

F. H. Mughal
G-26/9, Block 8
Clifton
Karachi, Pakistan

Dear Mr. Mughal:

Thank you for your e-mail of September 2, 2001 requesting the Agency's definition of the terms "environmentally sensitive areas," and "ecologically sensitive areas." You mention these definitions will be incorporated into environmental legislation in your country.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides, as a public service, information on the Internet regarding environmentally sensitive areas, as well as some of the other topics you mention, including test methods for solid wastes, and information about air and water. This information is briefly described below, and includes the Internet links for that information.

The document Sensitive Environments and the Siting of Hazardous Waste Management Facilities, May 1997 discusses sensitive types of environments that pose special challenges to the siting, expansion, and operation of hazardous waste management facilities. The document is located at: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/tsds/site/sites.pdf>.

The Office of Solid Waste (OSW) Methods web page provides links to a variety of methods-related information, including the following.
See <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/test/index.htm>.

1. Methods Information Communication Exchange (MICE) Service provides a valuable and immediate means of public outreach and education by providing timely answers to method-related questions. See <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/test/mice.htm>.
2. Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste: Physical/Chemical Methods (SW-846) is OSW's official compendium of analytical and sampling methods that have been evaluated and approved for use in complying with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act regulations. See <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/test/sw846.htm>.

3. Policy memorandum regarding location standards for hazardous waste management facilities, 1991. See <http://yosemite.epa.gov/OSW/rcra.nsf/Documents/AA33F1490B604813852565DA006F0814>.
4. U.S. Code of Federal Regulations citation regarding location standards (40 CFR 264.18). See http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_00/40cfr264_00.html.

For contact information for other EPA monitoring methods (e.g., air, water), please see <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/test/info.htm>.

Thank you for your inquiry, and for the opportunity to provide you with information to help develop environmental legislation in Pakistan. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Gaines of my staff at (703) 308-8655, or via the Internet at gaines.jeff@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Shapiro
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator