



Fact Sheet

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania • Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Land Recycling & Waste Management • Land Recycling Program Fact Sheet 6

Cleanups Using The Site-Specific Standard

Explanation

Under the Land Recycling and Environmental Remediation Standards Act of 1995 (Act 2), anyone who is proposing or is required to clean up a site and wants cleanup liability protection must select one or a combination of the following environmental remediation standards. These standards are: 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 site-specific standards, the following factors apply:

- For carcinogens, the cleanup levels for soil and groundwater are established at levels that represent a cumulative excess cancer risk of one in 100,000.
- 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
- A deed notice is required. The notice must indicate whether residential or nonresidential exposure assumptions were used in developing the site-specific standards.

Procedures

When remediating to site-specific standards, the following procedures must be followed to notify the Department and the public about the cleanup:

- A **notice of intent to remediate** must be submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection (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) 783-7816 or the Information Request Line at (717) 787-6264 to request written material or to place a message on voice mail. You may also visit our web site at website at <http://www.state.pa.us>. (PA Keyword: "Land Recycling"). Questions and comments may be directed to Tom Fidler, Program Manager, at tfidler@state.pa.us.

Environmental Cleanup Program Managers

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This fact sheet and related environmental information are available electronically via Internet. For more information, visit us through the PA PowerPort at <http://www.state.pa.us> PA Keyword "Land Recycling".



www.GreenWorks.tv - A web space dedicated to helping you learn how to protect and improve the environment. The site features the largest collection of environmental videos available on the Internet and is produced by the nonprofit Environmental Fund for Pennsylvania, with financial support from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, 877-PA-GREEN.