RESEARCH TRIANGLE INSTITUTE

January 1993

GUIDANCE FOR EVALUATING MEDICAL WASTE TREATMENT TECHNOLOGIES

FINAL REPORT

Prepared for:

Office of Solid Waste
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC 20460

EPA Contract Number 68-WO-0032

RTI Report Number 94U-5400-005/01-F

POST OFFICE BOX 12194 RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NORTH CAROLINA 27709-2194

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DISCLAIMER

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This document was prepared as a product of the evaluation of medical waste treatment technologies and methods under EPA Contract No. 68-WO-0032, Work Assignment No. 5, "Medical Waste Treatment Technologies Evaluation and Program Support". The authors wish to express appreciation to Mary Greene and Kristina Meson whose valuable assistance as Work Assignment Managers helped guide this work to a successful completion. In addition, they wish to express their appreciation to Durann Williams who provided valuable assistance in preparing and assembling this document.

ABSTRACT

The Medical Waste Tracking Act of 1988 (MWTA) requires EPA, among other things to evaluate national medical waste issues. Section 11008 of the MWTA requires EPA to prepare a series of reports to Congress on various issues related to medical waste. Specifically, Sections 11008 (a)(6) and (7) require EPA to evaluate available and potentially available methods for treating medical waste and their ability to render medical waste noninfectious or less infectious, and unrecognizable and otherwise protect human health and the environment.

This document presents guidance for the evaluation of the effectiveness of medical waste treatment technologies to reduce or inactivate microorganisms that may be present in medical waste. The treatment technologies addressed in this guidance document are:

- Incineration
- Steam Autoclaving
- Chemical Treatment, Mechanical/Chemical Treatment
- Nonionizing Radiation
  - Microwave Irradiation
  - Radiofrequency Irradiation
- Gamma Irradiation (no test method)

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