

## HOW CLEAN IS CLEAN?

### IT IS ALL ABOUT END-USE!

#### What are the general categories of clean-up standards?

- Industrial/Commercial, Recreational, Residential
- End-use guides clean-up standards with residential standards being the highest.

#### How do government agencies establish clean-up standards?

Federal and State Government agencies use risk assessment models that assume exposure to toxics via soil, air, surface water and tap water based on typical activities of Industrial Outdoor Adult Workers, Industrial Indoor Adult Workers, Adult and Child Recreators, and Adult and Child Residents. Groundwater is included in screening levels set by EPA as well. There is a separate risk calculation used for sensitive ecological settings.

#### How do developers decide on clean-up standards for a specific site?

Entities engaged in clean-up work with State and Federal EPA officials to establish appropriate levels of clean-up and to select approved clean-up methods all of which are based on the expected end-use of the specific site. EPA encourages any entity engaged in a remediation project to work with community members and stakeholders to establish appropriate end-uses and clean-up strategies. Those receiving federal funds for assessments and clean-up are required to inform the public of their clean-up plan.

#### Where can I get more information about screening levels used to determine clean-up standards?

Table of Screening Levels (SLs) for common contaminants.

[http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/risk/human/rb-concentration\\_table/](http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/risk/human/rb-concentration_table/)

The values in these tables are generic screening values and are not final clean-up standards. They set the stage for site specific risk assessment that must be performed prior to deciding upon a remedy or clean-up standard.

#### Where is the brownfield remediation process fully explained?

This is a useful website and document that explains all the steps in brownfields remediation and redevelopment:

<http://www.brownfieldstsc.org/roadmap/index.cfm>

<http://www.brownfieldstsc.org/roadmap/pdf/BrownfieldsRoadMapEPA542-R-12-001.pdf>