

Remedial Response Program

Acronyms and Definitions

In general, the following terms and acronyms, when used with respect to Ohio's Remedial Response Program, have the meaning noted on this page. However, the specific meaning of any term or acronym included on this page may be modified by specific definitions in any document.

Aquifer -	An underground geological formation capable of holding and yielding water.
ARARs -	Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements. Those rules which strictly apply to remedial activities at a Site, or those rules whose requirements would help achieve the remedial goals for a Site.
Background Levels -	The conditions at and surrounding a Site that are unaffected by any current or past activities involving treatment, storage or disposal of hazardous substances or wastes.
Baseline Risk Assessment -	An evaluation of the risks to humans and the environment posed by a Site.
Carcinogen -	A chemical that causes cancer.
CERCLA -	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq. A federal law that regulates cleanup of hazardous substances sites under the U.S. EPA Superfund Program.
Contaminant or Contamination -	Means (1) any "hazardous waste" under ORC § 3734.01(J); (2) any "industrial waste" under ORC § 6111.01(C); and (3) any "other wastes" under ORC § 6111.01(D), including any release of one or more of the same.
COCs -	Contaminants of Concern. Chemicals identified at a Site which are present in concentrations that may be harmful to human health or the environment.
CFR -	Code of Federal Regulations. A compilation of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the Executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government of the United States of America.

Decision Document -	A statement issued by the Ohio EPA giving the Director's selected remedy for a Site and the reasons for its selection.
Drinking Water Supply -	Means any raw or finished water source that is or may be used by a public water system (as defined by the Safe Drinking Water Act) or as drinking water by one or more individuals.
Ecological Receptor -	Animals or plant life exposed or potentially exposed to chemicals released from a Site.
Environmental Covenant -	A servitude arising under an environmental response project that imposes activity and use limitations and that meets the requirements established in ORC section 5301.82.
Exposure Pathway -	The route by which a chemical is transported from a Site to a human or ecological receptor
Final Cleanup Levels -	Final cleanup levels identified in a Decision Document, along with RAOs and performance standards.
FS -	Feasibility Study. A study conducted to ensure that appropriate remedial alternatives are developed and evaluated such that relevant information concerning remedial action options can be presented to a decision-maker and an appropriate remedy selected.
Hazardous Substance -	A chemical that may cause harm to humans or to the environment.
Hazardous Waste -	A waste product listed or defined by RCRA which may cause harm to humans or the environment.
Human Receptor -	A person or population exposed to chemicals released from a site.
MCL -	Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in a public drinking water supply, as established under the Safe Drinking Water Act and incorporated into OAC 3745-81-11 and 3745-81-12.
NCP -	The National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan, codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 300 (1990), as amended, and more commonly referred to as the National Contingency Plan. The federal government's framework for remediation of hazardous substance release Sites, as specified in CERCLA.
NRD -	Natural Resources Damages are defined as injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources, including land,

fish, wildlife, biota, air, water, ground water, drinking water supplies that are managed by the government. The measure of damages is the cost of restoring injured resources to their baseline condition, and the reasonable costs of a damage assessment.

- O&M - Operation and Maintenance. Long-term measures taken at a Site, after initial remedial actions, to assure that a remedy remains protective of human health and the environment.
- OAC - Ohio Administrative Code. All administrative rules of the State's departments and agencies.
- ORC - Ohio Revised Code. The laws of the State as enacted by the legislature.
- Performance Standards - Measures by which Ohio EPA can determine if RAOs have been met.
- Preferred Plan - The plan that evaluates the preferred remedial alternative chosen by Ohio EPA to remediate a Site in a manner that best satisfies the evaluation criteria.
- PRGs - Preliminary Remediation Goals. Initial clean-up goals that are protective of human health and the environment, and that comply with ARARs.
- RAOs - Remedial Action Objectives. Specific goals of a selected remedy for reducing risks posed by a Site.
- RA - Remedial Action. Those activities to be undertaken to implement a Decision Document.
- RCRA - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 codified at 42 C.F.R. Part 6901 et seq. (1988), as amended. RCRA is a federal law that regulates the handling of hazardous waste.
- RD - Remedial Design. Those activities to be undertaken to develop the final plans and specifications for a Remedial Action.
- Response Costs - All costs including, but not limited to, payroll costs, contractor costs, travel costs, direct costs, overhead costs, legal and enforcement related costs, oversight costs, laboratory costs, and the costs of reviewing or developing plans, reports, and other items pursuant to an order, verifying work, or otherwise implementing or enforcing an order.
- Responsiveness Summary - A summary of all comments received concerning a Preferred Plan and Ohio EPA's response to those comments.

- RI - Remedial Investigation. A study conducted to collect information necessary to adequately characterize a Site, including a determination of the nature and extent of contamination, for the purpose of developing and evaluating effective remedial alternatives.
- ROD - Record of Decision. A public document that explains which cleanup alternative(s) will be used to clean up a Superfund Site.
- Site - A facility/source area where the treatment, storage, and/or disposal of hazardous waste, and/or the discharge to waters of the state of industrial waste or other wastes have occurred, including any other area where such hazardous wastes, industrial wastes, and/or other wastes have migrated or threaten to migrate.
- Water Quality Criteria - Chemical, physical and biological standards that define whether a body of surface water is unacceptably contaminated. These standards are intended to ensure that a body of water is safe for fishing, swimming and as a drinking water source. These standards can be found in section 3745-1 of the Ohio Revised Code.
- WQS - Water Quality Standards. Surface water criteria defined in Ohio Administrative Code 3745-1, effective February 22, 2002.
- Waters of the State - Means all streams, lakes, ponds, marshes, watercourses, waterways, wells, springs, irrigation systems, drainage systems, and other bodies or accumulations of water, surface and underground, natural or artificial, regardless of the depth of the strata in which underground water is located, that are situated wholly or partly within, or border upon, this state, or are within its jurisdiction, except those private waters that do not combine or effect a junction with natural surface or underground waters.