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Soil Screening Guidance for Radionuclides: User's Guide



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DISCLAIMER

Notice: The Soil Screening Guidance is based on policies set out in the Preamble to the Final Rule of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), which was published on March 8, 1990 (*55 Federal Register* 8666).

This guidance document sets forth recommended approaches based on EPA's best thinking to date with respect to soil screening for radionuclides. This document does not establish binding rules. Alternative approaches for screening radionuclides in soil may be found to be more appropriate at specific sites (e.g., where site circumstances do not match the underlying assumptions, conditions and models of the guidance). The decision whether to use an alternative approach and a description of any such approach should be placed in the Administrative Record for the site. Accordingly, if comments are received at individual sites questioning the use of the approaches recommended in this guidance, the comments should be considered and an explanation provided for the selected approach. The Soil Screening Guidance for Radionuclides: Technical Background Document (TBD) may be helpful in responding to such comments.

The policies set out in both the Soil Screening Guidance for Radionuclides: User's Guide and the supporting TBD are intended solely as guidance to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) personnel; they are not final EPA actions and do not constitute rulemaking. These policies are not intended, nor can they be relied upon, to create any rights enforceable by any party in litigation with the United States government. EPA officials may decide to follow the guidance provided in this document, or to act at variance with the guidance, based on an analysis of specific site circumstances. EPA also reserves the right to change the guidance at any time without public notice.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ARAR	Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirement
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CLP	Contract Laboratory Program
CSM	Conceptual Site Model
CV	Coefficient of Variation
DAF	Dilution Attenuation Factor
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
DQO	Data Quality Objective
EA	Exposure Area
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
HEAST	Health Effects Assessment Summary Table
HELP	Hydrological Evaluation of Landfill Performance
HHEM	Human Health Evaluation Manual
IRIS	Integrated Risk Information System
ISC2	Industrial Source Complex Model
MARSSIM	Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Manual
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
MDC	Minimum Detectable Concentration
NPL	National Priorities List
NTIS	National Technical Information Service
OERR	Office of Emergency and Remedial Response
ORIA	Office of Radiation and Indoor Air
PA/SI	Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection
PEF	Particulate Emission Factor
PRG	Preliminary Remediation Goal
QAPP	Quality Assurance Project
Q/C	Site-Specific Dispersion Model
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
RAGS	Risk Assessment Guidance for Superfund
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RfD	Reference Dose
RI	Remedial Investigation
RI/FS	Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
RME	Reasonable Maximum Exposure
ROD	Record of Decision
SAB	Science Advisory Board
SAP	Sampling and Analysis Plan
SSL	Soil Screening Level
TBD	Technical Background Document
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
WRS	Wilcoxon Rank Sum