

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON Installation Restoration Program

Glossary of Technical Terminology

The terms listed below are found in various places in this Community Involvement Plan. These terms have been included in this section for clarification of environmental cleanup processes and regulations. These are for informational purposes only and are not intended to be technical definitions.

Administrative Record (AR)	A collection of information established for all CERCLA sites made available to the public at the start of the Remedial Investigation (RI) for remedial actions, or at the time of Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for removal actions. Information in the Administrative Record supports the selected solution for remedial actions and removal actions.
Characterization	Characterization provides the basis for gathering the necessary technical information to develop, screen, analyze, and select appropriate cleanup techniques.
Clean Up	Actions taken to deal with a release or threat of release of a hazardous substance that could affect humans and/or the environment. The noun "cleanup" is sometimes used interchangeably with the terms remedial action, removal action, response action, or corrective action.
Cleanup Level	The remaining concentration of a hazardous material that is determined to be protective of human health and the environment under specific conditions of contact.
Closure	The regulatory process of deactivating, stabilizing and/or decontaminating waste management units or facilities under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).
Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act of 1992 (CERFA)	This law amends CERCLA and requires that the federal government identify property, including land and improvements such as buildings, which is not contaminated, and that offers the greatest opportunity for prompt reuse and redevelopment by the community on each facility.

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Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)	A Federal law in 1980 and updated in 1986 by the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act (SARA) that establishes a complete, legal framework for identifying, investigating, and cleaning up releases of hazardous substances to the environment. On behalf of the President, the Secretary of Defense implements investigation and cleanup measures in discussions with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
Contaminant	Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter that has an adverse affect on air, water, or soil, or that may present an imminent and substantial danger to public health or welfare.
Contamination	The presence of a minor ingredient in another chemical or mixture, often at the trace level.
Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP)	Formally established by Congress to provide centralized management for the cleanup of Department of Defense (DOD) hazardous waste sites consistent with the provisions of CERCLA as amended by SARA, the NCP, and Executive Order (E.O.) 12580.
Disposal	Final placement or destruction of wastes containing hazardous materials from removal actions or accidental releases.
Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA)	The development and evaluation of potential cleanup alternatives that compares costs associated with each alternative. The EE/CA usually also recommends the most favorable choice.
Environment	The sum of all external conditions affecting the life, development and survival of a living being.
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Established in 1970 by Presidential Executive Order, bringing together parts of various government agencies involved with control of pollution.
Environmental Restoration (ER)	Clean up and restoration of sites contaminated with hazardous substances during past production or disposal activities.
Environmental Risk	The potential or likelihood of injury, disease, or death resulting from human exposure to a potential environmental threat.
Facility	An object or location which facilitates something; a place for doing something.

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Feasibility Study (FS)	Develops and evaluates potential cleanup alternatives for a particular site. The FS also usually recommends the selection of the most favorable choice.
Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA)	An FFA is a legally binding document that outlines the schedule for completing the investigation and clean up of sites on a base.
Groundwater (GW)	The supply of fresh water found beneath the Earth's surface.
Hazardous Waste	By-products of society that can pose a substantial or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly managed.
Innovative Treatment Technologies	Newly invented processes that have been tested and used as treatments for hazardous waste or other contaminated materials.
Installation	The property owned, formerly owned, or leased by the Navy, including a main base and any associated contiguous properties identified by the same property number.
Installation Restoration Program (IR, IRP)	Established in 1984 to help identify, investigate, and clean up contamination on Department of Defense (DOD) properties; conducted with the help of CERCLA of 1980 and SARA of 1986; the DOD equivalent to the EPA Superfund program.
Long-Term Monitoring (LTM)	Monitoring to ensure that a site no longer poses a long-term hazard to human health or the environment.
National Priorities List (NPL)	The list of national priorities among the known releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants throughout the United States and its territories. CERCLA established the National Priorities List (NPL) to guide the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in determining which sites need further study.
Natural Resource	Natural resources are results of the environment and exist relatively undisturbed by mankind, in a natural form. These include both living (e.g. plants and animals) and non-living (e.g. air, water, and land) things.
No Further Action (NFA)	A site that does not present a significant threat to public health or the environment.

