

5. POLICY POSITION
SUPERFUND SITING PROCESS

Background

Funding for the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) is derived from private producers of hazardous substances, including the oil, gas, and chemical industries. Private industry supports this program through payment of a tax to the federal government. Authorized funds currently are distributed on an "as needed" basis by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Southern Legislative Conference is concerned that private industry contributes approximately \$7 for every \$1 that is returned to the states for cleanup purposes. The southern states question the equity of the distribution of these funds. The Environmental Quality and Natural Resources Committee will hold a meeting (currently planned for October 25 through 28, 1987 in Savannah, Georgia) to discuss this issue. SLC staff, in conjunction with the Southern States Energy Board, will survey conference states to compile and collect information on the number of Superfund sites that have been identified, nominated, and approved for Superfund outlay.

Recommendation

The Southern Legislative Conference requests that the EPA undertake an immediate analysis of site nomination and selection for all Superfund sites to identify those sites:

1. where cleanup has been completed;
2. where cleanup currently is in progress; and
3. that are under consideration for Superfund outlay within the next fiscal year and the process utilized in establishing priorities to those expenditures.

The Southern Legislative Conference further requests that the EPA prepare a state-by-state report that details disbursements of all Superfund money that has been collected and distributed up until September 30, 1987.