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# Chapter 9

## Completion of Risk Assessment and Follow-On Activities

### What's Covered in Chapter 9:

- ◆ Conclusions
  - ◆ Activities Following Risk Assessment Completion
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This chapter summarizes the conclusion of the risk assessment and the activities that will be conducted following risk assessment completion.

It is also important to note that final risk assessments should include both human health and ecological evaluations. In addition to available U.S. EPA guidance for conducting ecological risk assessments (U.S. EPA 1997e) and Volume 63, Number 93, of the Federal Register, U.S. EPA OSW is currently finalizing an ecological risk assessment guidance document titled *U.S. EPA OSW Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment Protocol*, prepared as a companion to this guidance.

### 9.1 CONCLUSIONS

Each risk assessment should include a Conclusions section. This section should primarily interpret the results of the risk and hazard characterization in light of the uncertainty analysis. At a minimum, it should present and interpret all risk and hazard results exceeding target levels. It should also identify receptors having the greatest risks and hazards, in addition to COPCs and exposure pathways contributing significantly to these risks and hazards. Finally, the Conclusions section is a place for the risk assessor to present, and defend, his or her position on whether actual or potential releases from combustion units pose significant risks and hazards to human populations.

### 9.2 ACTIVITIES FOLLOWING RISK ASSESSMENT COMPLETION

The risk assessment process does not end following the completion, submittal, and approval of a successful risk assessment report. The HHRAP has been developed to promote a consistent approach, for completing

risk assessments, that (1) encourages the use of appropriate site-specific information early in the process (2) minimizes inefficient expenditure of time and resources by regulated facilities, and (3) provides a comprehensive explanation of the procedures and uncertainties involved in the process. However, completion of the risk assessment process includes more than the completion of a report; the main purpose of developing the HHRAP was to provide risk assessors with a tool for completing quality, consistent, and defensible risk assessments in a short amount of time, rather than spending years to determine which COPCs, exposure pathways, and receptors the risk assessment report should include and evaluate.

Facilities operating hazardous waste combustion units are also responsible for communicating the results of the risk assessment process to affected members of the community. One purpose of U.S. EPA OSW comprehensive explanation of the procedures and uncertainties involved in the process was to provide the facilities, risk assessors, and regulators with the tools needed to clearly communicate the procedures, results, and limitations of the risk assessment process. This is an ongoing process.

Finally, the completion of the risk assessment process involves the use of (1) site-specific environmental data, (2) various assumptions, and (3) an evolving procedure for estimating risk. U.S. EPA OSW expects that facilities will periodically review each of these factors, in and up date the process with the latest facility-specific operating and emission information, to determine whether the best data and procedures have been used to estimate the risk resulting from the operation of the facility hazardous waste combustion unit. The permit writer may establish the period for this review in the operating permit; however, significant changes involving newly available data or risk assessment procedures that significantly affect the outcome of the risk assessment process should be reviewed as they become available.