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Operable Unit (OU)	A group of one or more cleanup sites. Often the sites within the operable unit have similar characteristics, such as contaminants, industrial processes, or location.
Preliminary Assessment (PA)	A step in the Installation Restoration (IR) process that determines what areas of an installation have the potential for environmental contamination. Existing historical records, past procedures and other relevant data are reviewed, in addition to interviews with current and former base personnel. A list is prepared with individual sites and recommendations for either more detailed inspections or no further action.
Prevention	Measures taken to minimize the release of wastes to the environment.
Proposed Plan (PP)	The plan for a site cleanup, normally based on recommendations from the feasibility study, and available to the public for comment.
Public	Citizens directly affected by a site, other interested citizens or parties, organized groups, elected officials, and potentially responsible parties.
Public Notice	An announcement to the public of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) actions such as the issuance of a draft permit or scheduling of a meeting.
Record of Decision (ROD)	The documentation of the final remedial action for site cleanup. The ROD is based on information and technical analysis generated during the remedial investigation/feasibility study and consideration of public comments and community concerns.
Remedial Action (RA)	Involves the construction, operation, and implementation of the final cleanup remedy until confirmation that cleanup goals have been reached.
Remedial Action Process	Used as the standard method of environmental remediation at CERCLA sites.
Remedial Design (RD)	Involves the development of the actual design of the selected cleanup solution, including preparation of all technical drawings, plans and specifications needed to perform the cleanup action.

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Remedial Investigation (RI)	Characterizes the nature and amount of contamination at a hazardous waste site and estimates risks to human health and the environment posed by contaminants at the site. Depending on the type of contamination, the RI will recommend either a Remedial Action or a Removal Action.
Remedial Project Manager (RPM)	The Navy's primary point of contact involved in the cleanup of Installation Restoration (IR) sites, including coordinating, directing, and reviewing the work of other agencies, responsible parties, and contractors to ensure compliance with appropriate regulatory requirements.
Remediation	Clean up or other methods used to remove or contain a toxic spill or hazardous materials from a Superfund site.
Remediation Goal (RG)	The acceptable level of a chemical to protect human health and the environment.
Remedy in Place (RIP)	Indicates that a final remedial action has been made, used, and is operating according to the Remedial Design (RD).
Removal Action	Involves the construction, operation, and implementation of the final cleanup remedy until confirmation that cleanup goals have been reached.
Removal Action Process (non-time critical)	Used when an expedited cleanup is determined to be in the best interests of the government and the surrounding community.
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)	A federal law that requires the establishment of a management system for hazardous waste, non-hazardous solid waste, and underground storage tanks . It also provides responsibility for cleanup of pre-RCRA hazardous waste management units and non-hazardous solid waste management units.
Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)	An advisory group for the restoration process with members from the public, the Navy, and the regulatory agencies. The purpose of the RAB is to gain effective input from stakeholders on cleanup activities and increase responsiveness by the base to the community's environmental restoration concerns.
Risk Assessment	Detailed evaluation of the risk posed to human health and/or the environment by the actual or potential presence and/or use of specific pollutants.

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Site	A discrete area where suspected contamination has been verified, requiring further response action.
Site Closeout (SC)	The final step for Installation Restoration (IR) sites. This is reached when no further cleanup actions are necessary, as agreed by the regulatory agencies.
Site Inspection (SI)	The first physical inspection of a site that is used to determine whether a site actually contains contamination. If no significant contamination is found, the site is recommended for No Further Action (NFA). Otherwise, the site is recommended for a Remedial Investigation (RI).
Superfund	The program operated under the governmental authority of CERCLA and SARA that funds and carries out Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) solid waste emergency and long-term removal and remedial activities.
Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA)	Laws that updated CERCLA to include, among other changes and additions, increased information to the public and more public participation in environmental cleanup processes.
Technical Review Committee (TRC)	A group of technically aware people responsible for reviewing technical reports and data for a site. This group is established after a release or threat of a release has been confirmed on a base, normally at the end of a Preliminary Assessment or Site Investigation. Members of the TRC include, but not be limited to, a representative from the base, the EPA, appropriate state and local authorities, and a public representative of the community involved. The TRC is not an advisory group and it is not a decision-making body.
Underground Storage Tank (UST)	All tanks and attached piping containing regulated substances in which 10% or more of the tank volume (including piping) is beneath the surface of the ground.