

**NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT TPH SCREENING GUIDELINES**  
**October 2006**

In some instances, it may be practical to assess areas of soil contamination that are the result of releases of petroleum products such as jet fuel and diesel, using total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) analyses. TPH results may be used to delineate the extent of petroleum-related contamination at these sites and ascertain if the residual level of petroleum products in soil represents an unacceptable risk to future users of the site. Petroleum hydrocarbons represent complex mixtures of compounds, some of which are regulated constituents and some compounds that are not regulated. In addition, the amount and types of the constituent compounds in a petroleum hydrocarbon release differ widely depending on what type of product was spilled and how the spill has weathered. This variability makes it difficult to determine the toxicity of weathered petroleum products in soil solely from TPH results; however, these results can be used to approximate risk in some cases, depending upon the nature of the petroleum product, the release scenario, how well the site has been characterized, and anticipated potential future land uses. In some cases, site clean up cannot be based solely on results of TPH sampling. The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) will make these determinations on a case by case basis. If NMED determines that additional data are necessary, these TPH guidelines must be used in conjunction with the screening guidelines for individual petroleum-related contaminants in Table 3 and other contaminants, as applicable.

The screening levels for each petroleum carbon range from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) Volatile Petroleum Hydrocarbons/Extractable Petroleum Hydrocarbons (VPH/EPH) approach and the percent composition table below were used to generate screening levels corresponding to total TPH. Except for waste oil, the information in the compositional assumptions table was obtained from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection guidance document *Implementation of the MADEP VPH/EPH Approach* (October 31, 2002). TPH toxicity was based only on the weighted sum of the toxicity of the hydrocarbon fractions listed in Table 1.


**Table 1. TPH Compositional Assumptions in Soil**

<b>Petroleum Product</b>	<b>C11-C22 Aromatics</b>	<b>C9-C18 Aliphatics</b>	<b>C19-C36 Aliphatics</b>
Diesel #2/ new crankcase oil	60%	40%	0%
#3 and #6 Fuel Oil	70%	30%	0%
Kerosene and jet fuel	30%	70%	0%
Mineral oil dielectric fluid	20%	40%	40%
Unknown oil <sup>a</sup>	100%	0%	0%
Waste Oil <sup>b</sup>	0%	0%	100%

<sup>a</sup> Sites with oil from unknown sources must be tested for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), metals, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) to determine if other potentially toxic constituents are present. The TPH guidelines in Table 2 are not designed to be protective of exposure to these constituents therefore they must be tested for, and compared to, their individual NMED soil screening guidelines.

<sup>b</sup> Compositional assumption for waste oil developed by NMED is based on review of chromatographs of several types of waste oil. Sites with waste oil must be tested for VOCs, SVOCs, metals, and PCBs to determine if other potentially toxic constituents are present. The TPH guidelines in Table 2 are not designed to be protective of exposure to these constituents therefore they must be tested for, and compared to, their individual NMED soil screening guidelines.

A TPH screening guideline was calculated for each of the types of petroleum product based on the assumed composition from Table 1 for petroleum products and the direct soil standards incorporating ceiling concentrations given in the MADEP VPH/EPH Excel spreadsheet for each of the carbon fractions. Groundwater concentrations are based on the weighted sum of the noncarcinogenic toxicity of the petroleum fractions.

Method 1 from the MADEP VPH/EPH document was applied, which represents generic cleanup standards for soil and groundwater. Method 1 applies if contamination exists in only soil and groundwater. The MADEP VPH/EPH further divides groundwater into standards. Standard GW-1 applies when groundwater may be used for drinking water purposes. GW-1 standards are based upon ingestion and use of groundwater as a potable water supply. The TPH screening guidelines for sites with potable groundwater  presented in Table 2a.

**Table 2a. TPH Screening Guidelines for Potable Groundwater (GW-1)**

TPH			Concentration in Groundwater (mg/L)
Petroleum Product	Residential Direct Exposure (mg/kg)	Industrial Direct Exposure (mg/kg)	
Diesel #2/crankcase oil	520	1120	1.72
#3 and #6 Fuel Oil	440	890	1.34
Kerosene and jet fuel	760	1810	2.86
Mineral oil dielectric fluid	1440	3040	3.64
Unknown oil <sup>a</sup>	200	200	0.2
Waste Oil <sup>b</sup>	2500	5000	Petroleum-Related Contaminants
Gasoline	Not applicable	Not applicable	Petroleum-Related Contaminants
<p><sup>a</sup> Sites with oil from unknown sources must be tested for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), metals, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) to determine if other potentially toxic constituents are present. The TPH guidelines in Table 2 are not designed to be protective of exposure to these constituents therefore they must be tested for, and compared to, their individual NMED soil screening guidelines.</p> <p><sup>b</sup> Compositional assumption for waste oil developed by NMED is based on review of chromatographs of several types of waste oil. Sites with waste oil must be tested for VOCs, SVOCs, metals, and PCBs to determine if other potentially toxic constituents are present. The TPH guidelines in Table 2 are not designed to be protective of exposure to these constituents therefore they must be tested for, and compared to, their individual NMED soil screening guidelines.</p>			

The second standard is GW-2, which is applicable for sites where the depth to groundwater is less than 15 feet from the ground surface and within 30 feet of an occupied structure. The structure may be either residential or industrial. GW-2 standards are based upon “inhalation exposures that could occur to occupants of the building impacted by volatile compounds, which partition from the groundwater” (MADEP 2001). The GW-2 screening guidelines ONLY apply for the evaluation of inhalation exposures. If potential ingestion or contact with contaminated soil and/or

groundwater could occur, then the screening guidelines provided in Table 2.a should be applied. Table 2.b lists the TPH screening guidelines for the inhalation scenario.

