### Term

All Appropriate Inquiries Rule

Definition: The process of evaluating a property's environmental conditions and assessing potential liability for any contamination. See All Appropriate Inquiries Standard 40 CFR Part 312. [http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=c712de4fbdbfd669e790daa37865a02e&rgn=div5&view=text&node=40:27.0.1.1.9&idno=40], EPA Fact Sheet: All Appropriate Inquiries Rule: Definition Of Environmental Professional (PDF) [http://epa.gov/brownfields/aai/ep\_deffactsheet.pdf], and ASTM E 1527-05 Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process [http://www.astm.org/Standards/E1527.htm].

**Animal Feeding Operations** 

Acronym: AFOs

Brownfield

Definition: A property, the expansion, redevelopment or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant.

Capacity

Definition: The institutional, organizational, technical and financial ability to address issues. Used in the context of these guidelines as the capacity of education agencies or local governments to have the organization, staff, technical and financial resources to safely operate school facility risk reduction measures such as lead encapsulation and to inspect, maintain and ensure long-term stewardship of any institutional or engineering controls designed to protect people from residual site contamination following a

Page 1 of 12 04/30/2024

Term

cleanup.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

Definition: The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, otherwise known as CERCLA or Superfund, provides a federal "Superfund" to clean up uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites as well as accidents, spills and other emergency releases of pollutants and contaminants into the environment. Through CERCLA, EPA was given power to seek out those parties responsible for any release and ensure their cooperation in the cleanup.

Acronym: CERCLA

Comprehensive environmental review

Definition: A stage in the environmental review process that involves gathering and analyzing data on environmental hazards and impacts identified in the initial or preliminary environmental review and evaluating the risks posed to children's health, public health and the environment based on the contamination or impacts found. The comprehensive environmental review also includes developing preliminary plans and cost estimates for mitigation/remediation measures.

**Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations** 

Definition: Agricultural operations where animals are kept and raised in confined situations. AFOs generally congregate animals, feed, manure, dead animals and production operations on a small land area. Feed is brought to the animals rather than the animals grazing or otherwise seeking feed in pastures. Animal waste and wastewater can enter water bodies from spills or breaks of waste storage structures (due to accidents or excessive rain), and nonagricultural application of manure to crop land. An AFO is a lot or facility (other than an aquatic animal production facility) where the following conditions are met: 1.) Animals have been, are or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more in any 12-month period, and 2.) Crops, vegetation, forage growth or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot or facility. AFOs that meet

Page 2 of 12 04/30/2024

#### Term

growth or post-harvest residues are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot or facility. AFOs that meet the regulatory definition of a CAFO may be regulated under the NPDES permitting program. For additional information see Regulatory Definitions of Large CAFOs, Medium CAFOs, and Small CAFOs (PDF) [http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/sector\_table.pdf] Acronym: CAFOs

Criteria pollutants

Definition: The Clean Air Act requires EPA to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for six common air pollutants. These common air pollutants are found all over the United States. They are particle pollution (often referred to as particulate matter), ground-level ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides and lead. These pollutants can harm human health and the environment, and cause property damage. Of the six pollutants, particle pollution and ground-level ozone are the most widespread health threats. EPA calls these pollutants "criteria" air pollutants because it regulates them by developing human health-based and/or environmentally based criteria (science-based guidelines) for setting permissible levels. The set of limits based on human health is called primary standards. Another set of limits intended to prevent environmental and property damage is called secondary standards.

**Engineering Controls** 

Definition: For purposes of this guidance, physical or "engineered" controls are the engineered physical barriers or structures designed to control or limit exposure to the contamination. Engineering controls are distinct from institutional controls. Certain engineered cleanups routinely involve ongoing operation and maintenance (O&M), monitoring, reporting, and evaluation.

**Environmental Justice** 

Definition: For the purposes of this guidance, the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and

Page 3 of 12 04/30/2024

### Term

national origin or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

**Environmental Professional** 

Definition: The qualifications of an environmental professional needed to conduct Environmental Site Assessments are defined in ASTM International Standard E1527-05 [http://www.astm.org/Standards/E1527.htm]. Also see EPA Fact Sheet: All Appropriate Inquiries Rule: Definition Of Environmental Professional (PDF) [http://epa.gov/brownfields/aai/ep\_deffactsheet.pdf]

Environmental review process

Definition: A series of steps taken to determine whether a project will be impacted by potential hazards. In the case of school siting, the environmental review evaluates potential environmental hazards and exposures to children, staff and visitors before a decision is made to site a school in a particular location.

**Further Action** 

Definition: Denotes step(s) during the environmental review process that trigger additional review, evaluation, remediation, referral or other appropriate activity.

