

# Getting to Know the Five-Year Review

A Guide for Communities Near Federal Facilities



# Community Members Comment on the Importance of Five-Year Reviews

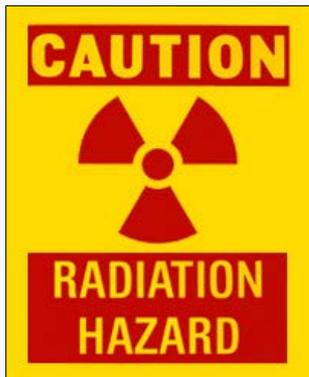
View [Getting to Know the Five-Year Review: Module 1](#) on YouTube (requires Internet connection).

## What We'll Cover

- Basics about federal facilities cleanup
- Purpose of a five-year review
- Steps in a five-year review
- Finding & interpreting key information
- Opportunities for community engagement



# Basics about Federal Facilities Cleanup



Images courtesy Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Langley Air Force Base, National Nuclear Security Administration, and U.S. Navy.



# CERCLA (a.k.a. Superfund)

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act



# Purpose of a Five-Year Review

“The purpose of a five-year review is to evaluate the implementation and performance of the remedy in order to determine if the remedy is or will be protective of human health and the environment.”

– U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



# Purpose and Goals of a Five-Year Review

View [Getting to Know the Five-Year Review: Module 2](#) on YouTube (requires Internet connection).

It's also an important resource for...

- Other federal agencies
- States and Tribal authorities
- Local governments and community groups
- The public



# Steps in a Five-Year Review

## Notify the public

- Public notices are issued when review process begins and when the final report is released

## Review key documents

- Decision documents & Remedial Action Objectives, monitoring & maintenance reports, new investigations, technical memos

## Assess contaminant levels

- Review remedy and analyze data on each contaminant

## Conduct interviews and site inspection

- May involve site workers and community members

## Write report

- Assess whether remedies are protective



# Roles and Responsibilities



## Federal Owner

- Prepares report



## State/Tribal Authorities

- Review/comment



## EPA

- Review/comment
- Confirms lead agency's assessment or issues independent assessment

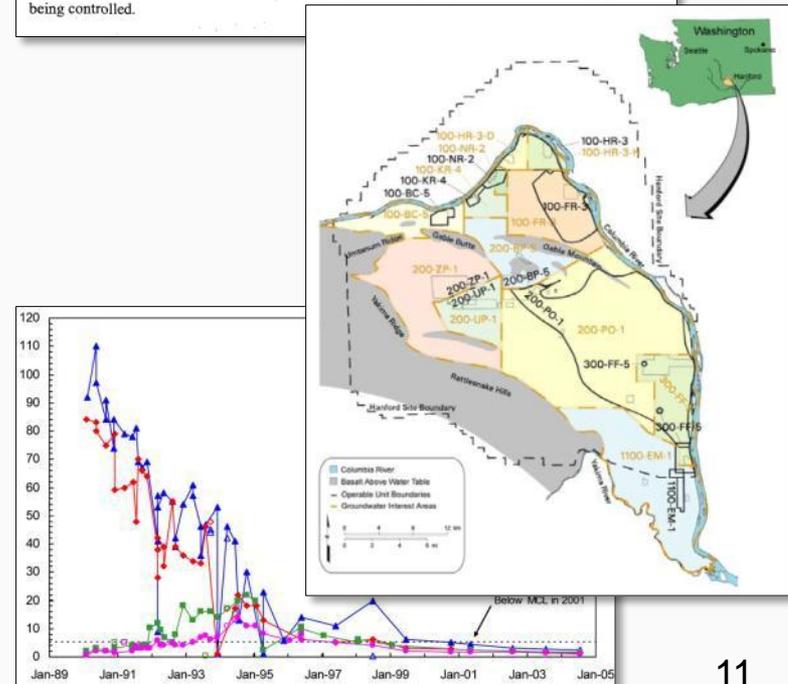


# Finding & Interpreting Key Information

- Protectiveness statements
- Issues & recommendations
- Technical assessment
- Maps & graphs

## 2.9 FT-04 PROTECTIVENESS STATEMENT

The selected remedy for FT-04 is **expected to be protective** of human health and the environment upon completion, and, in the interim, exposure pathways that could result in unacceptable risks are being controlled.



# Is the remedy protective?

Protective

Protective in the short term

Will be protective

Protectiveness deferred

Not protective



## More about protectiveness statements...

- May be several per site (one for each “operable unit, or OU”)
- May include one site-wide statement
- Reflect current health standards



Soil removal



Groundwater extraction well

Images courtesy U.S.  
Department of Energy.



