

A General Guide to Soil Relocation from Contaminated Sites

MANAGEMENT OF CONTAMINATED SOILS

Soil excavation and removal is often necessary during upgrades to commercial and industrial sites and property redevelopment. When contaminated soil is involved, special management of this material is required. Depending on the level of soil contamination, the soil may have to be disposed of at a permitted facility or, as is most commonly the case, it may be reused onsite or at another location. Relocation of soil from a property to another suitable location can facilitate the successful remediation and redevelopment of a site.

The B.C. Ministry of Environment regulates the movement of soil from contaminated sites to protect human health and the environment and to prevent the creation of new contaminated sites. The Ministry encourages the reuse of suitable soil from contaminated sites at other site locations wherever possible. This soil may be suitable for a variety of purposes including landfill cover, mine site reclamation, feedstock for cement manufacturing and various other fill activities. There may be specific legal requirements that apply when soil is moved from a source site to a receiving site.

WHO SHOULD READ THIS

- developers
- excavators
- tank removal companies
- transporters
- contractors
- current owners/operators of a site
- potential purchasers of a site



SOIL REMOVAL ACTIVITIES AND POSSIBLE SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION

There are a variety of site activities that may require soil relocation including redevelopment, site remediation, soil removal, dredging, and demolition. Gas stations, drycleaners, properties with historic underground heating oil tanks, auto repair and salvage operations, marinas, and paint manufacturing facilities are examples of sites where contaminated soil may be encountered and where the relocation of soil may be subject to regulation.

PROVINCIAL REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Soil relocation from contaminated sites in British Columbia is subject to the requirements of the *Environmental Management Act* and Contaminated Sites Regulation which are referenced at:

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/remediation/soil-relocation/index.htm> . Here you will also find information to help guide you through the regulatory process, including how to obtain a soil relocation agreement.

In addition to provincial environmental requirements, there may be additional responsibilities imposed by other government organizations. Please consult with federal and local government to determine if any other requirements exist with respect to soil removal and deposit. Please contact the Agricultural Land Commission for relocation of all soil to agricultural land. Information about the Commission can be obtained at www.alc.gov.bc.ca.

PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE

Environmental consultants can provide professional advice on soil relocation. They can investigate sites and determine the applicable regulatory requirements. Telephone directories provide listings of “Environmental Consultants”.

You can also consult the Contaminated Sites Approved Professional Society (CSAP; <http://www.csapsociety.bc.ca>) for a list of professionals qualified to investigate contaminated (or potentially contaminated) sites. The involvement of a CSAP member is required to obtain a soil relocation agreement.



NEED MORE INFORMATION?

For provincial requirements, please contact:
Land Remediation Section
Environmental Management Branch
Ministry of Environment at site@gov.bc.ca.

For municipal requirements, please contact:
City of Surrey
Engineering Department - Utilities Division
14245 – 56 Avenue, Surrey, BC V3X 3A2
Tel: 604-591-4321 Fax: 604-591-8693