB No. 0920-0879
Expiration Date 03/31/2018

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Introduction: The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) works to prevent exposures to hazardous chemicals. Exposure to hazardous chemicals can lead to adverse or negative health effects. People can sometimes come into contact with hazardous chemicals left behind when industries go out of business and abandon a property / facility. These abandoned properties or facilities are called “brownfields”.

A brownfield may be an abandoned, idled, or underused industrial, commercial, or residential property where reuse or redevelopment may be hindered by real or perceived contamination.

Some municipalities have put into place ordinances to help prevent this situation from happening. ATSDR refers to these as “waste left in place” (WLIP) ordinances. Municipalities may call them Vacant Property Registration Ordinances with clauses for contamination or waste.

ATSDR is interested in learning more these ordinances. ATSDR is conducting a short assessment to find out how these ordinances are being used to protect people from being exposed to hazardous chemicals. You are being asked to participate in this assessment because you are an environmental or municipal official in your community. This assessment should only take about 4 minutes of your time.

1. What is your official title?

2. What is the size of your municipality, town, or city?

Less than 1000 people

1000 – 4999 people

5000 – 9999 people

10,000 – 24,999 people

25,000 – 49,999 people

50,000 – 99,999 people

100,000 – 299,999 people

300,000 – 499,999 people

500,000 – 999,000 people

1,000,000 or more people

3. Does your municipality have ordinances (sometimes referred to as waste left in place ordinances) designed to prevent hazardous waste from being left behind when commercial, industrial, or residential facilities close or are abandoned?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

4. In the previous question you indicated that you were aware of "waste left in place" ordinances in your community. Please describe them below. Be sure to indicate what types of waste and property they cover and if applicable, include a link to the ordinance.

5. Please describe who enforces these ordinances in your municipality.

6. How often would you say these ordinances are enforced in your community?

- All the time
- Most of the time (75-99%)
- About half of the time (50-75%)
- Less than half of the time (25-
- 49%) Rarely (less than 25% of the
- time) Never
- Don't know

7. What are the penalties for not following these ordinances? Choose all that apply.

- Fines
- Legal action
- Don't know

Other (please specify)

8. How effective have these ordinances been at preventing these properties from becoming brownfields?

- Very effective
- Somewhat effective
- Neither effective or ineffective
- Somewhat ineffective
- Completely ineffective
- Don't know

9. Please explain your answer to the previous question in the space below.

