

WAC 173-340-7492 Simplified terrestrial ecological evaluation procedures. (1) Purpose.

(a) The simplified terrestrial ecological evaluation process is intended to identify those sites which do not have a substantial potential for posing a threat of significant adverse effects to terrestrial ecological receptors, and thus may be removed from further ecological consideration during the remedial investigation and cleanup process. For remaining sites, the process provides several options, including chemical concentrations that may be used as cleanup levels, and the choice of developing site-specific concentrations using bioassays or conducting a site-specific terrestrial ecological evaluation under WAC 173-340-7493.

(b) The process is structured with an intent to protect terrestrial wildlife at industrial or commercial sites, and terrestrial plants, soil biota and terrestrial wildlife at other sites, as provided under WAC 173-340-7490 (3)(b).

(c) The simplified terrestrial ecological evaluation procedures in subsection (2) of this section are organized to focus upon the extent of exposure, exposure pathways, and particular contaminants as key factors in evaluating ecological risk. The steps need not be followed in order, and any one step may be used to determine that no further evaluation is necessary to conclude that a site does not pose a substantial threat of significant adverse effects to terrestrial ecological receptors.

(d) If none of the simplified terrestrial ecological evaluation screening step conditions are met, the person conducting the evaluation may use the chemical concentration numbers listed in Table 749-2 as cleanup levels, or shall conduct a site-specific terrestrial ecological evaluation under WAC 173-340-7493.

(2) Process for conducting a simplified terrestrial ecological evaluation.

(a) Exposure analysis. The evaluation may be ended at a site where:

(i) The total area of soil contamination at the site is not more than 350 square feet; or

(ii) Land use at the site and surrounding area makes substantial wildlife exposure unlikely. Table 749-1 shall be used to make this evaluation.

(b) Pathways analysis. The evaluation may be ended if there are no potential exposure pathways from soil contamination to soil biota, plants or wildlife. For a commercial or industrial property, only potential exposure pathways to wildlife (e.g., small mammals, birds) need be considered. Only exposure pathways for priority chemicals of ecological concern listed in Table 749-2 at or above the concentrations provided must be considered. Incomplete pathways may be due to the presence of man-made physical barriers, either currently existing or to be placed (within a time frame acceptable to the department) as part of a remedy or land use. To ensure that such man-made barriers are maintained, a restrictive covenant shall be required by the department under WAC 173-340-440 under a consent decree, agreed order or enforcement order, or as a condition to a written opinion regarding the adequacy of an independent remedial action under WAC 173-340-515(3).

(c) Contaminants analysis. The evaluation may be ended if either of the following are true:

(i) No hazardous substance listed in Table 749-2 for which a value is listed is, or will be, present in the soil at a depth not ex-

ceeding the point of compliance established under WAC 173-340-7490(4) and at concentrations higher than the values provided in Table 749-2, using the statistical compliance methods described in WAC 173-340-740(7). An institutional control is required if the contamination is within fifteen feet of the ground surface (see WAC 173-340-7490 (4)(b)). If a hazardous substance listed in Table 749-2 does not have a value listed, then the requirements of (c)(ii) of this subsection must be met; or

(ii) No hazardous substance listed in Table 749-2 is, or will be, present in the soil within six feet of the ground surface at concentrations likely to be toxic, or with the potential to bioaccumulate, based on bioassays using methods approved by the department. An institutional control is required if the contaminant is within fifteen feet of the ground surface. If a hazardous substance listed in Table 749-2 does not have a value listed, then this subparagraph applies.

(3) **Institutional controls.** If any of the conditions listed above in subsection (2)(a)(ii) through (c) of this section are used to end the simplified terrestrial ecological evaluation, institutional controls may be needed to ensure that the condition will continue to be met in the future. Cleanup remedies that rely on chemical concentrations for industrial or commercial sites in Table 749-2 shall include appropriate institutional controls to prevent future exposure to plants or soil biota in the event of a change in land use.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.105D RCW. WSR 01-05-024 (Order 97-09A), § 173-340-7492, filed 2/12/01, effective 8/15/01.]