



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL SERVICES
GEO-ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION DIRECTIVE

SUBJECT Management of Surface Soils Removed Within Operational Right of Way.	FINAL NUMBER GE 14-01(D)	EFFECTIVE DATE 09/17/2014	VALIDATION DATE 01/26/2016	SUPERSEDES or RESCINDS
TOPIC/PROGRAM Surface Soils	WEB LINK(S) http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/TECHSERV/Pages/technicalguidance.aspx APPROVED SIGNATURE Original signed by: Susan Haupt Chief Environmental Officer			

PURPOSE

Assessment of excavated surface soils adjacent to ODOT’s highways has indicated that such soils might contain contaminants. The purpose of this Directive is to provide direction for managing surface soil excavated from within ODOT’s operational right of way.

GUIDANCE

This technical directive provides options for managing surface soil, when removal is required for construction purposes. This directive does not require soil removal; it only addresses how to manage soil that must be removed for construction purposes. Maintenance policy for materials management is covered by the ODOT Maintenance EMS program and the Blue Book. Therefore, maintenance projects are not included in this directive.

DEFINITIONS

- DEQ** - Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- ENV 16-01** – ODOT Hazardous Materials and Wastes Policy
- ENV 16-02** – ODOT Contaminated Site Management Policy
- ODOT Maintenance EMS** – Most recent version of the “ODOT Maintenance Yards Environmental Management System (EMS) Policy and Procedures Manual”
- Blue Book** – Most recent version of the “ODOT Routine Road Maintenance: Water Quality and Habitat Guide Best Management Practices.”

BACKGROUND/REFERENCE

Limited sampling of surface soils adjacent to state highways has identified the presence of contaminants that exceed DEQ’s clean fill guidance values in the top 1.5 feet. Contaminant levels are generally low enough to not require cleanup or management if the soils remain undisturbed. However, excavated soils that exceed clean fill levels must be managed per OAR 340-093 (Solid Waste General Provisions).

EXPLANATION

Based on available sampling results and knowledge of process, soils greater than 1.5 feet below grade or soils under paving (which provides a low permeability cap) can continue to be managed as clean fill and made the property of the contractor.

Management Options for soils excavated from 0 to 1.5 feet below grade adjacent to highways:

- Reuse soil within ODOT operating ROW (testing not required)
- Sample the soil, and if meets DEQ's Clean Fill Standards, it can be managed as clean fill and made the property of the contractor.
- If placing excess material off ODOT right of way, obtain land-owner approval and DEQ permit to reuse the soil off-site (characterize the excess material as it would be generated by typical excavation methods, i.e. as a single bulk material).
- Dispose at a municipal solid waste landfill or a permitted construction and demolition landfill (testing likely required, unless landfill will accept existing ODOT data).
- Work with DEQ to develop other project-specific reuse or disposal options.

These management options only apply to excavated surface soils with no known point source of contamination (e.g. from a spill, adjacent industrial land use or adjacent HazMat storage). For specific point sources, a HazMat investigation must be conducted and project specific management requirements developed in accordance with ODOT Policy ENV 16-02.

RESPONSIBILITIES

ODOT Project Leader or ODOT Local Agency Liaison: Responsible for ensuring that project teams are informed of this directive at project initiation.

Region HazMat Coordinator and designated HazMat staff: Responsible for providing technical assistance, determining the sampling and management options and responsible for working with DEQ on project-specific management options. Inform Statewide HazMat program lead of discussions with regulatory agencies.

The Statewide HazMat Program Lead: Responsible for updating this directive as information becomes available and for working with DEQ on developing statewide soil management options.

ACTION REQUIRED

This Directive is to be applied to projects that have plans, specs and estimates (PS&E) submittal dates on or after October 27th, 2014.

Frequently Asked Questions

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/GEOENVIRONMENTAL/docs/HazMat/Hazardous%20Materials%20Surface%20Soil%20QA.pdf>

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