

**American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association
Letter Ballot**

1. **Committee and Subcommittee:** Committee 13 - Environmental
2. **Letter Ballot Number:** 13-22-02: Introduction (approved by Committee vote Oct 2022)
3. **Assignment:** Updates on new (pending) Canadian Part to Chapter 13, updates to Table and rewording of Sections to make for better reading and understanding
4. **Ballot Item:** Part 1: Section 1.1
5. **Rationale:** Update to recognize new (pending) Canadian Regulations Part and rewording for better reading and understanding of other technical, regulatory Parts of Chapter

Draft Not Yet Approved

Part 1
Introduction
2022

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SECTION 1.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

Railroad operations are ~~everseen-governed~~ by a variety of environmental laws and regulations passed by ~~the~~ Federal, state, tribal, and local governments. Penalties for ~~failure to~~ complying with these laws and regulations ~~can range-include from a~~ warnings, violations, fines or even to a fine or imprisonment. ~~Environmental~~The regulations are dynamic and can be confusing and complicated. This chapter is designed to ~~assist the user with~~ identifying ~~the~~ potential ~~environmental compliance requirements-issues~~, ~~however does~~ not necessarily ~~provide instructions to solve the problem-resolve the issues-for resolution~~. The ~~railroads'~~ appropriate ~~internal~~ environmental ~~internal-professionals-representatives or contractors consultants~~ should be consulted to provide additional information ~~and guidance~~.

~~This chapter provides general information and is not meant to be comprehensive and cover all areas of environmental regulations and issues. There are are too vast many differences between state, tribal, and local environmental regulatory requirements. Additionally, there can be differences between and individual -railroads' on how best to manage their programs best management practices regarding environmental management. Therefore, this chapter provides general information regarding environmental regulatory requirements and issues, it is not intended to be a comprehensive manual but rather provide basic guidance.~~

This chapter ~~is meant to be an~~ provides an overview of the most common environmental regulations and issues that apply to the railroad industry and AREMA members. The goal is for AREMA members to use the chapter as a reference to help ~~them~~ determine if ~~they have~~ an environmental ~~issue-regulation may be affected by railroad activities and operations~~. If so, ~~they~~ AREMA members should ~~can~~ contact their company's environmental representative or department to determine ~~what needs to be done~~ the best path forward. Remember, this chapter is not meant to cover everything, so if there is any question, call your environmental representative for guidance.

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This chapter has been divided into four sections related to ~~potentially affected~~ potentially affected environmental media.

- Environmental Review Considerations
- Water and Wastewater
- Air
- Waste

Table 13-1-1 presents example project types, ~~potential environmental and relevant~~ compliance issues, and ~~specific permits and regulated activities with specifics~~. These few examples are used to illustrate the range of regulations that might be affected during railroad activities.

Table 13-1-2. Example Railroad Project Types and Associated Compliance Areas

Example Project Type	Compliance Area	Specifics
Track/bridge/facility construction	Environmental Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review • Cultural resources • Endangered species
	Water and Wastewater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction stormwater • Wetlands • 404 permits • Spills and releases • Tanks (oil pollution prevention)
	Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dust control • New generators
	Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General trash • Cross ties/treated poles • Yard waste • Track ballast disposal • Used oil • Transformers (PCB regulations apply to operating transformers as well as disposal)
Equipment Cleaning	Water and Wastewater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial stormwater permit • Industrial wastewater permit • Spills and releases
	Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used oil
Signal Improvements	Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battery disposal • Transformers
Demolition	Water and Wastewater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction stormwater permit

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	Air	• Dust control
	Waste	• Lights • Transformers • Debris • Asbestos-containing materials • Cross ties

Each section of this chapter includes an introduction ~~on~~ to the regulated environmental media followed by subsections in specific environmental programs. For example, the water and wastewater section includes subsections on the following:

- Oil pollution prevention,
- Stormwater discharge (industrial and construction),
- Wastewater pretreatment and discharges, and
- [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers \(USACE\)](#) Section 404 permits.

Each of the above subsections includes general information, regulatory citations, implementing agencies, and specific requirements.

Appendices at the conclusion of the chapter include:

- Acronyms,
- Glossary of terms, ~~and~~
- [EPA headquarters and regional office information](#), ~~and~~
- [USACE district information](#).