



ITRC Guidance Document

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Decision Making at Contaminated Sites:

Issues and Options in Human Health Risk Assessment

This ITRC document provides you with guidance to support risk assessments using site-specific approaches, scenarios, and parameters. Stepwise approaches for performing a risk assessment are readily available. Sometimes, however, default approaches must be modified to account for site-specific conditions. This document identifies a series of key issues commonly encountered when performing a site-specific human health risk assessment and offers options to address them. You can access this new document at <http://www.itrcweb.org/RISK-3/>.



Background

Regulatory agencies responsible for site cleanups develop regulations, guidance, and policies that define the use of risk assessment in the decision-making process for these sites. These agencies often define default approaches, scenarios, and parameters as a starting point for developing risk assessments and risk-based screening values. Project managers and decision makers, however, must rely on professional judgment when the default assumptions must be modified to account for site-specific conditions. While abundant resources are available for risk assessment, there are fewer resources to guide difficult technical decisions when the default assumptions do not apply.

ITRC's new document, *Decision Making at Contaminated Sites: Issues and Options in Human Health Risk Assessment* (RISK-3), offers guidance for these difficult decisions. This document identifies key issues commonly encountered when performing human health risk assessment and offers options to address them. In addition to using this document to guide site decision making, regulatory agencies can use the RISK-3 document as a resource to supplement existing guidance. Community members and other stakeholders can also use this document to better understand and evaluate risk assessment information.

How ITRC Guidance Can Help You

This ITRC guidance document is an easy-to-use, comprehensive reference to help develop site-specific risk assessments for decision making at contaminated sites. Specifically, this document:

- ▶ identifies common, key issues that arise when alternatives to default parameters and scenarios are proposed during the planning, data evaluation, toxicity, exposure assessment, and risk characterization;
- ▶ provides options to address each of the key issues;
- ▶ describes risk management and risk communication as integral parts of the decision process for risk assessment; and
- ▶ offers additional resources and tools to support decision making when alternatives to default approaches, scenarios, and parameters are proposed.



Regulatory Acceptance for New Solutions

Documents, free Internet-based training, contact information: www.itrcweb.org

If you are using risk assessments to make decisions for contaminated sites, you can achieve the maximum benefit from this document as follows:

- ▶ Share this guidance document and FREE Internet-based training with co-workers, site owners, consultants, and other stakeholders by linking from your website to: <http://www.itrcweb.org/RISK-3/>.
- ▶ Use the ITRC web-based document as a resource for developing guidance for risk assessment.
- ▶ Report to ITRC any successes or concerns related to this document, training course, or the application of risk assessment at: <http://www.itrcweb.org/feedback.asp>.
- ▶ Promote the use of this risk assessment document when speaking at conferences and meetings, or when developing curricula.

Resources

ITRC offers more information about risk assessment on its “Risk Assessment Resources and Links” page: <http://www.itrcweb.org/Team/Resources?teamID=13>. Additionally, ITRC has published the following guidance:

- ▶ *Examination of Risk-Based Screening Values and Approaches of Selected States* (RISK-1, 2005)
- ▶ *Use of Risk Assessment in Management of Contaminated Sites* (RISK-2, 2008)

FREE Internet Training Course

The Internet-based training course provides an overview of information available in the document and examples to help apply this information in practice. After participating in this ITRC training course, you will be able to apply the ITRC web-based document when developing or reviewing site-specific risk assessments to:

- ▶ Identify common issues encountered when alternatives to default approaches, scenarios, and parameters are proposed during the planning, data evaluation, toxicity, exposure assessment, and risk characterization process.
- ▶ Select options for addressing these issues.
- ▶ Recognize the value of proper planning and the role of stakeholders in the development and review of risk assessments.
- ▶ Use information to support decision making when alternatives to default approaches, scenarios, and parameters are proposed.

Registration opens 4 to 6 weeks prior to a class date at: <http://www.itrcweb.org/Training>. You can take the course “live” from the comfort of your own office, or access archives of past courses at your convenience. If you have questions after completing the online registration, call (402) 201-2419, or send an e-mail to training@itrcweb.org.

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