

Appendix D. EPA Cleanup Terms

This glossary defines the various specific legal terms used in official documentation of work related to uranium mine cleanup. In the report, we use "remediation" less specifically than is described in this document, but were consistent with our usage of the other terms.

A-Ec

D-2

En-R

D-3

Re-Z

D-4

TERMS & ACRONYMS

DEFINITIONS

<p>Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (AOC)</p>	<p>A legal agreement signed by EPA and an individual, business, or other entity through which the violator agrees to pay for correction of violations, take the required corrective or cleanup actions, or refrain from an activity. It describes the actions to be taken, may be subject to a comment period, applies to civil actions, and can be enforced in court.</p>
<p>Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirement(s) ARAR(s)</p>	<p>Applicable requirements are those clean-up standards of control, and other substantive environmental protection requirements, criteria, or limitations promulgated under federal or state law that specifically address a hazardous substance, pollutant, contaminant, response action, location, or other circumstance at a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) site. "Relevant and appropriate" requirements are those clean-up standards which, while not "applicable" at a CERCLA site, address problems or situations sufficiently similar to those encountered at the CERCLA site that their use is well-suited to the particular site. ARARs can be action-specific, location-specific, or chemical-specific.</p>
<p>Clean-up and Remediation</p>	<p>Cleanup: Actions taken to deal with a release or threat of release of a hazardous substance that could affect humans and/or the environment.</p> <p>Remediation: Cleanup or other methods used to remove or contain a toxic spill or hazardous materials from a Superfund site.</p>
<p>Closed</p>	<p>Portals, vents, adits, and other openings have been blocked or backfilled to prevent future entry by humans (some have bat gates which do not fully close the opening but use bars to keep humans out and allow bats and small animals to enter).</p>
<p>Consent decree / Consent Order (CD)</p>	<p>A legal document, approved by a judge, that formalizes an agreement reached between EPA and potentially responsible parties (PRPs) through which PRPs will conduct all or part of a cleanup action at a Superfund site; cease or correct actions or processes that are polluting the environment; or otherwise comply with EPA initiated regulatory enforcement actions to resolve the contamination at the Superfund site involved. The consent decree describes the actions PRPs will take and may be subject to a public comment period.</p>
<p>Ecological Restoration</p>	<p>The process of repairing damage caused by humans to the diversity and dynamics of indigenous ecosystems.</p>

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DEFINITIONS

Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis (EA/CA)	[Federal] An EE/CA is an analysis of removal alternatives for a site, similar to a feasibility study. Upon completion, the EE/CA must be made available for a 30-day public comment period. Upon a timely request, the comment period will be extended by a minimum of 15 days.
Environmental Remediation	Environmental Remediation supports the immediate and long-term activities associated with the correcting and offsetting of environmental deficiencies or imbalances, including restoration activities. [EPA BRM]
In-process	An agency is conducting ongoing activities that should lead to reclamation or remediation such as negotiations with potentially responsible parties, a screening report, engineering evaluation/cost analysis, or a remedial investigation/feasibility study.
Judicial Consent Decree (CD)	A consent decree (CD) is a legal agreement entered into by the United States (through EPA and the Department of Justice) and PRPs. CDs are lodged with a court. Consent decrees are the only settlement type that EPA can use for the final cleanup phase (remedial action) at a Superfund site. EPA also uses CDs to recover cleanup costs in cost recovery and cash-out settlements and on rare occasions to perform removal work or remedial investigations/feasibility studies. A consent decree is final when it is approved and entered by a U.S. district court.
Land Remediation	The return of land to the original uncontaminated state. [Adapted from USDA National Agricultural Library Thesaurus]
Not Reclaimed	No work has been performed to reclaim, remediate, or mitigate physical and environmental hazards. No information is available for these sites, and the status is typically unknown.
Partially Reclaimed	Typically, some physical hazards have been addressed. The reclamation/remediation is phased, and not all phases are complete.
Permitted	Operator has a reclamation bond with a regulatory agency. And/or privately owned, and owner is responsible for reclamation/remediation. Although a claim may have been filed on BLM land, this does not mean the individual is responsible for a mine located within the claim.
Reclamation	Process of restoring surface environment to acceptable pre-existing conditions. Includes surface contouring, equipment removal, well plugging, re-vegetation, etc.[DOE Energy Information Administration Glossary]

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Reclamation Area	Surface area of a coal mine which has been returned to required contour and on which revegetation (specifically, seeding or planting) work has commenced. [40 CFR 434.11 (CFR 2013)]
Reclamation Plan	Plan detailing activities and milestones to accomplish reclamation of impoundments or piles containing uranium byproduct material or tailings. Activities and milestones to be addressed include, but are not limited to, dewatering and contouring of conventional impoundments and heap leach piles, and removal and disposal of non-conventional impoundments. A reclamation plan prepared and approved in accordance with 10 CFR part 40, Appendix A is considered a reclamation plan in this subpart. [40 CFR 61.251 (CFR 2017)]
Reclamation Site	Generally, a waste site which has the potential of being restored to productive uses.
Remediation	Cleanup or other methods used to remove or contain a toxic spill or hazardous materials from a Superfund site.
Remediation Optimization	Efforts at any phase of the removal or remedial response to identify and implement specific actions that improve the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of that phase. Such actions may also improve the remedy's protectiveness and long-term implementation which may facilitate progress towards site completion. To identify these opportunities, regions may use a systematic site review by a team of independent technical experts, apply techniques or principles from Green Remediation or Triad, or apply other approaches to identify opportunities for greater efficiency and effectiveness. Optimization support was known by the remedial phases or for the type of support provided. These terms and acronyms have been phased out.
Remediation Services	This industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in one or more of the following: (1) remediation and cleanup of contaminated buildings, mine sites, soil, or ground water; (2) integrated mine reclamation activities, including demolition, soil remediation, waste water treatment, hazardous material removal, contouring land, and revegetation; and (3) asbestos, lead paint, and other toxic material abatement. [NAICS]
Restoration	Return of an ecosystem to a close approximation of its presumed condition prior to disturbance.