



Air Impacts Evaluation

a Fact Sheet prepared by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
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The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is developing guidelines for evaluating risks to human health and the environment at sites that may require investigation or response actions in the Superfund and Voluntary Investigation and Cleanup Programs pursuant to the Minnesota Environmental Response and Liability Act, Minn. Stat. §§ 115B.01 to 115B.24 (MERLA). This fact sheet identifies the need for guidance on human health and ecological evaluations at sites where air impacts are suspected or present. Once this guidance document is complete it will be incorporated into the Risk-Based Site Evaluation (RBSE) Manual that provides a preferred process for making decisions based on an evaluation of risk to humans and the environment.

Human exposure to airborne contaminants may occur via inhalation of volatilized contaminants or contaminants adhering to suspended particulates, and via incidental routes such as through showering with contaminated ground water. The Air Impacts Assessment document will present guidance on evaluating short and long term concerns relative to the inhalation pathway not already addressed via the Soil Reference Values (SRVs) described in the RBSE guidance document entitled "*Soil - Human Health Exposure Pathway*", whose methodology incorporate volatilization of contaminants from soil and/or suspension of particulate contaminants. Topics to be covered in the document to be developed include estimation of short and long term exposure concentrations in air using air monitoring or appropriate modeling techniques, and assessment of vapor intrusion into buildings.

Available risk-based air evaluation criteria such as the Minnesota Department of Health, Draft Health Risk Values, April 1998 (HRVs) will be used in evaluating air impacts where appropriate. Preliminary air impacts screening criteria are available for specific site use in consultation with MPCA staff assigned to the site in question. To date, the MPCA has not developed air criteria for ecological receptors. Evaluate ecological concerns due to air exposure on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with the assigned staff or the Ecological Risk Assessor.

Draft Document Availability

All draft guidelines are to be used with assistance from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency staff assigned to a specific site. Draft sections of the site evaluation manual will be available for public comment as they are completed. A photocopy fee of approximately \$0.20 per page will be charged for pages in excess of 20. To receive copies of the current and future documents or to be placed on a mailing list to receive notices regarding the guidance development efforts please send written requests to:

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Written comments regarding the guidelines may be sent to the *SRS Guidance Coordination Team* at the same address.