



## Fact Sheet

# Petroleum-Contaminated Soils Policy for Reuse

## Background

Many leaking underground storage tank sites produce significant volumes of petroleum contaminated soils (PCS). Frequently the owners and operators of these sites wish to treat and reuse the PCS rather than dispose of the soils in landfills. In order to protect human health, welfare, and the environment, it is necessary for DEQ to establish a formal policy recommending standards for treatment and reuse of PCS. The purpose of the policy is to define the recommended treatment standards which should be met in order to reuse PCS.

## Applicability

This policy applies to treatment and reuse of soils contaminated by releases of petroleum products only.

## Policy Statement

1. Soils which will be used as backfill in the excavation from which they were removed are required to be treated to the matrix cleanup standard applicable to the site of origin in accordance with [OAR 340-122-335](#).
2. Soils which will be used off-site should meet the appropriate level one matrix cleanup standard for the substance released; if the soils are used off-site, the property owner receiving the treated soil should acknowledge in writing that the soils have been placed in accordance with this policy; this acknowledgement should also indicate that the owner of the property accepting the contaminated soil understands the nature and origin of the soils.
3. In all cases, reuse of the treated PCS should be such that soils are placed above the seasonal high groundwater level and are isolated from human contact or possible exposure. Treated PCS should not be placed in wetlands or within the 100-year floodplain.
4. In all cases, disposition of soils (including reuse on-site or off-site) must be reported to DEQ in accordance with [OAR 340-122-360](#).
5. In accordance with [OAR 340-122-250](#) (corrective action plan requirements), DEQ will consider alternate cleanup standards for reuse of PCS on a case by case basis; under no circumstances will DEQ approve of cleanup standards which do not adequately protect human health, safety, welfare, and the environment.

### Translation or other formats

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800-452-4011 | TTY: 711 | [deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov)

Although these treatment standards and reuse control measures are considered adequate to protect human health, safety, welfare and the environment, the Department strongly supports and encourages efforts to attain the lowest practicable treatment levels and thereby reduce the impact to the environment.

### **Disclaimer**

This policy statement is intended solely as guidance for employees of the Department of Environmental Quality. It does not constitute rulemaking by the Environmental Quality Commission and may not be relied upon to create a right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, by any person. DEQ may take action at variance with this policy statement.

### **Policy History**

Policy Number: 550  
Prepared by: Michael Fernandez  
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Date Signed: October 5, 1992

### **Program name and contacts**

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<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/tanks/pages/leaking-undergr-tanks.aspx>

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