

| OCTOBER 2024 |

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY VAPOR INTRUSION GUIDANCE UPDATE

This Fall, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) is updating their guidance for evaluating vapor intrusion (VI) at environmentally impacted sites. VI is the migration of contaminant vapors from the subsurface into buildings. VI often represents a complete exposure pathway that poses a potential risk to site receptors (e.g., building occupants). ODEQ's current VI Guidance was published in 2010. An updated Draft VI Guidance was published for public comment in March 2024, and ODEQ expects to publish their final updated VI Guidance in Fall 2024.

A goal of the updated VI Guidance is to align the screening methods and risk-based concentrations (RBCs) with current data and information, standards of practice, and federal VI screening levels published by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The updated VI Guidance aims to improve data consistency and quality for site evaluation and improve ODEQ's ability to protect site users from potential VI exposure risk. More specifically, the updated VI Guidance is expected to include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Revised RBCs based on updated attenuation factors;
- Removal of soil risk-based concentrations and an overall reduction in the reliance on soil data, with an emphasis on soil vapor data to evaluate VI potential;
- Decision flow charts for petroleum and non-petroleum impacted sites;
- Acute and short-term exposure RBCs for specific compounds (e.g., trichloroethene);
- A revised approach for demonstrating biodegradation of petroleum;
- Additional information regarding VI mitigation technologies and rebound assessments;
- A response matrix for indoor air concentrations exceeding RBCs; and
- Establishing performance expectations for mitigation systems and ongoing monitoring.

What this means for you: New projects under ODEQ oversight must adhere to the revised RBCs and standards in the updated VI Guidance. Existing projects regulated under ODEQ may need to adhere to revised RBCs and standards presented in the updated VI Guidance; however, this will be determined case-by-case. For completed and approved projects, reassessment may be conducted case-by-case, typically if a new decision is requested or required.

Please see the following link to ODEQ's website for updated information on the draft and final VI Guidance documents: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/hazards-and-cleanup/env-cleanup/pages/vapor-intrusion.aspx>

To discuss this matter and how it may impact your projects, please contact your Langan Project Manager or:



Jessica Schaettle, PE
Project Engineer
jschaettle@langan.com
510.874.7082