## Example: Protective

*“The remedy at OU-X is protective of human health and the environment. The remedy is protective because encapsulation has taken place, and land use controls that protect the cap are working as needed to prevent exposures.”*



## Example: Protective in the Short Term

*“The remedy at OU-Y currently protects human health and the environment because land use controls to prevent groundwater use are in place, and groundwater treatment will continue until concentrations throughout the plume are below the standard/MCL. To be protective in the long term, a remaining soil hot spot will need treatment or removal.”*



## Example: Not Protective

*“The remedy at OU-Z is not protective because contaminants in surface water remain above levels required to support a cutthroat trout fishery. In order to be protective, continuing releases to surface water need additional control. Human health is not affected at this OU because contaminants are below all human health standards.”*



# Other Key Information: Issues & Recommendations

Summary of Issues  
and Recommendations

Protectiveness  
Affected Now or  
in the Future?

Responsible  
Parties

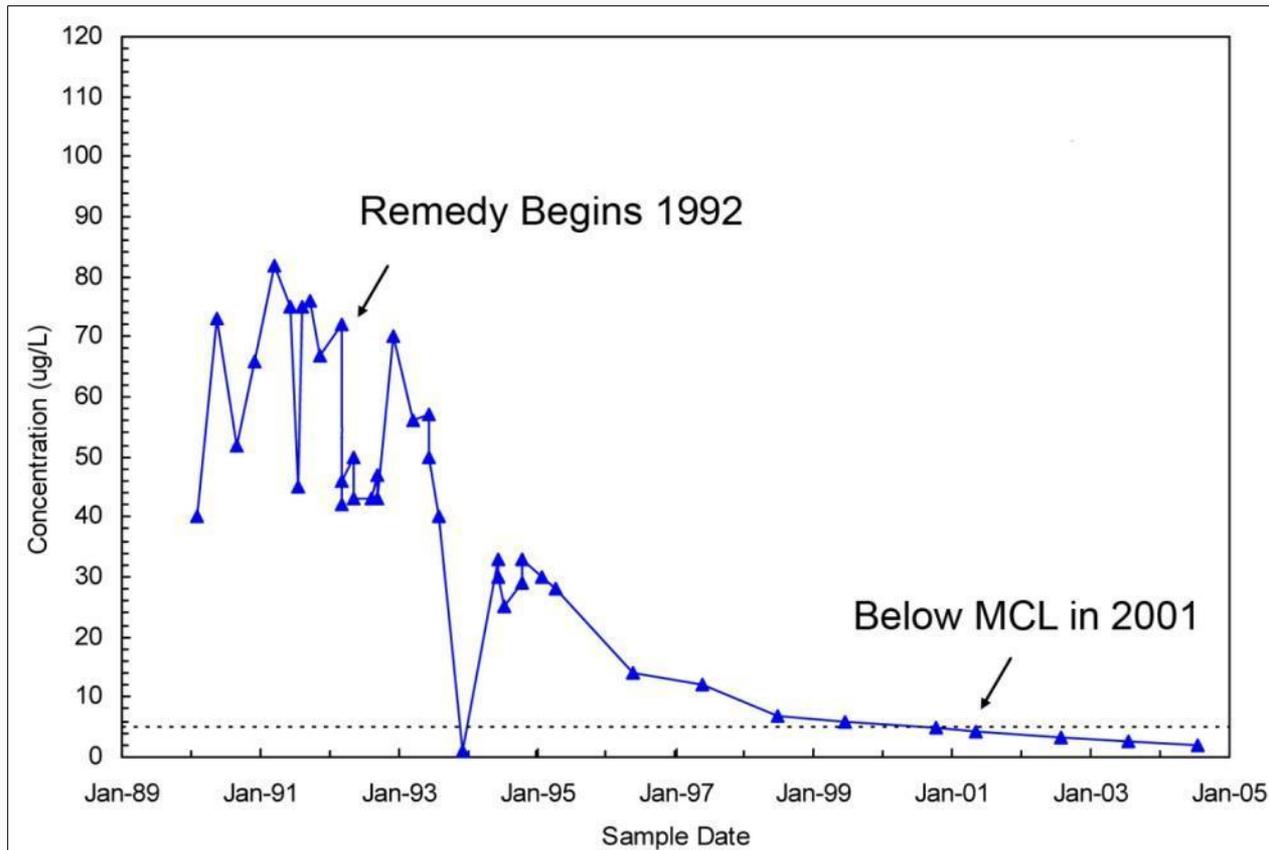
Timeline  
for Actions



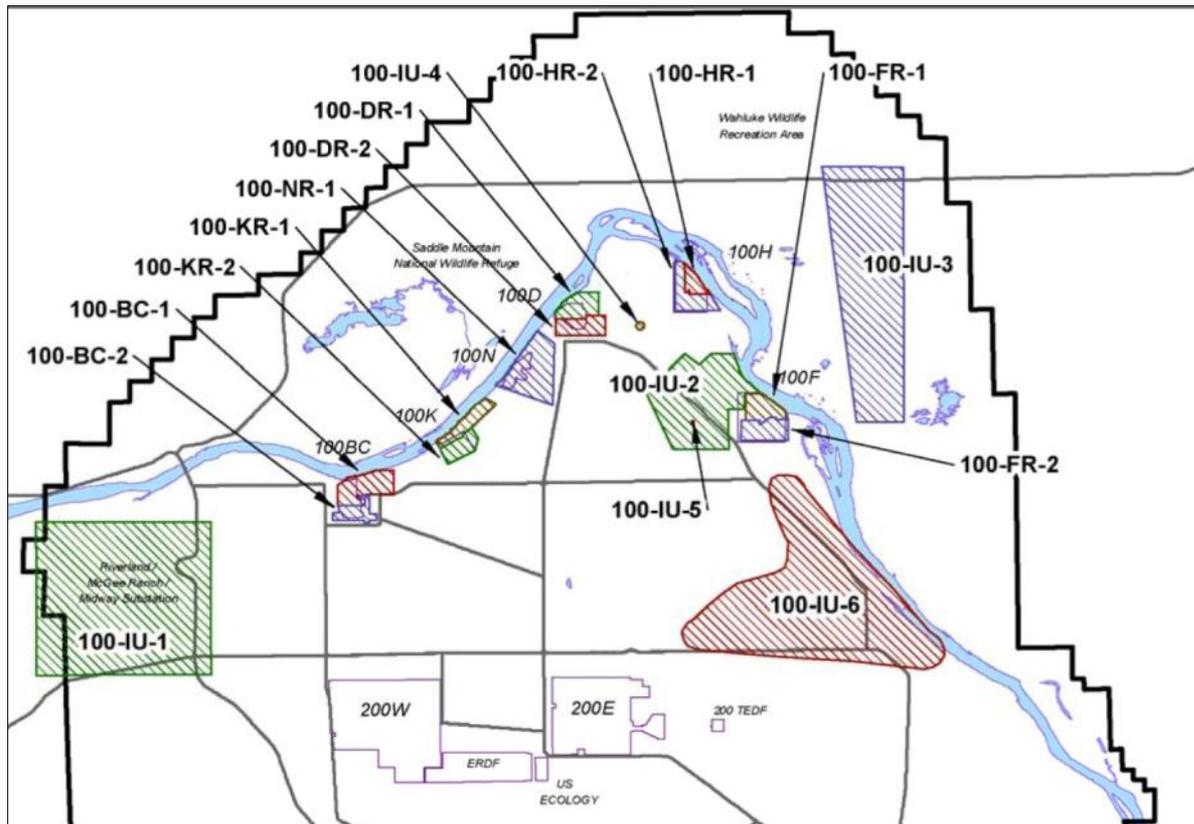
| Issues and Actions  |  | Affects Current<br>Protectiveness | May Affect Future<br>Protectiveness | Responsible<br>Organization<br>within DOE | TPA Lead<br>Regulator | Action Due<br>Date |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------|
|   |  | (Yes / No)                        | (Yes / No)                          |   |                       |                    |
| <b>100/300 Crosscutting</b>   |  |                                   |                                     |   |                       |                    |
| <b>Issue 1.</b> Additional risk assessment information is needed to evaluate the interim actions prescribed within the records of decisions and to develop final cleanup decisions. |  | No                                | Yes                                 |   |                       |                    |
|   | <b>Action 1-1.</b> Submit Draft A of the River Corridor Baseline Risk Assessment Report.         | No                                | Yes                                 | RCP                                       | EPA/WDOE              | 06/2007            |
|   | <b>Action 1-2.</b> Submit draft sampling and analysis plan for Inter-Areas Shoreline Assessment. | No                                | Yes                                 | RCP                                       | EPA/WDOE              | 08/2006            |