Green schools

Definition: See Healthy high performance schools

Greenfields

Definition: Locations, typically outside of cities, that have not previously been developed.

Page 4 of 12 04/30/2024

### Term

hazardous air pollutants

Definition: Toxic air pollutants, are those pollutants that are known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects, such as reproductive effects or birth defects, or adverse environmental effects.

Acronym: HAPs

Health Impact Assessment

Definition: Health Impact Assessment (HIA) (https://www.who.int/hia/en/) is most often defined as "a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, program or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population" (World Health Organization, 1999). This broad definition from the World Health Organization European Center for Health Policy (ECHP) and presented in the Gothenburg Consensus paper on HIA [http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=44163] reflects the many variants of HIA. A somewhat more precise definition is that HIA is "a multidisciplinary process within which a range of evidence about the health effects of a proposal is considered in a structured framework."

Acronym: HIA

Healthy high performance schools

Definition: Facilities that integrate all aspects of the design process starting with selection of the design team and the school location to design schools that meet multiple educational, environmental, and community goals. The environmental goals of such facilities include energy and water efficiency, healthy indoor air, safer materials selection and life-cycle cost consideration, landscaping and vegetation, reducing toxics, and choosing more sustainable locations. These technologies and principles are often integrated into the curriculum and other student learning opportunities.

Page 5 of 12 04/30/2024

### Term

High traffic roads

Definition: May include highways, local roads experiencing heavy congestion, local roads with significant stop and go activities, and roads with large numbers of trucks.

Institutional Controls

Definition: Nonengineered instruments, such as administrative and/or legal controls, that help to minimize the potential for human exposure to contamination and/or protect the integrity of a remedy. See: EPA Citizen's Guide to Understanding Institutional Controls (PDF) [https://www.epa.gov/fedfac/pdf/ic\_ctzns\_guide.pdf] and All Appropriate Inquiries Standard 40 CFR Part 312.

[http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title40/40cfr312\_main\_02.tpl]

Joint use

Definition: The use of school district controlled, owned or utilized facilities by a nondistrict entity or the use of nonschool owned property, such as a library or park or athletic facility, by a school. There are five types of entities that constitute joint users: 1.) Individuals: Persons, generally residents of a community, who have access to exterior spaces, such as play equipment, athletic fields or courts, and open space for personal use. 2.) Civic Groups: Individuals, groups or organizations, who seek occasional use of school buildings and grounds for activities or events such as polling stations, community meetings and special events. 3.) Other Public Agencies: A public agency that is not part of the school district that may offer programs, need to lease space and offer no program connection to the school and/or may seek joint development with ongoing joint programming. 4.) Private Nonprofit Organizations: The use of school buildings and/or grounds by a nonprofit organization such as after-school programs, health clinics or adult education classes. 5.) Private For-Profit Corporations: The use of school building and/or grounds by a private for-profit corporation, either for education-related work like a private testing service or unrelated work like private offices.

Page 6 of 12 04/30/2024

Term

Joint use agreement

Definition: A formal agreement between two separate government entities, often a school and a city or county, setting forth the terms and conditions for shared use of public property or facilities. See: See Characteristics of Joint Use Agreements in School Districts in the U.S.: Findings from the School Health Policies and Practices Study (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC). [https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2015/14 0560.htm].

**Local Community** 

Definition: General term referring to all members of a local area with an interest in school environmental health and safety issues, including but not limited to local governments, local education agencies (see local education agency), nongovernmental organizations and individuals.

**Local Education Agency** 

Definition: Any entity, whether public or private, including its staff and its governing or voting body (e.g., a school board or a tribal board) with responsibility for decision-making with respect to school buildings and operations.

Acronym: LEA

Location-specific mitigation

Location-specific remediation

Definition: Appropriate response measures, as prescribed in a remedial action workplan, that are tailored to the particular characteristics of the location in question.

Page 7 of 12 04/30/2024

### Term

Long-range school facilities plan

Definition: A way for local education agencies (LEAs) to identify important projections of long-term school and community needs such as student enrollment, operational costs and infrastructure to use in making school siting decisions.

Long-term Stewardship

Definition: Long-term management of contaminated environmental media to protect human health and the environment, generally through the use of engineering or institutional controls.

Long-term Stewardship Plan

Acronym: LTSP

Meaningful public involvement

Definition: Fully engaging stakeholder groups throughout the review and decision-making process, including opportunities to share opinions and review relevant documents.

