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PENNSYLVANIA UPDATES CLEANUP STANDARDS, INCLUDING PFAS COMPOUNDS

On November 20, 2021, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) published updates to the regulations for the administration of the Land Recycling and Environmental Remediation Standards Act, known as Act 2. The most significant change is the update of the Act 2 Statewide Health Standards (SHS) for soil and groundwater, known as Medium-Specific Concentrations (MSCs), to incorporate new toxicological and exposure information on about 400 chemical substances. The revised SHS became effective on the date of publication. Compliance with MSCs is required for Act 2 remediation and storage tank cleanups in order to demonstrate attainment under the SHS. MSCs are also used to evaluate the type of stormwater permit (General or Individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit) needed for construction projects.

Approximately 70% of the soil MSCs and 45% of groundwater MSCs have changed; most of these are now more stringent. In addition, MSCs were added for three per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA), Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) and Perfluorobutane Sulfonate (PFBS). These are the first remediation criteria established for PFAS by PADEP. The PADEP also updated the screening criteria used to evaluate the vapor intrusion pathway for volatile contaminants in groundwater and/or soil into indoor air.

If you have questions about how these updates will affect your Site, please contact your Langan project manager or one of our Pennsylvania environmental regulatory experts:



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