



## Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

### Voluntary Remediation Program

### Green and Sustainable Remediation Policy

#### Summary

The mission of the WDEQ is: *"To protect, conserve and enhance the quality of Wyoming's environment for the benefit of current and future generations."* The VRP is a voluntary program whereby responsible parties investigate and remediate contaminated soil, groundwater and indoor air. Through the VRP's Green and Sustainable Remediation (GSR) Policy, the VRP will continue to investigate and remediate contaminated sites while ensuring that overall environmental impacts as well as the social and economic sustainability of site cleanup activities are taken into consideration.

#### Policy Statement

The WDEQ VRP will encourage, support and implement GSR best management practices (BMPs) to lessen the overall environmental impacts and increase the sustainability of remedies associated with the cleanup of VRP sites. These BMPs and other applicable GSR concepts will be applied to both current and future cleanups of contaminated sites. This policy does not modify or replace existing program goals. This policy applies to all phases of a project, including assessment, investigation, remedial alternatives evaluation, remedy selection, remedy implementation and design and O&M. It is not intended to encourage or justify implementation of less effective or less protective remedies when a more effective/protective remedy is appropriate.

#### Implementation

The policy for GSR is intended to be used by WDEQ VRP staff as well as Volunteers, consultants, contractors and other responsible parties. The policy does not, however, create any substantive or procedural rights enforceable by the WDEQ. Responsible parties are still required to satisfy the overall approach to remediation (§ 35-11-1606(b)) and the balancing criteria (§ 35-11-1605(b)) of the Wyoming Environmental Quality Act while participating in the VRP.

The VRP staff will continue to research and identify guidelines and tools that help to implement and evaluate GSR practices. The VRP staff will encourage, through collaboration with responsible parties, the advancement of GSR efforts in Wyoming partly through implementing GSR BMPs. A separate guidance document, "VRP Green and Sustainable Remediation, Best Management Practices," lists applicable GSR BMPs and links to additional GSR references and tools. Where applicable, the VRP staff will incorporate the GSR efforts of other organizations toward the advancement of GSR in Wyoming.

The WDEQ VRP believes that green remediation strategies offer significant potential for increasing the net benefit of the cleanup without compromising the cleanup goals. The Volunteer should document GSR efforts

in applicable site work plans and final reports. The WDEQ VRP also believes that responsible parties should be given incentive to implement GSR policies at their sites, such as providing recognition of successful GSR efforts on the WDEQ VRP website.

APPROVED BY: CA

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