

Atomic Energy Act (1954): Was passed so the government could monitor the commercial and national defense uses of atomic energy. Government concerns included radiation hazards and the disposal of radioactive waste. The act establishes a general regulatory structure for construction and use of nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons facilities. Unlike most environmental statutes, it does not permit citizen suits and affords only limited opportunities for suits by public interest groups.

Clean Air Act(1963) originally signed into law to protect public health from air pollution and limit the effects of air pollution on the environment. Early versions allowed individual states to set their own standards, but later versions switched responsibility of setting uniform standards to the federal government.

There are both primary and secondary standards to the various Clean Air Acts. The primary standards protect human health. The secondary standards protect crops, climate, visibility, materials, and comfort.

Clean Air Act (1970) authorized the development of comprehensive federal and state regulations to limit emissions from both stationary (industrial) sources and mobile sources. Four major regulatory programs affecting stationary sources were initiated: the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), State Implementation Plans (SIPs), New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPs).

Clean Air Act (1990) addresses acid rain, urban smog, air pollutants, protecting the ozone, VOCs, and marketing pollution rights. It is estimated that about 15,000 lives are saved annually as well as reducing bronchitis cases and some likelihood of getting respiratory illnesses.

Clean Water Act (1972)

Gave more control to the Feds to manage 'waterways', wetlands and territorial seas

Goals

- ❖ Eliminate high amounts of toxic substances released into the water,
- ❖ Eliminate additional water pollution by 1985
- ❖ Ensure that surface waters meet necessary standards for human sports and recreation by 1983

Provisions

- ❖ Provide funds for research on water pollution and pollution control programs
- ❖ Require strict standards and enforcement of water quality
- ❖ Require licenses for companies to discharge certain amounts of pollution

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (1980) is also known as Superfund. It was initiated because of the love canal disaster. 21,000 tons of toxic waste was buried in the "love canal" and the 99th Street School was built on top of it despite all the disclaimers about the buried toxic waste underneath. The CERCLA act held the company accountable for all the damages made. This act established prohibitions and requirements that concerned closed and abandoned hazardous waste sites, provided for liability of persons responsible for releasing of hazardous waste at these sites, and established a trust fund to provide for cleanup when no responsible party could be identified. CERCLA is retroactive, which means it can be used to hold liable those responsible for disposal of hazardous wastes before the law was enacted in 1980.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

Controls the exploitation of endangered species through international legislation. Bans hunting, capturing and selling of threatened species and bans the import of ivory.

Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (1986)

Requires companies to disclose information about highly hazardous chemicals they release into the air and/or water and/or dispose of on land. Companies must also disclose information if they store more than 500 lbs of hazardous chemicals. The agricultural business is one primary target of this legislation.

Endangered Species Act (1973) This Act names species (including plants) endangered or threatened. It also prohibits hurting these species and creating special reserves for these species. It also prevents selling, taking or hurting these species. If anyone violates any part of this act, it is a criminal offense and if anyone tells the government about someone, there is a **reward**.

Energy Policy Act The Act originally publicizes radiation protection standards for the Yucca Mountain repository. But Yuccan Mountain is no longer a place where nuclear wastes will be stored.

Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (1938): Is the nation's major law regulating contaminants in food, including pesticides. The introduction of this act was influenced by the death of more than 100 patients due to a sulfanilamide medication where diethylene glycol was used to dissolve the drug and make a liquid form. The Food and Drug Administration implements most of this law; the Environmental Protection Agency carries out its pesticide standard setting provisions (with FDA enforcement). See the Food Quality Protection Act as it overhauled this portion of the FFDCFA.

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (1947, major revision, 1972)

It was passed solely to allow pesticides to be registered and it did not call for a regulation of pesticides. However, in 1972, this law was rewritten in order to allow the EPA to control the sale, distribution and application of pesticides in order to protect human and environmental health. The pesticide must be licensed in order to be sold within the United States and the pesticide cannot cause undue harm to the environment (stricter standards for pesticides came about with the Food Quality Protection Act).

Federal Land Policy and Land Management Act(1976) The West's rapid growth and its demographic and economic changes increased demands on the public lands. The FLMA provides the tools needed to manage the public lands. The major accomplishments of the FLPMA are multiple use, sustainable yield, and environmental protection. The FLMA provides for the historic, scientific, scenic, recreational and ecologic values in the management of federal land. It also provides for the public's involvement in the management of the federal lands.

Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (1976): Governs the management and control of U.S. marine fish populations, and is intended to maintain and restore healthy levels of fish stocks and prevent overharvesting. Better known as the Magnuson Stevens Act.

