FACT SHEET

AIR FORCE BASE CONVERSION AGENCY
OPERATING LOCATION R, RICKENBACKER AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE
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RELATIVE RISK SITE EVALUATION

INTRODUCTION

A Relative Risk Site Evaluation concept has been developed as a means of categorizing potentially contaminated sites at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base into one of three relative risk groups: High, Medium, or Low. This concept, which is being used to assess relative risks at military installations across the country, is used in conjunction with other risk management concerns to help in prioritizing remedial work at the base. It should be understood that this concept does not address the decision of whether or not remedial work is necessary. It only provides relative risk information for use in determining the general sequence in which sites will be addressed first.

A Relative Risk Site Evaluation framework for implementing the relative risk concept was developed by an interservice working group comprised of representatives from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Defense Logistics Agency. The concept, along with the framework for its implementation, has been presented to a wide audience of interested and affected parties, including members of the Federal Facilities Environmental Restoration Dialogue Committee, various congressional staff, Federal and State regulators, environment interest groups, cleanup contractors, public health professionals, and remedial project managers.

BACKGROUND

In 1984, Congress established the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) to evaluate and cleanup contamination at military facilities. The primary goal of this program is to protect human health and the environment from risks posed by sites potentially contaminated from past activities. Most of these activities occurred years before laws were passed or knowledge was obtained that these practices could pose potential problems.

This program, which the Air Force calls the Installation Restoration Program (IRP), is consistent with the provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP).

RELATIVE RISK SITE EVALUATION

The Relative Risk Site Evaluation is a means of categorizing potentially contaminated sites into High, Medium, and Low relative risk groups. The categorization of sites into relative risk groups is based on an evaluation of contaminants, pathways, and human or ecological receptors in groundwater, surface water/sediment, and surface soils. Each of these environmental media are evaluated using three factors.

Rating is based on three factors:

Contaminant Hazard Factor (CHF)
(a combined measure of contaminant concentrations in a given environmental medium)

Compare site concentrations to risk based concentration standards.
Consider carcinogenic and noncarcinoginic effects for human health.
Use water quality and sediment screening criteria for ecological.

Migration Pathway Factor (MPF)
(A measure of the movement or potential movement of contamination away from the original source)

Evaluate the paths the materials could travel.
Consider direct observations of site and analytical data results.
Consider physical site characteristics that would impede migration.

Receptor Factor (RF)
(An indication of the potential for human or ecological contact with site contaminants)

Evaluate potential for contact.
Include human or sensitive ecological species/environment.
Solicit input from stakeholders through the Restoration Advisory Board.

All sites with reliable analytical data are evaluated using this framework and available site information. Information on site contaminants, pathways, and receptors are assembled by those persons most familiar with the sites, followed by a rating of each evaluation factor. This evaluation generates a High, Medium, or Low rating for each site. The U.S. EPA, the Ohio EPA, and the community provides input into the relative risk evaluations prepared by installation personnel. An annual update of relative risk sites is required, but a site's rating may change at anytime based on new or additional information or as a result of cleanup activities.

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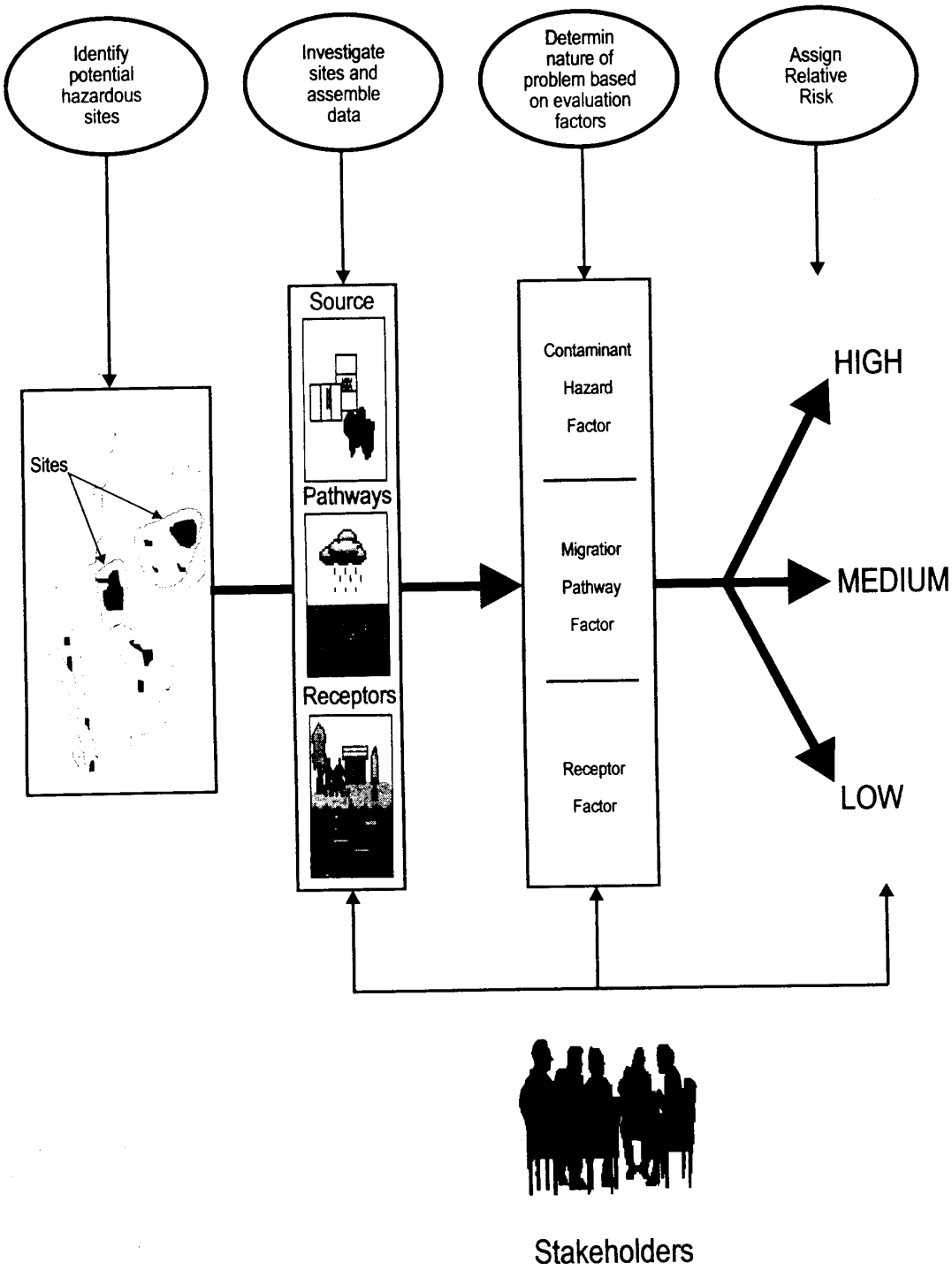
Identify potential hazardous sites
Investigate sites and assemble data
Determin nature of problem based on evaluation factors
Assign Relative Risk
Sites
Source
Pathways
Receptors
Contaminant Hazard Factor
Migratior Pathway Factor
Receptor Factor
HIGH
MEDIUM
LOW
Stakeholders

THE RELATIVE RISK MESSAGE

- Relative risk site evaluation is not a risk assessment.
- Relative risk site evaluation is not risk management.
- Relative risk site evaluation is a way to understand the relative need for action from a worst sites first perspective.
- Relative risk site evaluation reinforces the public role in identifying priorities.
- Relative risk site evaluation is an opportunity to show the Air Force's commitment to public input.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information or wish to be added to the mailing list, contact:

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