

Superfund\RCRA: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Renaming Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

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The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") in a December 15th Federal Register Notice stated that it is issuing a final rule to change the name of its Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response ("OSWER") to the Office of Land and Emergency Management. See 80 Fed. Reg. 77575.

OSWER is a significant section of EPA since it has authority over a number of key environmental programs/laws such as:

- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (Superfund)
- Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986
- The Oil Pollution Act
- The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

The renaming is part of a rule change that is presumably required as the action changes the organizational name of the office as it appears in various parts of the Code of Federal Regulations.

EPA states that the action was undertaken to "more accurately reflect the nature of the work that this office does to protect human health and the environment."

[Click here to download a copy of the Federal Register notice.](#)