Food Quality Protection Act(1996) This act establishes a strong, health based safety standard for pesticide residues in all foods. (It overhauled FFDCFA and FIFRA provisions that were related to pesticides) It fundamentally changes the way EPA regulates pesticides. Some of the major requirements include stricter safety standards, especially for infants and children. There is a requirement that periodically the pesticides be re-evaluated for registrations and tolerances and that safety issues of pesticides in water, food and inside the home be addressed as they relate to infants and children.

Hazardous Material Transportation Act (HAZMAT) Governs the transportation of hazardous materials and wastes.

Kyoto Protocol Agreement among 150 nations requiring greenhouse gas emission reduction.

Lacey Act A conservation law prohibiting the transportation of illegally captured or prohibited animals across state lines. It was the first federal law protecting wildlife, and is still in effect, though it has been revised several times. Today the law is primarily used to prevent the importation or spread of potentially dangerous non-native species.

Law of the Sea Convention. International agreement that sets rules for the use of the world's oceans, which cover 70 percent of the Earth's surface.

Madrid Protocol Moratorium on mineral exploration for 50 years in Antarctica.

Marine Mammal Protection Act (1972): Seeks to protect whales, dolphins, sea lions, seals, manatees and other species of marine mammals, many of which remain threatened or endangered. The law requires wildlife agencies to review any activity -- for example, the use of underwater explosives or high-intensity active sonar -- that has the potential to "harass" or kill these animals in the wild. The law is our nation's leading instrument for the conservation of these species, and is an international model for such laws.

Mining Act of 1872 United States federal law that authorizes and governs prospecting and mining for economic minerals, such as gold, platinum, and silver, on federal public lands.

Montreal Protocol Banned the production of aerosols and initiated the phase out of all CFC's.

National Environmental Policy Act (1970): Was the first of the modern environmental statutes. NEPA created environmental policies and goals for the country, and established the President's Council on Environmental Quality. Its most important feature is its requirement that federal agencies conduct thorough assessments of the environmental impacts of all major activities undertaken or funded by the federal government. Many states have enacted similar laws governing state activities.

Occupational Safety and Health Act

Created to protect worker and health. Its main aim was to ensure that employers provide their workers with an environment free from dangers to their safety and health, such as exposure to toxic chemicals, excessive noise levels, mechanical dangers, heat or cold stress, or unsanitary conditions.

Ocean Dumping Act (ODA) Makes it unlawful for any person to dump or transport for the purpose of dumping sewage, sludge, or industrial waste into ocean waters.

Oil Pollution Act (1990): Enacted a year after the disastrous Exxon *Valdez* oil spill in Alaska's Prince William Sound, this law streamlines federal response to oil spills by requiring oil storage facilities and vessels to prepare spill-response plans and provide for their rapid implementation. The law also increases polluters' liability for cleanup costs and damage to natural resources and imposes measures -- including a phaseout of single-hulled tankers -- designed to improve tanker safety and prevent spills.

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

RCRA amended the Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1965. Seeks to prevent unlicensed hazardous

waste dumps by establishing management requirements on generators and transporters of hazardous waste and on owners and operators of hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities. Important parts of RCRA:

- ♥ “cradle-to-grave” tracks the progress of hazardous wastes from their point of generation, their transport, and their treatment and/or disposal
- ♥ lays out procedure for determining if a material is hazardous waste
- ♥ Land disposal restrictions- must meet treatment standards and be disposed of in a RCRA land disposal unit
- ♥ Tanks and containers- must meet emission standards (waste must stay contained)
- ♥ Hazardous waste and agriculture- rules for irrigation runoff containing pesticides

Safe Drinking Water Act (1974): Establishes drinking water standards for tap water safety, and requires rules for groundwater protection from underground injection; amended in 1986 and 1996. The 1996 amendments added a fund to pay for water system upgrades, revised standard: setting requirements, required new standards for common contaminants, and included public "right to know" requirements to inform consumers about their tap water.

Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (1977) The act grew out of a concern regarding the environmental effects of strip mining. During and after WWII, mining became very common, and state laws regulating it to reduce its environmental impact were not effective. The law intends to ensure that coal mining activity is conducted with sufficient protections of the public and the environment from the harms of strip mining and to provide for restoration of those areas that have been strip mined to a beneficial use.

Toxic Substances Control Act (1976): Authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate the manufacture, distribution, import and processing of certain toxic chemicals; such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), asbestos, radon and lead-based paint. The Certain substances are generally excluded from TSCA, including, among others, food, drugs, cosmetics and pesticides. Note that the TSCA does not require that manufacturers prove that their drug is safe prior to use.

Wilderness Act Allowed congress to set aside federally owned land for preservation.

Here is an article <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/feb2009/2009-02-26-10.asp> on the failure of TSCA to protect the health and welfare of U.S. citizens.