



The Office of Environmental Remediation provides for clean, safe, and productive West Virginia communities by assessing and remediating environmental resources and restoring contaminated properties to beneficial use.

A CITIZEN'S GUIDE
TO
THE WEST VIRGINIA

VOLUNTARY
REMEDIATION
P R O G R A M

Office of Environmental Remediation
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BACKGROUND

The West Virginia Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) was established in 1997 through the Voluntary Remediation and Redevelopment Act (W. Va. Code § 22-22), to encourage voluntary cleanup and redevelopment of abandoned or under-utilized contaminated properties by providing certain environmental liability protections under West Virginia Law.

The Voluntary Remediation and Redevelopment Rule (W. Va. Legislative Rule 60CSR3) describes the administrative process for this program. The VRP is a structured and predictable—yet flexible—mechanism to achieve compliance with applicable state and federal environmental requirements.

The Office of Environmental Remediation (OER) within the Division of Land Restoration (DLR) at the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) administers the VRP. Licensed Remediation Specialists (LRS), licensed by WVDEP and hired by program applicants, supervise all remediation activities and prepare required reports for OER's approval.

OVERVIEW

The VRP encourages companies, communities, and other stakeholders to voluntarily remediate sites and return them to productive use so that undeveloped land remains pristine. Parties that remediate sites through the VRP use risk-based cleanup standards that consider site-specific conditions and future land use.



P&G Tabler Station, Martinsburg, WV

The VRP identifies and addresses potential contamination at sites using a series of steps, including:

1. Environmental Assessment
2. Risk Assessment
3. Remediation
4. Long-term oversight, as necessary

Decisions on how to remedy a site in the VRP are made based on risks the site may pose to human health and the environment. Established cleanup standards are used to decide if a site represents an unacceptable risk. Remedies such as removal, treatment, and control of the contamination are used, alone or in combination, to address these risks.

The VRP is protective of communities and the environment, while promoting economic development in West Virginia.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public notification and participation is an integral part of the Voluntary Remediation Program. All site information is made available to the public, and notifications are published when an application is received and a cleanup method is approved. If public funds are used for remediation, a much higher degree of public involvement is required.



BENEFITS TO COMMUNITIES

Cleanup and development of contaminated properties reinvigorates communities and jump-starts local economies. Communities experience many environmental, social, and economic benefits, including:

- Reduced or eliminated exposure to contamination
- Improved public health and safety
- Decreased blight and crime
- Preservation of historic landmarks
- Conservation of greenspaces
- Increased private investment
- Created and retained jobs
- Enhanced property values and tax base
- Increased revenue for public services

BENEFITS TO APPLICANTS

In addition to ultimately receiving a Certificate of Completion that provides liability protection, applicants experience other benefits from participation in the Voluntary Remediation Program, including:

- Structured and predictable process
- Prompt guidance and oversight from WVDEP
- Opportunity to remediate a site to risk-based standards based on current and future property use
- Redevelopment cost savings from use of existing infrastructure
- Enhanced property value due to elimination of risks for lenders or buyers
- Possible access to financial incentives, including state and federal grants and loans

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(as of June 30, 2017)

247 SITES ENROLLED
IN PROGRAM

6,792 TOTAL ACRES ENROLLED
IN PROGRAM

164 CERTIFICATES OF
COMPLETION ISSUED

1,685 TOTAL ACRES
REMEDIED