**Table 2b. TPH Screening Guidelines – Vapor Migration and Inhalation of Groundwater (GW-2)**

TPH			Concentration in Groundwater (mg/L)
Petroleum Product	Residential Direct Exposure (mg/kg)	Industrial Direct Exposure (mg/kg)	
Diesel #2/crankcase oil	880	2200	30.4
#3 and #6 Fuel Oil	860	2150	35.3
Kerosene and jet fuel	940	2350	15.7
Mineral oil dielectric fluid	1560	3400	10.4
Unknown oil <sup>a</sup>	800	2000	50.0
Waste Oil <sup>b</sup>	2500	5000	Petroleum-Related Contaminants
Gasoline	Not applicable	Not applicable	Petroleum-Related Contaminants

<sup>a</sup> Sites with oil from unknown sources must be tested for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), metals, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) to determine if other potentially toxic constituents are present. The TPH guidelines in Table 2 are not designed to be protective of exposure to these constituents therefore they must be tested for, and compared to, their individual NMED soil screening guidelines.

<sup>b</sup> Compositional assumption for waste oil developed by NMED is based on review of chromatographs of several types of waste oil. Sites with waste oil must be tested for VOCs, SVOCs, metals, and PCBs to determine if other potentially toxic constituents are present. The TPH guidelines in Table 2 are not designed to be protective of exposure to these constituents therefore they must be tested for, and compared to, their individual NMED soil screening guidelines.

Mineral oil based hydraulic fluids can be evaluated for petroleum fraction toxicity using the screening guidelines from Tables 2a and 2b specified for waste oil, because this type of hydraulic fluid is composed of approximately the same range of carbon fractions as waste oil. However, these hydraulic fluids often contain proprietary additives that may be significantly more toxic than the oil itself; these additives must be considered on a site- and product-specific basis (see ATSDR hydraulic fluids profile reference). **Use of alternate screening guideline values requires prior written approval from the New Mexico Environment Department.** TPH screening guidelines in Tables 2a and 2b must be used in conjunction with the screening levels for petroleum-related contaminants given in Table 3 because the TPH screening levels are NOT designed to be protective of exposure to these individual petroleum-related contaminants. Table 3 petroleum-related contaminants screening levels are based on the *NMED Technical Background Document for Development of Soil Screening Levels, Rev 4.0 (June 2006)*.

The list of petroleum-related contaminants does not include polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) with individual screening levels that would exceed the total TPH screening levels (acenaphthene, anthracene, flouranthene, flourene, and pyrene). In addition, these TPH screening guidelines are based solely on human health, not ecological risk considerations, protection of surface water, or

potential indoor air impacts from soil vapors. Potential soil vapor impacts to structures or utilities are not addressed by these guidelines. Site-specific investigations for potential soil vapor impacts to structures or utilities must be done to assure that screenings are consistently protective of human health, welfare or use of the property. NMED believes that use of these screening guidelines will allow more efficient screenings of petroleum release sites at sites while protecting human health and the environment. Copies of the references cited below are available on the MADEP website at [http://www.state.ma.us/dep/bwsc/vph\\_eph.htm](http://www.state.ma.us/dep/bwsc/vph_eph.htm) and the NMED website at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/HWB/guidance.html>.

**Revised Table 3. Petroleum-Related Contaminants Screening Guidelines**

Petroleum-Related Contaminants	Values for Direct Exposure to Soil		NMED DAF <sup>a</sup> 20 GW Protection (mg/kg in soil)	NMED DAF <sup>b</sup> 1 GW Protection (mg/kg in soil)
	NMED Residential SSL (mg/kg)	NMED Industrial SSL (mg/kg)		
Benzene	1.03E+01	2.58E+01	2.01E-02	1.00E-03
Toluene	2.52E+02	2.52E+02	2.17E+01	1.08E+00
Ethylbenzene	1.28E+02	1.28E+02	2.02E+01	1.01E+00
Xylenes <sup>c</sup>	8.20E+01	8.20E+01	2.06E+00	1.03E-01
Naphthalene	7.95E+01	3.00E+02	3.94E-01	1.97E-02
2-Methyl naphthalene <sup>d</sup>	5.00E+02	1.00E+03	---	---
Benzo(a)anthracene	6.21E+00	2.34E+01	1.09E+01	5.43E-01
Benzo(b)fluoranthene	6.21E+00	2.34E+01	3.35E+01	1.68E+00
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	6.21E+01	2.34E+02	3.35E+02	1.68E+01
Benzo(a)pyrene	6.21E-01	2.34E+00	2.78E+00	1.39E-01
Chrysene	6.15E+02	2.31E+03	3.48E+02	1.74E+01
Dibenz(a,h)anthracene	6.21E-01	2.34E+00	1.04E+01	5.18E-01
Indeno(1,2,3-c,d)pyrene	6.21E+00	2.34E+01	9.46E+01	4.73E+00
<sup>a</sup> DAF - Dilution Attenuation Factor <sup>b</sup> For contaminated soil in contact with groundwater. <sup>c</sup> Based upon total xylenes <sup>d</sup> No NMED value available, value taken from Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0985, 4/3/06. <sup>e</sup> No NMED value available and leachability-based value for DAF =1 or 20 not established in the Massachusetts Contingency Plan, 310 CMR 40.0985, 4/3/06.				

References

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). 1997. Toxicological Profile for Hydraulic fluids.

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