

WAC 173-340-703 Selection of indicator hazardous substances.

(1) **Purpose.** When defining cleanup requirements at a site that is contaminated with a large number of hazardous substances, the department may eliminate from consideration those hazardous substances that contribute a small percentage of the overall threat to human health and the environment. The remaining hazardous substances shall serve as indicator hazardous substances for purposes of defining site cleanup requirements.

(2) **Approach.** If the department considers this approach appropriate for a particular site, the factors evaluated when eliminating individual hazardous substances from further consideration shall include:

(a) The toxicological characteristics of the hazardous substance that influence its ability to adversely affect human health or the environment relative to the concentration of the hazardous substance at the site, including consideration of essential nutrient requirements;

(b) The chemical and physical characteristics of the hazardous substance which govern its tendency to persist in the environment;

(c) The chemical and physical characteristics of the hazardous substance which govern its tendency to move into and through environmental media;

(d) The natural background concentrations of the hazardous substance;

(e) The thoroughness of testing for the hazardous substance at the site;

(f) The frequency that the hazardous substance has been detected at the site; and

(g) Degradation by-products of the hazardous substance.

(3) When the department determines that the use of indicator hazardous substances is appropriate for a particular site, it may also require biological testing to address potential toxic effects associated with hazardous substances eliminated from consideration under this subsection.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.105D RCW. WSR 01-05-024 (Order 97-09A), § 173-340-703, filed 2/12/01, effective 8/15/01.]