

liable for a release or threatened release of a [controlled] hazardous substance under this subtitle is subject to the Uniform Contribution Among Tort-Feasors Act under Article 50, §§ 16 through 24 of the Code, including a right of contribution, as if that person had caused an injury in tort.

(e) A responsible person against whom a legal action is brought under subsection (b) of this section for a release or threatened release of a [controlled] hazardous substance may move to join any other responsible person under the Maryland Rules of Civil Procedure.

(F) UPON REQUEST BY THE DEPARTMENT, AND AFTER REASONABLE NOTICE, A PERSON SHALL PROVIDE TO THE DEPARTMENT ANY EXISTING INFORMATION OR DOCUMENTS RELATING TO:

(1) THE IDENTIFICATION, NATURE, AND QUANTITY OF ANY HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE WHICH IS OR HAS BEEN GENERATED, TREATED, STORED, OR DISPOSED OF AT A SITE OR FACILITY, OR TRANSPORTED TO A SITE OR FACILITY; AND

(2) THE NATURE OR EXTENT OF A RELEASE OF A HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE AT OR FROM A SITE OR FACILITY.

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(a) If any hazardous substance is released or there is a substantial threat of a release into the environment, unless the Secretary determines that a removal and remedial action will be done properly and in a timely manner by the owner or operator of the facility from which the release or threat of release emanates, or by any other responsible party, the Secretary may:

(1) ENTER ANY SITE OR FACILITY TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION; AND

[(1)] (2) (I) Act consistent with the State Hazardous Substance Response Plan to remove or arrange for the removal of and provide for remedial action relating to the hazardous substance at any time, including its removal from any contaminated natural resources;

[(2)] (II) When the Secretary determines that there may be an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health or welfare or the environment, take any other response measure consistent with the State Hazardous Substance Response Plan necessary to protect the public health or welfare or the environment; or

[(3)] (III) [Enter any site or facility to carry out the provisions of this section] IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER ACTION AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, WHEN THE SECRETARY DETERMINES THAT THERE MAY BE AN IMMINENT AND SUBSTANTIAL ENDANGERMENT TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH OR WELFARE OR TO THE ENVIRONMENT, ISSUE ORDERS TO OR SEEK INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AGAINST RESPONSIBLE PERSONS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE OR THE ENVIRONMENT.