

Cleanups Using the Site-Specific Standard

Explanation

Anyone who proposes or is required to clean up a site under the Land Recycling and Environmental Remediation Standards Act of 1995 (Act 2) must select one or a combination of the following environmental remediation standards: background, statewide health, and site-specific. A site may also be remediated to special industrial area requirements.

Under the site-specific standard, cleanup levels can be developed specifically for an individual site based on the contaminants, exposures, and conditions unique to that site. For the site-specific standard, the following considerations apply:

- For carcinogens, the cleanup levels for soil and groundwater are established at levels that represent a cumulative excess cancer risk of between one in 10,000 to one in 1,000,000.
- For toxic chemicals other than carcinogens, soil and groundwater must be cleaned up to a level that prevents deleterious effects to the exposed population.
- Current and probable future uses of groundwater in aquifers must be identified and protected.
- Concentrations of contaminants in soil must protect against carcinogenic and other toxic effects based on direct contact with the soil. Soil cleanup standards must also be protective of groundwater uses.
- The cleanup standards may be attained through a combination of remediation activities that can include treatment, removal, engineering, or institutional controls and can include innovative or other demonstrated measures.

When remediating to site-specific cleanup standards, detailed documentation of compliance is demonstrated by one of the options below:

- Document pathway elimination.
- Documenting risks are at acceptable levels.
- Attainment of the site-specific numeric standards must be demonstrated by collection and analysis of samples from affected media, such as surface water, groundwater, and soil.
- Reports include:
 - Remedial investigation report
 - Risk assessment report (if required)
 - Cleanup plan (if required)
 - Final report
- If applicable, an environmental covenant under the Uniform Environmental Covenants Act will be required if engineering or institutional controls are used to attain the site-specific standard.

Procedures

When remediating to site-specific standards, the following procedures must be followed to notify the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the public about the cleanup:

- A **notice of intent to remediate** must be submitted to DEP. DEP will publish an acknowledgment of receipt in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.
- A copy of **the notice of intent to remediate** must be sent to the municipality where the site is located. A summary of the notice must be published in a local newspaper.

- These notices include a 30-day public and municipal comment period. The municipality can request to be involved in the development of the remediation and reuse plans for the site. If requested by the municipality, the person undertaking the remediation shall develop and implement a public involvement program.
- If the municipality requested to be involved in the development of the remediation plan, the reports should include comments submitted by the municipality and public and the responses to those comments.
- Each time a remedial investigation report, risk assessment report, cleanup plan or final report is submitted, the following procedure must be followed:
 - Notice of the submission shall be provided to the municipality in which the site is located.
 - A notice summarizing the findings and recommendations of the report shall be published in a local newspaper.
 - If the municipality requested to be involved in the development of the remediation plan, the reports should include comments submitted by the municipality and public and the responses to those comments.

Contact Information

For information concerning this initiative and the Pennsylvania Land Recycling Program, call 717-783-1566 or visit www.dep.pa.gov, under Businesses > Land > Land Recycling. Questions and comments should be sent to landrecycling@pa.gov.

Environmental Cleanup Programs	
<p>Southeast Regional Office 2 East Main St. Norristown, PA 19401-4915 Phone: 484-250-5960 Fax: 484-250-5971</p> <p>Counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia</p>	<p>Northeast Regional Office 2 Public Square Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701-1915 Phone: 570-826-2511 Fax: 570-820-4907</p> <p>Counties: Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming</p>
<p>South-central Regional Office 909 Elmerton Ave. Harrisburg, PA 17110-8200 Phone: 717-705-4705 Fax: 717-705-4830</p> <p>Counties: Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, and York</p>	<p>North-central Regional Office 208 West Third St., Suite 101 Williamsport, PA 17701-6448 Phone: 570-321-6525 Fax: 570-327-3420</p> <p>Counties: Bradford, Cameron, Clearfield, Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga, and Union</p>
<p>Southwest Regional Office 400 Waterfront Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4725 Phone: 412-442-4091 Fax: 412-442-4328</p> <p>Counties: Allegheny, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland</p>	<p>Northwest Regional Office 230 Chestnut St. Meadville, PA 16335-3481 Phone: 814-332-6648 Fax: 814-332-6121</p> <p>Counties: Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango, and Warren</p>