

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND VALIDATION OF FORMER SERVICE STATION SITES

The Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Contaminated Sites (ANZECC/NHMRC June 1992) and the ACT Environment Protection Authority, Contaminated Sites Environment Protection Policy (Contaminated Sites EPP) 2009 list service stations, oil production, and oil storage as specific industries and land uses which have been associated with site contamination. The exact level of site contamination associated with any land use will depend on the standard of management practised at that site.

All sites known to have had above ground or underground fuel storage tanks are considered to be potentially contaminated until investigated and assessed and shown to be free of contamination.

Where facilities are to be removed each site must be assessed and remediated, if necessary, in accordance with the following legislation and guidelines, which have been endorsed for use in the ACT by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA):

- > *Environment Protection Act 1997* and Environment Protection Regulation 2005
- > ACT EPA, Environmental Guidelines for Service Station Sites and Hydrocarbon Storage, January 2014
- > ACT EPA, Contaminated Sites Environment Protection Policy, 2009
- > NEPC, Assessment of Site Contamination, National Environment Protection Measure, December 1999 as amended May 2013 (ASC NEPM 2013)
- > NSW EPA 2011, Guidelines for Consultants Reporting on Contaminated Sites.

This is not an exhaustive list, for more details of guidelines endorsed for use in the ACT refer to the Contaminated Sites EPP.

The consultant/contractor(s) conducting the works must obtain all necessary approvals and endorsements from Access Canberra prior to the commencement of works.

The person(s) commissioning the assessment is required to engage an EPA approved independent environmental auditor (contaminated sites) to assess the consultant's proposed sampling, assessment, remediation and validation procedures.

If the audit is a statutory audit under the *Environment Protection Act 1997* (the Act) or another Act of the Territory (eg. conditions of development approval under the *Planning and Development Act 2007*), the auditor is required under Section 76A of the Act to notify the EPA, in writing, within seven working days of their engagement to undertake the audit. Please note that this notification will result in the site being placed on the Register of contaminated sites.

The proposed scope of works including, as necessary, the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and Occupational Health and Safety Plan are required to be reviewed by the auditor and a copy of the auditor's endorsement of the RAP provided to the EPA before any remedial works are to commence onsite.

Note: Assessment of groundwater conditions at a service station site which is being audited is required in all cases with the establishment of a minimum of three groundwater bores to determine the status of the groundwater.

In accordance with the Contaminated Sites EPP a copy of the Auditor's draft audit report and draft site audit statement into the site's suitability for its proposed and permitted uses must be provided to the EPA for review and comment prior to completion of the final site audit statement and report. The site audit statement and report must be prepared in general accordance with the guidelines of the state regulatory authority responsible for accrediting the auditor using ACT EPA templates where appropriate.

For more information

Contact the Environment Protection Authority by calling Access Canberra on 13 22 81.

Go to www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au for more information relating to Environment Protection Authority.

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