
ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



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Contaminated Site Closure : A Property Owner's Guide

What is Site Closure?

A contaminated site is closed when DES determines that regulatory action is no longer necessary because all corrective action goals have been achieved. Contaminated **site** closure differs from **facility** closure. Facilities such as underground storage tanks (UST's) and solid waste landfills are closed in order to eliminate the threat of future contamination or to address changes in regulatory standards. These facilities are also managed as contaminated sites when contamination is discovered.

Site Closure Goals

Source: The source of contamination must be eliminated.

On-Site Dissolved Contamination: Dissolved contamination levels in groundwater must be below AGQS's and contaminated soil direct contact risks must be eliminated.

Off-Site Impact: Dissolved contamination levels within the GMZ must be below AGQS's.

Documentation Required for Site Closure

Documentation depends largely on the current Conceptual Model (see definition below). Examples of submittals used to demonstrate that a contaminated site is ready for closure are:

1. Conceptual model - a comprehensive summary, which explains contaminant distribution and fate in terms of geology, groundwater hydraulics, and source areas.
2. Source mitigation report, soil sampling results, and tank closure report.
3. Site characterization and investigation reports.
4. Remedial Action Plan (RAP) implementation and performance reports.
5. Groundwater permit status reports and monitoring results demonstrating GMZ compliance.
6. Groundwater analytical results, which demonstrate compliance with AGQS's. Timing between rounds depends upon the conceptual model.

DES Site Certificate of No Further Action

A DES Certificate of No Further Action letter can be issued if:

1. All previous requirements have been adequately addressed,
2. All sources of groundwater contamination have been eliminated,
3. Ambient groundwater quality standards are not violated, and
4. DES has determined that all cost recovery issues have been resolved.

A DES Certificate of No Further Action letter means:

1. Additional investigation and remedial measures are not required at this time.
2. DES reserves the right to require additional investigations, remedial measures or groundwater monitoring if further information indicating the need for such work is received.
3. The property owner must continue to meet the goals of Env-Wm 1403.

Footnotes

1. A contaminated site includes those contaminated with petroleum and hazardous wastes from spills, leaking underground or aboveground storage tank sites, hazardous waste sites, and old unlined landfills.
2. The GMZ is an area delineated by boundaries within which contaminated groundwater is contained and restored to drinking water standards by remedial actions and natural processes.

The AGQS's are a combination of federal and state drinking water standards.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this Fact Sheet is current as of January 1, 2004. Statutory or regulatory changes that may occur after January 1, 2004, may cause part or all of this information to be invalid. If there are any questions concerning the status of the information, please contact DES by calling 271-3644.