

IMPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS RECYCLABLES

Alberta Environment exercises control of hazardous recyclables (HR) imported into Alberta at two points. The first occurs when the owner of a recycling facility files an application under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA)* for an approval or registration. The second is triggered when a prospective importer of a hazardous recyclable files a request for Ministerial Authorization as required by the *Waste Control Regulation, Section 21*.

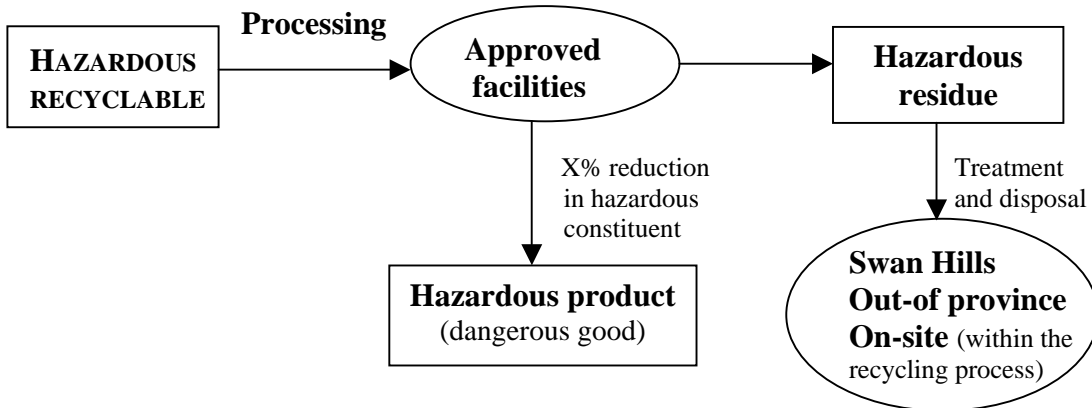
Table I summarizes the four possible scenarios when hazardous waste is brought into Alberta for recycling. They reflect the hazardous characteristics of the component being recycled and of product resulting from the recycling process.

Material being recycled Residue	Hazardous	Non-Hazardous
Hazardous	H/H	NH/H
Non-hazardous	H/NH	NH/NH

The following hazardous recyclable pathways must be followed when importing hazardous recyclables to ensure compliance with current legal policy, and approval requirements.

1. First Case (H/H)

Both the material being recycled and the non-recyclable residue is hazardous.

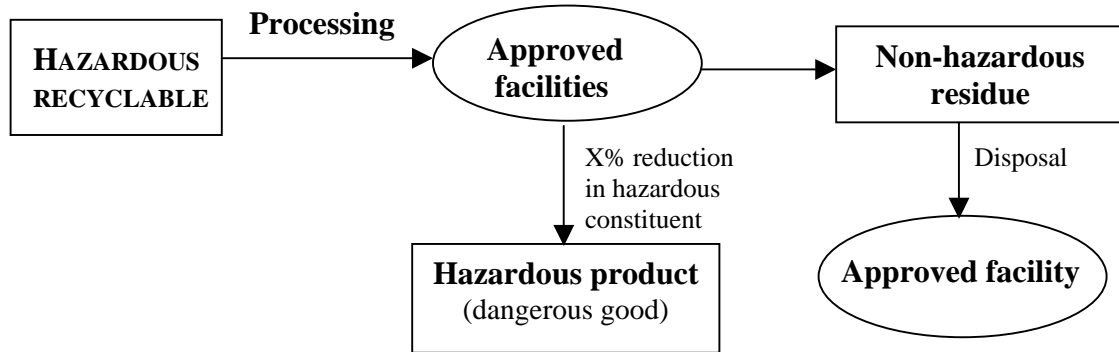


Examples: **Used solvents and solvent sludges** (solvent-H + sludge-H)
Gunwash from car body shops (varsol-H + sludge-H)
Certain catalysts poisoned with organics/heavy metals.

Off-site treatment of the hazardous residue in Alberta is only allowed at Swan Hills. On-site treatment of the hazardous residue by incineration at the generator site is allowed subject to approval amendment or registration under the *Code of Practice for Small Incinerators*.

2. Second Case (H/NH)

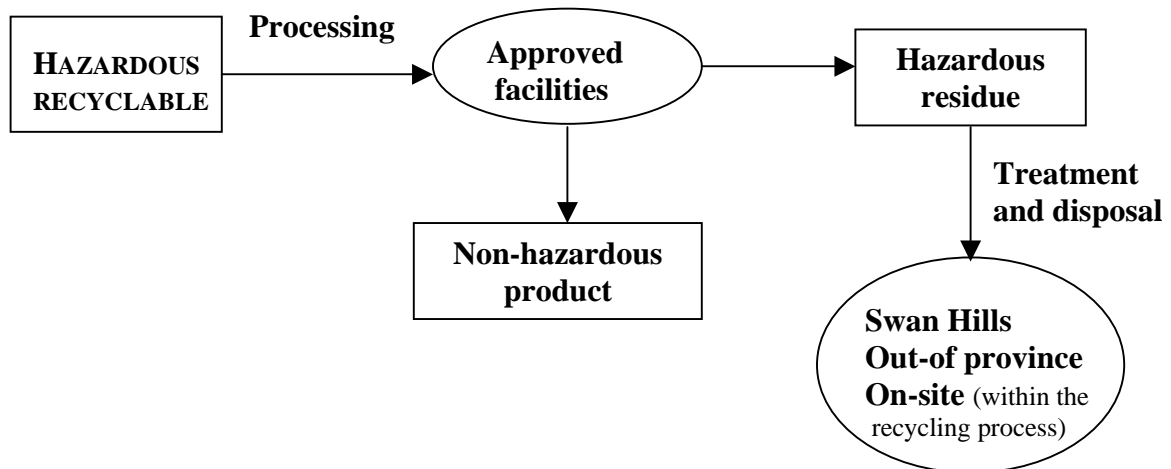
The material being recycled is hazardous but not the residue.



Examples: **Mercury instrumentation/fluorescent lamps** (mercury-H + glass/metal-NH).
Solvent recovery (solvent-H + soils/sorbent/activated carbon-NH)
Caustic/acidic solutions/slurries (caustic/acid-H + solids-NH)

3. Third Case (NH/H)

The material being recycled is non-hazardous and the residue is hazardous.

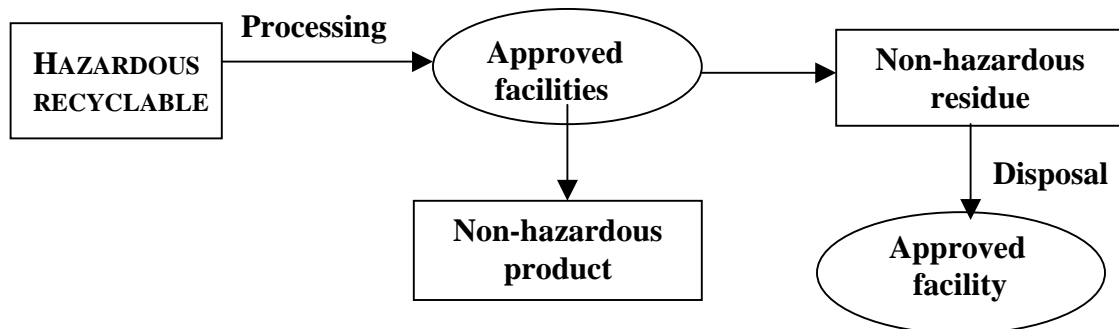


Examples: **Soil with gasoline** (soil-NH + gasoline-H)
Used oil (oil-NH + sludge-H)
Lead acid batteries (lead plates, plastic-NH + H₂SO₄/PbSO₄-H)

On-site treatment of the hazardous residue at the generator site is allowed subject to approval or registration of the activity as required under EPEA.

4. Fourth Case (NH/NH)

Both the material being recycled and the residue are non-hazardous.



Examples: **Spent or off-spec alkalis or acids** (neutral solutions-NH + sludges-NH).
Pressurized aerosol cans (metal-NH + propellant-NH)
Used Oil (oil-NH + treated sludge-NH)

Definitions

- (a) “hazardous residue” means waste with hazardous characteristics that results from recycling processes.
- (b) “on-site treatment” means the treatment of waste at facilities owned by the person generating the waste.
- (c) “out-of-Province” means treatment of waste outside Alberta at facility approved by the appropriate local authority.
- (d) “recovered constituent” means the component of a recyclable that is put to a beneficial use with or without prior processing.
- (e) “X% reduction in hazardous constituent” means the percentage of decrease of the hazardous constituents that is achieved during the recycling of hazardous constituents.