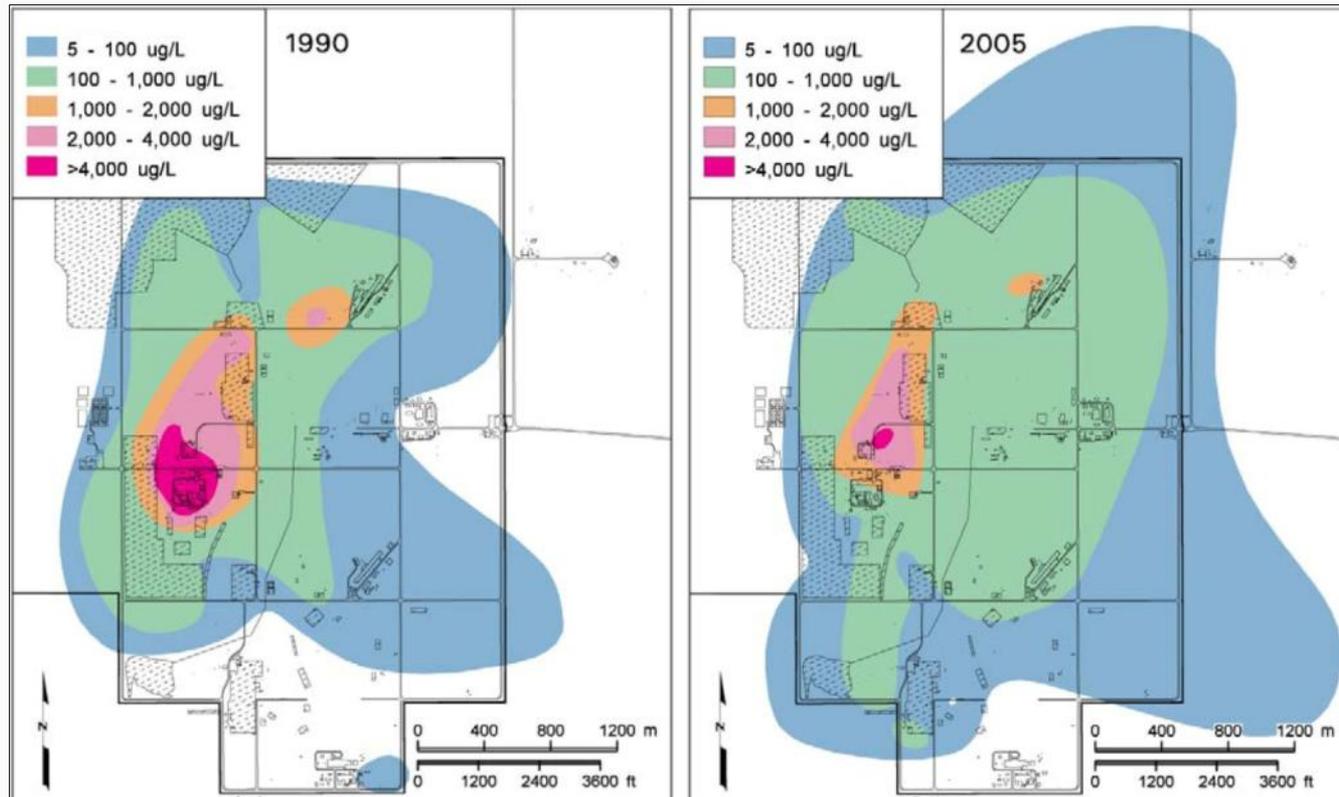
# Other Key Information: Technical Assessment



# Other Key Information: Maps



# Other Key Information: Maps



# Executive Summary

- Brief synopsis of findings
- Highlights key issues and recommendations



## A note about scope...

- Provides some background and progress since last five-year review
- But, focus is on current situation—like a snapshot



# Community Engagement



Images courtesy U.S. Department of Energy.



# The Value of Community Engagement

View [Getting to Know the Five-Year Review: Module 3](#) on YouTube (requires Internet connection).



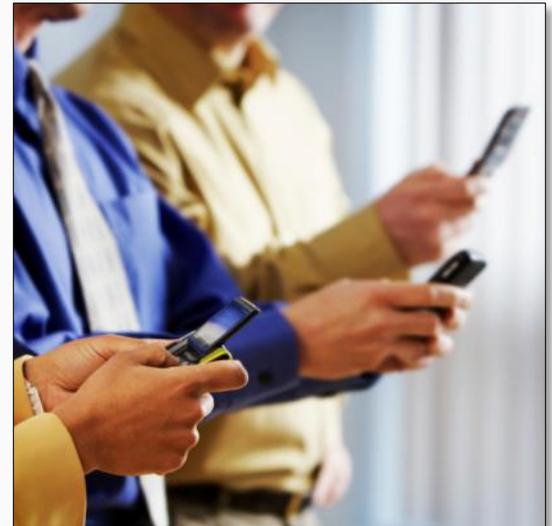
# Opportunities for Engagement

- Public notices
- Interviews
- Meetings, if applicable
- Opportunities between five-year reviews



## Points of Contact

- Site Project Manager(s)
- Lead agency public affairs representative
- EPA Community Involvement Coordinators



## For More Information

- EPA maintains several websites with information about five-year reviews:
  - All about five-year reviews:  
[www.epa.gov/superfund/fiveyearreview](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/fiveyearreview)
  - All about clean-up at federal facilities:  
<http://www.epa.gov/fedfac/>
  - Superfund community involvement site:  
<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/community/index.htm>



# Thank You!

This presentation was developed by the Five-Year Review Workgroup as part of an interagency collaboration between the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Department of Energy, and U.S. Department of the Interior.

