

Voluntary Cleanup Program

Background

The Voluntary Cleanup Program offers two options for owners and operators of contaminated property to voluntarily investigate and, if necessary, clean up their sites: the standard Voluntary Cleanup Pathway (VCP) and the Independent Cleanup Pathway (ICP). Please see the Independent Cleanup Pathway Information Packet for detailed information on the ICP. The ICP information packet is available on DEQ's Web site at www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/cleanup/icp-main.htm.

Both options offer flexibility and allow for more efficient investigation and cleaned up to facilitate the use, sale, refinancing and/or redevelopment of contaminated property, while protecting human health and the environment.

Benefits of voluntary cleanups

The VCP is a flexible full service program that:

- Provides DEQ oversight throughout the investigation and cleanup.
- Ensures that your cleanup meets Oregon's Environmental Cleanup Law.
- Is available for high, medium and low priority sites and all environmental media.
- Is accepted by banks and insurance companies.
- Can provide exemption from permits for some on-site work.

Risks

All sites that enter the VCP will be added into DEQ's Environmental Cleanup Site Information (ECSI) database. Sites with a verified release are listed on the Confirmed Release List. Sites that require further action are also listed on the Inventory List.

If you enter the VCP program with a high priority site in terms of environmental risk and work falls unreasonably behind the agreed-to schedule, you may be required to enter the Site Response program and sign a consent order to ensure that human health and the environment are protected. Information about the Site Response program is available at DEQ's Web site at www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/cleanup/srs0.htm.

Services

DEQ's Voluntary Cleanup Program issues No Further Action (NFA) determinations for sites demonstrated not to present unacceptable risk. We also provide the following services:

- Preliminary assessment review
- Risk-based cleanup standards
- Operable unit approach where a section of the site may be redeveloped while cleanup is still occurring on other sections
- Report/document review
- Technical assistance and regulatory guidance
- Negotiated scope of work
- Budget estimate for DEQ oversight costs
- Prospective purchaser agreements, and
- Public participation/public involvement

How to join the program

You can join the Voluntary Cleanup Program by submitting the Intent to Participate form available in this packet and on DEQ's Web site at www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/cleanup/vcp0.htm. DEQ's goal is to assign a project manager within 90 days of receiving the Intent to Participate form.

Steps in the process

Some participants have already completed significant work at their sites before entering the program. Others may demonstrate that their site does not pose an unacceptable risk and, therefore, does not require remediation. A typical project goes through the steps below.

- You submit the Intent to Participate form.
- DEQ prepares a cost recovery letter agreement and requests a \$5,000 deposit when a project manager is assigned. An example cost recovery agreement is included in this packet.
- When the agreement is signed and the deposit received, DEQ completes a file review, site visit, and strategy recommendation to achieve protective conditions at your site.
- DEQ works with you to develop an appropriate scope of work and agreement for your project.
- You develop work plans and reports for DEQ approval, to define the problem, determine the risk to human health and the environment, and evaluate potential solutions.
- You propose a remedy to DEQ. We evaluate it to make sure it meets the requirements of the Environmental Cleanup



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Law, and gather public comments on the proposal.

- Once DEQ selects the remedy, you implement it.
- DEQ issues a “No Further Action” determination once protective conditions have been achieved through remediation or institutional controls. This process also includes a public comment period.

Contacts for further information

Additional information and materials related to the Voluntary Cleanup Program are available on DEQ’s Web site at

www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/cleanup/vcp0.htm.

Information about Brownfields redevelopment and Prospective Purchaser Agreements is available on the DEQ’s Web site at

www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/cleanup/clean.htm

You may also contact the regional and headquarters program representatives listed in the VCP packet and on the DEQ web site at

www.deq.state.or.us/wmc/cleanup/vcp0.htm.

Alternative formats

Alternative formats of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ’s Office of Communications & Outreach, Portland (503) 229-5317.