

Appendix C: Blank Ecoscoping Form

Site Name:
Completed by:
Date:

Instructions: Follow the italicized instructions in each section below. “Off-ramps,” where the evaluation ends before completing all of the sections, can be taken when indicated by the instructions. Comment boxes should be used to help support your answers.

1. Direct Visual Impacts and Acute Toxicity

Are direct impacts that may result from the site contaminants evident, or is acute toxicity from high contaminant concentrations suspected? *Check the appropriate box.*

- Yes – *Describe observations below and evaluate all of the remaining sections without taking any off-ramps.*
- No – *Go to next section.*

Comments:

2. Terrestrial and Aquatic Exposure Routes

Check each terrestrial and aquatic route that could occur at the site.

Terrestrial Exposure Routes

- Exposure to water-borne contaminants as a result of wading or swimming in contaminated waters or ingesting contaminated water.
- Contaminant uptake in terrestrial plants whose roots are in contact with contaminated surface water.
- Contaminant migration via saturated or unsaturated groundwater zones and discharge at upland “seep” locations (not associated with a wetland or waterbody).
- Contaminant uptake by terrestrial plants whose roots are in contact with soil moisture or groundwater present within the root zone (generally no more than 4 feet below ground surface).
- Particulates deposited on plants directly or from rain splash.
- Incidental ingestion and/or exposure while animals grub for food, burrow (up to 2 feet for small animals or 6 feet for large animals), or groom.

- Inhalation of fugitive dust or vapors disturbed by foraging or burrowing activities.
- Bioaccumulatives (other than PAHs, which bioaccumulate more readily in aquatic environments) taken up by soil invertebrates, which are in turn eaten by higher food chain organisms (see the *Policy Guidance on Developing Conceptual Site Models*).
- Other site-specific exposure pathways.

Aquatic Exposure Routes

- Contaminated surface runoff migration to water bodies through swales, drainage ditches, or overland flow.
- Aquatic receptors exposed through osmotic exchange, respiration, or ventilation of surface waters.
- Contaminant migration via saturated or unsaturated groundwater zones and discharge at “seep” locations along banks or directly to surface water.
- Deposition into sediments from upwelling of contaminated groundwater.
- Aquatic receptors may be exposed directly to contaminated sediments through foraging or burrowing, or indirectly exposed due to osmotic exchange, respiration, or ventilation of sediment pore water.
- Aquatic plants rooted in contaminated sediments.
- Bioaccumulatives (see the *Policy Guidance on Developing Conceptual Site Models*) taken up by sediment invertebrates, which are in turn eaten by higher food chain organisms.
- Other site-specific exposure pathways.

If any of the above boxes are checked, go on to the next section. If none are checked, end the evaluation and check the box below.

- OFF-RAMP: NO FURTHER ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION NECESSARY

Comments:

3. Habitat

*Check all that may apply. See *Ecoscoping Guidance* for additional help.*

- Habitat that could be affected by the contamination supports valued species (i.e., species that are regulated, used for subsistence, have ceremonial importance, have commercial value, or provide recreational opportunity).
- Critical habitat or anadromous stream in an area that could be affected by the contamination.
- Habitat that is important to the region that could be affected by the contamination.

- Contamination is in a park, preserve, or wildlife refuge.

If any of the above boxes are checked, go on to the next scoping factor. If none are checked, end the evaluation and check the box below.

- OFF-RAMP: NO FURTHER ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION NECESSARY

Comments:

4. Contaminant Quantity

Check all that may apply. See Ecoscoping Guidance for additional help.

- Endangered or threatened species are present.
- The aquatic environment is or could be affected.
- Non-petroleum contaminants may be present, or the total area of petroleum-contaminated surface soil exceeds one-half acre.

If any of the above boxes are checked, go on to the next scoping factor. If none are checked, end the evaluation and check the box below.

- OFF-RAMP: NO FURTHER ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION NECESSARY

Comments:

5. Toxicity Determination

Check all that apply.

- Bioaccumulative chemicals are present (see *Policy Guidance on Developing Conceptual Site Models*).
- Contaminants exceed benchmark levels (see the Ecological Benchmark Tool in RAIS, available at: http://rais.ornl.gov/tools/eco_search.php).

If either box is checked, complete a detailed Ecological Conceptual Site Model (see DEC's Policy Guidance on Developing Conceptual Site Models) and submit it with the form to your DEC project manager.

If neither box is checked, check the box below and submit this form to your DEC project manager.

OFF-RAMP: NO FURTHER ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION NECESSARY

Comments: