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Description of Performance Standards

Performance standards are established by the USEPA to guide the RD Team and RA Team toward successful completion of the remedial activities while minimizing impacts on the community and the environment. Performance standards have been developed to provide the RD and RA Teams with the flexibility to complete the remedy both efficiently and safely.

The standards developed for this project are performance-based rather than prescriptive: A performance-based approach describes the required performance (i.e., the parameters by which the task will be completed). These parameters could include requirements such as how fast the task shall be done, when it shall be done, and what impacts shall be prevented while it is in progress. A prescriptive approach describes a specific procedure or technology that will comply with certain standards. For example, a prescriptive approach would specify that a specific type of equipment or process be used to complete a certain task. Prescriptive standards work well for typical, ordinary actions where extensive experience and precedence have been established. A performance-based approach has the advantage of allowing innovation and optimization during the course of the RA.