

Voluntary Cleanup Program

DEQ's Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) was created in 1996 by the Idaho Land Remediation Act (Idaho Code §39-72) to encourage innovation and cooperation among the state, local communities, and private parties to revitalize properties with hazardous substance or petroleum contamination. The Idaho Land Remediation Rules (IDAPA 58.01.18), adopted in 1997, detail implementation procedures for the program.



Mining reclamation remediation in progress, Ketchum, Idaho.



Before and after soil capping remediation, former Timber Treat facility, Santa, Idaho.



For More Information

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DEQ Web Resources

Application Form and Application Guidance

<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/waste-mgmt-remediation/brownfields/voluntary-cleanup-program/>



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Waste in Idaho

Idaho's Voluntary Cleanup Program



Bayhorse Mill VCP remediation site, Custer County, Idaho



Idaho Department of
Environmental Quality
www.deq.idaho.gov



How the VCP Works

Eligibility

Any legal entity recognized by law is eligible to apply to participate in the program, including individuals; associations; local, state, and federal governments; and public or private corporations.

Process

The applicant submits an application form providing information about the site ownership, location, and history, and a \$250 application fee to DEQ.

In addition, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment report that conforms to the ASTM Standard Practice 1527: Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process and identifies recognized environmental conditions must be submitted with the application.

If DEQ determines the site and applicant are eligible, the applicant then enters into a VCP Agreement with DEQ, pays an initial \$2,500 deposit for DEQ's oversight costs, and develops a cleanup plan, called a Voluntary Remediation Work Plan (VRWP). This work plan is reviewed by DEQ and made available for public comment. After any comments are satisfactorily resolved, the work plan is approved for implementation. DEQ provides oversight and assistance throughout the cleanup process.

After the cleanup is completed, the participant submits a VRWP Completion Report to DEQ, and DEQ issues a Certificate of Completion upon approval. At that point, the participant may request a Covenant Not to Sue from DEQ. These documents are recorded with the deed to the property.



Petroleum contaminated soil remediation, Parma, Idaho.

VCP Participation Benefits

- Expedited remediation process
- Avoid adversarial enforcement actions
- Seven-year partial property tax exemption upon completing cleanup
- Covenant Not to Sue from DEQ
- Use of site-specific risk-based cleanup standards
- Use of activity and limitations and environmental covenants in cleanup plans
- Lender liability protection

Occasionally, property redevelopment and reuse may be complicated if it is being transferred or its environmental status is uncertain and assurances from DEQ regarding this status are desired or required. In these instances, participating in the VCP and conducting additional assessment activities under the oversight of DEQ may clarify this uncertainty and determine whether any remedial action is needed.

If considering or working on a project where environmental concerns potentially complicate the transfer and reuse and revitalization of a property, contact DEQ to discuss the project and benefits of participating in VCP cleanup. Funding options are described on the Brownfields page at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/waste-mgmt-remediation/brownfields/>.



Contaminated soil excavation and removal, Moscow, Idaho.



Environmental well drilling in progress, Moscow, Idaho.



DEQ employee demonstrating a layer of petroleum product floating on ground water in a sample retrieved from a monitoring well.



Leaking underground storage tank excavated for removal.



Environmental site assessment using direct push drilling technology.

Get involved!
Contact your DEQ regional office.