



Have Your Say: Review of the Environmental Guideline for Contaminated Site Remediation

Reviewing our approach

In August 2023, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) will be seeking input from the public, partners and stakeholders on updates to the draft Environmental Guideline for Contaminated Site Remediation.

The draft Guideline aligns with the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, Health Canada, and other Canadian jurisdictions, as well as guidance from the United States' Environmental Protection Agency and the World Health Organization.

Why we need your input

In the Northwest Territories and across Canada, contaminated sites pose a threat to human health and the environment.

The draft Guideline reflects the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) expanded responsibilities post devolution, includes current methodologies for contaminated site remediation, and updated remediation criteria for certain parameters.

The draft Guideline:

- Reflects the expansion of the GNWT's jurisdiction to include all public lands since devolution;
- Includes additional remediation criteria for groundwater, surface water and sediment quality (previously a federal government responsibility), including for arsenic in soil of the Yellowknife and Inuvik regions;
- Clarifies the roles and responsibilities for the key participants involved in the assessment, remediation and/or management of contaminated sites;
- Describes requirements for a Qualified Professional who leads or supervises the environmental site assessment process, is accountable for documentation and quality of work, and must have the appropriate level of knowledge and experience in all aspects of contaminated site investigation, management and remediation;
- Summarizes Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley, Inuvialuit Water board and Inuvialuit Land Administration permitting requirements;

- Includes additional detail for the Contaminated Site Guideline Process including notification, site assessment, preparation and implementation of a remedial action plan or risk management plan, and site closure; and
- Contains a new section on acid rock drainage and metal leaching from quarries.

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Engagement process

The GNWT's Department of Environment and Climate Change is holding an online public submission period to gather written comments on updates to the draft Environmental Guideline for Contaminated Site Remediation.

Next steps

The GNWT will accept submissions from the public until August 31, 2023.

A What We Heard Report will be published in late 2023 summarizing input the GNWT has received during the public engagement period.

The GNWT will use the feedback to make final revisions to the draft Environmental Guideline for Contaminated Site Remediation.