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## Main content

Article Preview :

Superfund's Future: What Will It Cost? by Katherine N. Probst, David M. Konisky, et al. Baltimore, RFF Press, 2001. 328 pp. Paper, \$16.95.

When the U.S. Congress enacted the FY 2000 budget, they asked Resources for the Future to undertake a study to project resource needs for the Superfund toxic waste clean-up program from 2000 to 2009. The result was a superb study of the program, its costs, and its possible future. This volume is an essential work for any serious student of environmental policy. It provides an excellent description of all key elements of the program. With clear language and a transparent and simple methodology, the study estimates the program's resource needs.

The study's Executive Summary reports the following six key conclusions: "A ramp-down of the Superfund program is not imminent... EPA's [Environmental Protection Agency] need for Superfund monies will not decrease" (p. xxi); "The total estimated cost to EPA...

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Editorial Reviews. Review. 'The most important study ever undertaken about the future of Superfund.' Timothy Fields Jr., former assistant administrator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 'The most thorough examination of the future of the Superfund program. Required reading for anyone with an interest in this complex environmental issue.' Karen Florini, senior attorney, Environmental Defense. Review. "The most important study ever undertaken about the future of Superfund." His recent work has been published in The Journal of Policy Analysis and Management. Also contributing to Superfund's Future are Robert Hersh, research assistant Michael B. Batz, and consultant Katherine D. Walker. Read more. Product details.

Reauthorization of the Superfund law continues to be a major source of controversy among political leaders and environmental activists. Some seek a major overhaul of the statute, arguing that considerable cleanup still needs to be done. Others oppose major changes, asserting that cleanup is almost complete. One of the most contentious issues in the debate is whether the taxes that once stocked the Superfund Trust Fund need to be reinstated. The answer depends in large part on how much money EPA will need to implement the Superfund program. The results of this research are included in *Superfund's Future*, a book that will become an essential reference for all participants in the debate about one of the nation's most controversial environmental programs. The United States federal Superfund law is officially known as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA). The federal Superfund program, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is designed to investigate and clean up sites contaminated with hazardous substances. Sites managed under this program are referred to as "Superfund" sites. There are 40,000 federal Superfund sites across the country, and approximately 1,600 of those sites