



RR REPORT

Important Updates from the DNR Remediation and Redevelopment Program

January 29, 2015

EPA Updates to Soil Residual Contaminant Levels (RCLs) and Indoor-Air Vapor Action Levels (VALs) Now Available

The U.S. EPA updated the soil and indoor air contaminant screening levels on its [Regional Screening Level \(RSL\) website](#) in November 2014 and January 2015. More chemicals were added, but for the typical chemicals at RR sites, there were no changes since the previous update of May 2014. This update prompts DNR to likewise update the soil residual contaminant levels (RCLs) and indoor Vapor Action Levels (VALs).

The EPA RSL web-calculator may look different now, but it works the same as before. It is important to note that, starting in May 2014, the calculator defaults to a new set of EPA-recommended exposure factors ([Human Health Evaluation Manual, Supplemental Guidance: Update of Standard Default Exposure Factors](#)). So now, to calculate NR 720 RCLs using the EPA web-calculator, a few of the defaults there must be changed. The specific values that need to be manually entered in the RSL web-calculator can be found in [Update to RR-890 and RCL Spreadsheet](#) (dated June 2014).

DNR Soil Residual Contaminant Levels (RCLs) - Please refer to either the macro or non-macro version of the [RCL spreadsheets](#) (updated January 2015) when assessing soil data at RR sites.

DNR Vapor Action Levels (VALs) - Please refer to the [Quick Look-up Table](#) (updated November 2014) for the indoor VALs.

Reminder: 2015 DNR Consultants' Day Training this April

DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment Program will be holding [Consultants' Day training events in two locations this year](#). Consultants will be able to choose between Pewaukee and Stevens Point. The same training and information concerning conducting cleanups in Wisconsin under the NR 700 rule series will be presented at both conferences. The second date is new this year for your convenience. Technical topics will be discussed and program managers will be available for in-person conversations.

The results from the Consultants' Day topic survey are available on the [RR Program conference webpage](#) if you are interested in seeing how the topics ranked.

The agenda and registration will be available by mid-February. An announcement will be sent out when more information is available. Please visit the [RR Program conference webpage](#) for the latest updates.

RR Program Hiring 2 Hydrogeologist-Team Leaders to Lead Vapor Intrusion and Superfund Site Assessment Teams

The Department of Natural Resources is looking for two highly qualified individuals to fill two Hydrogeologist Program Coordinator positions (i.e., team leaders) within the Remediation and Redevelopment program. Both of these positions will report to the Technical and Policy Section Chief in Madison. One position will serve as the RR Program's Vapor Intrusion Team Leader; the other as the Superfund Site Assessment Team Leader. Both positions require extensive knowledge of geology and hydrogeology, soil science, chemistry and well

hydraulics. The Vapor Intrusion Team Leader position will be stationed in Madison. The Site Assessment Team Leader position may be located in either Madison or Milwaukee. Frequent and sometimes overnight travel, public speaking and effective oral and written communication is required of both positions.

If you are interested in applying for either of these positions, please see the announcements on Wisc.jobs ([Vapor Intrusion Team Leader](#) / [Superfund Site Assessment Team Leader](#)).

The deadline to apply for these jobs is 5 p.m. on February 10, 2015.

Applications for these positions may be used to aid in recruitment of future positions available within the Program.

Obligation Doesn't End after Installation: Responsibility for Operation, Maintenance and Monitoring of Vapor Mitigation Systems Prior To and After Site Closure

Ch. NR 724, Wis. Adm. Code, contains provisions for design, implementation, operation and maintenance and monitoring requirements for remedial and interim actions. (Vapor mitigation systems are usually installed during site investigation as an interim action. Section NR 724.02(1) (bm) addresses oversight of these systems.) Where a responsible party (RP) has designed and implemented a vapor mitigation system on property owned or not owned by the RP, the RP is required to take all necessary actions under NR 724, Wis. Adm. Code, regarding operation, maintenance and monitoring of the system. This obligation remains with the RP until DNR determines that the system is no longer necessary or at such time that case closure is granted by the DNR, whichever is sooner. All plans, documents and other actions required under NR 724 that apply to vapor intrusion situations are the responsibility of the RP.

Subsection NR 724.13(1)(c), Wis. Adm. Code, specifically mentions that both an RP as well as a property owner shall operate a vapor mitigation system for which they are responsible. Under this provision, the property owner and/or the tenant may not interfere with the effective operation and maintenance of the vapor mitigation system, which includes providing reasonable access to the RP as required by s. 292.13, Wis. Stats.

In accordance with s. 292.12(5), Wis. Stats., at the time DNR grants case closure to the RP, the property owner becomes responsible for the on-going operation, maintenance and monitoring of the vapor mitigation system. In addition, the property owner and any tenant must comply with any limitation or conditions imposed by the DNR on the property at the time of closure. For example, this includes a prohibition on actions that would negatively affect the operation of the vapor mitigation system. DNR notification is required prior to taking certain actions to ensure that health and safety are maintained.

The DNR recently updated the document [Summary of Changes to the Ch. NR 700 Series of Administrative Rules \(RR-965\)](#), to include a short summary of the provisions described here. Questions regarding this should be directed to [Terry Evanson](#) (608-266-0941).

Don't Neglect the Smear Zone

A case closure requirement that's commonly neglected is defining the extent of "smear zone" during the site investigation (s. NR 716.13, Wis. Adm. Code) and documenting this in the closure request. When this happens, a consultant is left with an incomplete closure submittal.

Guidance on defining the smear zone can be found in the RR Program's [Smear Zone Contamination \(RR-712\)](#) fact sheet. As noted in the document, the smear zone is the area where free product occurred in the soil and was then smeared across the soil when the water table fluctuated between historic high and low water table elevations. Materials within the smear zone are soil, regardless of the degree of saturation at the time that the closure request is made. The definition of "soil" in ch. NR 700, Wis. Adm. Code, applies to material in the smear zone that is sometimes saturated and sometimes unsaturated; the definition is not limited to material that is always unsaturated.

When defining the smear zone, it is important to establish the all-time low water table in the vicinity of the remaining soil contamination. An average depth to groundwater across the site should not be used to define the smear zone. Department soil standards apply to any soil above the all-time low water table.

Remember to document these results in the [Case Closure Request form \(4400-202\)](#). Specifically, note the information requested in the **General Site Conditions** and **Site Investigation Summary** sections, and in the **Attachment A** (Data Tables) and **Attachment B** (Maps and Figures) sections.

Questions regarding smear zone investigation and documentation should be discussed with your project manager.

Brownfield News and Notes

[New apartment building takes the place of the old Zander's Creamery](#) in Cross Plains with the help of DNR grant.

[The City of Oak Creek acquires 100 acres of lakefront property](#) with plans to make it available for private development, open space and other public purposes.

I TRC Online Training Opportunities

February 3 - [ISM Part 1: Soil Sampling and Decision Making Using Incremental Sampling Methodology](#)

February 5 - [ISM Part 2: Soil Sampling and Decision Making Using Incremental Sampling Methodology](#)

February 10 - [Use and Measurement of Mass Flux and Mass Discharge](#)

February 12 - [Groundwater Statistics for Environmental Project Managers](#)

February 19 - [Environmental Molecular Diagnostics: New Tools for Better Decisions](#)