Nearby hazard

Definition: A potential risk or hazard located outside of the site property boundary. Determining what is nearby depends on many factors and will vary with type of potential hazard. See Exhibit 5: Factors Influencing Exposures and Potential Risks (PDF) [http://www.epa.gov/schools/siting/downloads/Exhibit\_5\_Factors\_Influencing\_Exposures\_and\_Potential\_Risks.pdf] (3 pp, 163K) [http://www.epa.gov/epahome/pdf.html]) and Exhibit 6: Screening Potential Environmental, Public Health and Safety Hazards (PDF)

Page 8 of 12 04/30/2024

#### Term

[http://www.epa.gov/schools/siting/downloads/Exhibit\_6\_Screening\_Potential\_Environmental\_Public\_Health\_and\_Safety\_Hazards.pd f] (12 pp, 284K) for more information.

One call system

Definition: Centralized and integrated phone-based system for obtaining information from a single phone call on underground utilities or other hazards prior to digging or excavation (e.g., "Miss Utility").

Petroleum hydrocarbons

Definition: A large family of several hundred chemical compounds that are derived from crude oil. Some chemicals that may be found in TPH are hexane, jet fuels, mineral oils, benzene, toluene, xylenes, naphthalene and fluorene, as well as other petroleum products and gasoline components.

Phytoremediation

Definition: Describes the treatment of environmental problems (bioremediation) through the use of plants that mitigate the environmental problem without the need to excavate the contaminant material and dispose of it elsewhere. See EPA Citizen's Guide to Phytoremediation (PDF) [http://www.epa.gov/tio/download/citizens/citphyto.pdf] (2p, 7K).

Polychlorinated biphenyls

Definition: Polychlorinated biphenyls belong to a broad family of human-made organic chemicals known as chlorinated hydrocarbons. PCBs were domestically manufactured from 1929 until their manufacture was banned in 1979. They have a range of toxicity and vary in consistency from thin, light-colored liquids to yellow or black waxy solids. Due to their nonflammability, chemical stability, high boiling point and electrical insulating properties, PCBs were used in hundreds of industrial and commercial applications including

Page 9 of 12 04/30/2024

### Term

electrical, heat transfer and hydraulic equipment; as plasticizers in paints, plastics and rubber products; in pigments, dyes and carbonless copy paper; and many other industrial applications.

Acronym: PCBs

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons

Acronym: PAH

Preliminary Environmental Assessment

Definition: Initial screening and review stage for candidate sites to identify potential environmental issues related to the suitability of a candidate school site, if any, that should to be assessed in detail if the LEA decides to pursue the site for use as a school location.

Public involvement

Definition: See meaningful public involvement.

Remedial action workplan

Definition: Detailed plan for remediation of onsite contamination, including cleanup methods, long-term maintenance requirements and long-term stewardship obligations.

School Siting Committee

Definition: Committee established to make recommendations to the LEA's governing body on sites for building new schools, leasing space for new schools and/or renovating or expanding existing schools. The committee includes representatives of the LEA's

Page 10 of 12 04/30/2024

### Term

governing body (such as elected school board members, facility, health and safety staff), local government or tribal staff (such as city planners, government environmental health specialist, county auditor) and representatives from stakeholder groups (such as parents of children likely to attend the new school, teachers, public health organizations, community members, environmental advocacy and environmental justice groups, age-appropriate students, local trade/building associations).

Acronym: SSC

Screening Perimeter

Definition: Screening distances intended to identify potential land uses near candidate school locations that warrant further consideration rather than to identify land uses that may be incompatible with the location of schools. Screening distances, alone, may not be predictive of the actual potential for a source located within that distance to present an environmental or health hazard. Potential hazards associated with candidate school locations should be evaluated as part of the site screening and evaluation process.

Semi-volatile organic compound.

Acronym: SVOC

Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons

Acronym: TPH

Transparent

### Term

Definition: Readily accessible and understandable by all community members (e.g., decision-making criteria and procedures).

Vapor intrusion

Definition: Migration of volatile chemicals from contaminated ground water or soil into an overlying building. For more information, see the discussion on this topic in the Quick Guide to Environmental Issues [http://www.epa.gov/schools/siting/basic.html#quick] section.

Volatile Organic Compounds

Definition: Volatile organic compounds are emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids. VOCs include a variety of chemicals, some of which may have short- and long-term adverse health effects. Concentrations of many VOCs are consistently higher indoors (up to 10 times higher) than outdoors. VOCs are emitted by a wide array of products numbering in the thousands. Examples include: paints and lacquers, paint strippers, cleaning supplies, pesticides, building materials and furnishings, office equipment such as copiers and printers, correction fluids and carbonless copy paper, graphics and craft materials including glues and adhesives, permanent markers and photographic solutions.

Acronym: VOCs

Zoning and land uses

Definition: Zoning codes are developed to regulate the location and type of development in a given area. Zoning can determine the land use of a particular location, such as residential, commercial or industrial.

Page 12 of 12 04/30/2024