



What the Law Requires in Making Cleanup Decisions

Before making cleanup decisions,

DOE must evaluate potential cleanup technologies against criteria spelled out in a federal law called CERCLA. There are nine criteria to be considered, which are divided into three categories.

Threshold Criteria determine if the possible solution to an environmental problem protects people and the environment and meets federal and state regulations. **Balancing Criteria** are used to determine which of the criteria meeting the Threshold Criteria will work the best. **Modifying Criteria** are used to determine if the recommended solution is acceptable to Kentucky and the local community.

Every CERCLA decision process starts with an evaluation of alternatives for solving a particular environmental problem. Then, these alternatives are narrowed by applying the nine criteria in a Feasibility Study, which is illustrated here.

Does the alternative protect human health and the environment?

If not, then do not consider the alternative any further.

Does the alternative comply with federal and state regulations?

If not, then do not consider the alternative any further.

Is the alternative effective for long-term solution of the problem?

Does the alternative reduce toxicity, mobility, or the volume of the contaminant?

Is the alternative effective for short-term solution of the problem?

Can the alternative be implemented at the site of the problem?

Is the alternative cost effective?

Will regulatory agencies accept the solution?

Will the community accept the solution?

These five criteria are used to evaluate which alternative(s) best accomplish the project's cleanup goals. CERCLA also requires evaluation of the benefits and consequences of taking no action.

Additional Public Involvement

Required Public Involvement Period; Proposed Plan Issued

NO SOLUTION

Select and implement the best solution.

Threshold Criteria

Balancing Criteria

Modifying Criteria