

4.4.1.2 Open Detonation Units

The management of wastes before placement in OD units is similar to that for OB units. The wastes usually will be well contained (that is, in packages), and usually will remain in the unit only for a very short time before treatment. Although wastes entering the unit usually are well characterized, permit applicants are required to obtain and to provide to the permit writer information about the volume and physical and chemical characteristics of residues from OD. Because of their method of operation, OD units present a potential for release of residues from the treatment to the ground water and subsurface environment. The detonation usually occurs under several feet of soil, and the force of the blast is directed downward into the soil. Residues from wastes not completely destroyed during that process will be forced into the soil or dispersed above ground.

The permit writer should review all information about volume and physical and chemical

characteristics of the wastes after detonation. Because most of units will have been operating under interim status, there should have been more than ample opportunity for the applicant to have sampled some of the detonation points and to provide a description of the residues generated.