

"Restricted use remedial action" means a remedial action defined as such pursuant to the Technical Requirements for Site Remediation, at N.J.A.C. 7:26E-1.8.

"Restricted use standard" means a numeric remediation standard defined as such pursuant to the Technical Requirements for Site Remediation, at N.J.A.C. 7:26E-1.8.

"Site investigation" means those actions defined as such pursuant to the Technical Requirements for Site Remediation, at N.J.A.C. 7:26E-1.8.

"Spill Act" means the Spill Compensation and Control Act, N.J.S.A. 58:10-23.11 et seq.

"Underground storage tank" means an underground storage tank defined as such pursuant to the Technical Requirements for Site Remediation, at N.J.A.C. 7:26E-1.8.

"Unrestricted use remedial action" means a remedial action defined as such pursuant to the Technical Requirements for Site Remediation, at N.J.A.C. 7:26E-1.8.

"Unrestricted use standard" means a numeric remediation standard defined as such pursuant to the Technical Requirements for Site Remediation, at N.J.A.C. 7:26E-1.8.

Amended by R.1997 d.499, effective November 17, 1997.

See: 29 N.J.R. 46(a), 29 N.J.R. 4957(a).

Amended "Administrative consent order", "Commissioner", "Contaminated site", "Department", "Directive", "Discharge", "Environmental medium", "Immediate environmental concern", "Memorandum of agreement", "Memorandum of understanding", "Natural resources", "Oversight document", "Owner", "Preliminary assessment", "Remedial action", "Remedial investigation", "Remediation", and "Site investigation"; added "Area of concern", "Contamination", "Declaration of environmental restrictions", "Engineering controls", "Financial assistance", "Industrial establishment", "Institutional controls", "ISRA", "No further action letter", "Operator", "Remedial action workplan", "Remediation agreement", "Restricted use standard", and "Unrestricted use standard"; and deleted "Contaminant", "Decision document", "ECRA", "Hazardous constituent", "Operable unit", "Operation, maintenance and monitoring", "Priority site", "Record of decision", "Remedial alternative analysis", "Remedial design", and "Solicitation document".

Amended by R.1998 d.155, effective April 6, 1998.

See: 29 N.J.R. 5154(a), 30 N.J.R. 1321(a).

Inserted "Applicant", "Authority", "Conditional hardship grant", "Fund", "Petroleum", "Public entity", "Regulated tank systems", "Underground storage tank", and "Underground storage tank system".

Amended by R.1999 d.241, effective August 2, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 2373(a), 31 N.J.R. 2167(a).

Inserted "Covenant not to sue", "Innovative remedial action technology", "Limited restricted use remedial action", "Restricted use remedial action" and "Unrestricted use remedial action"; rewrote "Declaration of environmental restrictions" as "Deed notice"; and rewrote "Institutional controls".

Amended by R.2003 d.198, effective May 19, 2003.

See: 34 N.J.R. 3703(a), 35 N.J.R. 2319(a).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2006 d.328, effective September 18, 2006.

See: 37 N.J.R. 2923(a), 38 N.J.R. 3821(a).

Added definition "Grace period".

Administrative Correction.

See: 38 N.J.R. 4693(d).

Amended by R.2007 d.274, effective August 20, 2007.

See: 38 N.J.R. 4600(a), 39 N.J.R. 3533(a).

In definition "Oversight costs", deleted "or in overseeing the remediation conducted by a contractor on behalf of the Department" following "conducting the remediation".

## Case Notes

Commercial general liability insurer's engineering costs for remedial investigation were "defense expenses," rather than liability coverage for damages. *General Acc. Ins. Co. of America v. State, Dept. of Environmental Protection*, 278 N.J.Super. 412, 651 A.2d 472 (A.D.1995), certification granted 140 N.J. 328, 658 A.2d 728, reversed 143 N.J. 462, 672 A.2d 1154.

## 7:26C-1.4 Dispute resolution

(a) Any person conducting remediation with Department oversight may initiate the Department's dispute resolution process or the expedited dispute resolution process set forth in this section to resolve certain issues which arise that were not resolved at the case manager level, except as noted in (I) below.

(b) Any person conducting remediation with Department oversight may initiate this process by submitting a written request, to the section chief of the case manager overseeing the remediation of the site, which shall include all of the following:

1. The site name, address, and contaminated site list number;
2. The name of the case manager overseeing the remediation of the site;
3. The name, address, and telephone number, of the person making the request;
4. A summary of the issue not resolved including a brief discussion of why the Department's decision is not appropriate;
5. A description of previous efforts to resolve the issue;
6. A recommendation for resolution of the issue not resolved; and
7. A request for a meeting with the Department, if appropriate or desired.

(c) The section chief shall contact the requester by telephone to provide a response and shall provide a written response within seven calendar days after receipt of the written request in (b) above. The written response shall include the name, address, and telephone number of the bureau chief.

(d) If the requester is not satisfied with the resolution provided by the section chief, the requester may submit a written request for resolution of the issue to the bureau chief identified in the written response in (c) above. The written request shall include all the information in (b) above.

(e) The bureau chief shall contact the requester by telephone to provide a response and shall provide a written response within seven calendar days after receipt of the written request in (d) above. The written response shall include the name, address, and telephone number of the assistant director.

(f) If the requester is not satisfied with the resolution provided by the bureau chief, the requester may submit a written

request for resolution to the assistant director identified in the written response in (e) above. The written request shall include all the information in (b) above.

(g) The assistant director shall contact the requester by telephone to provide a response and shall provide a written response within seven calendar days after receipt of the written request in (f) above. The written response shall include the name, address, and telephone number of the director.

(h) If the requester is not satisfied with the resolution provided by the assistant director, the requester may continue the process in (b) through (g) above with the Director, Assistant Commissioner, and Commissioner or his or her designee.

(i) Any person may initiate the expedited dispute resolution process, instead of the process set forth in (b) through (h), above, by making a written request to the Commissioner or his or her designee, for an expedited review of the issue. The Commissioner, or his or her designee, shall issue a decision regarding the disputed issues within 21 calendar days after receipt of the request.

(j) If resolution of the disputed issues is not achieved through the process set forth in (b) through (i) above, the person may initiate the Department's alternate dispute resolution process by submitting a written request to the Commissioner.

(k) If resolution cannot be achieved through the alternate dispute resolution process and the Department determines the matter to be a contested case, the Department may transfer the matter to the Office of Administrative Law for scheduling of an adjudicatory hearing. An adjudicatory hearing shall be conducted pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C. 1:1.

(l) The dispute resolution process set forth in (b) through (j) above does not apply to:

1. Issues regarding oversight costs;
  - i. Issues regarding oversight costs shall be resolved pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26C-9.4;
2. Technical issues which arise during Department oversight of remediation; or
3. Legal issues.

(m) The Department shall not act upon a request for dispute resolution unless it is submitted in writing and includes all the information in (b) above.

New Rule, R.1997 d.499, effective November 17, 1997.  
See: 29 N.J.R. 46(a), 29 N.J.R. 4957(a).

Former N.J.A.C. 7:26C-1.4, "Liberal construction", recodified to N.J.A.C. 7:26C-1.7.

Amended by R.2003 d.198, effective May 19, 2003.  
See: 34 N.J.R. 3703(a), 35 N.J.R. 2319(a).

Rewrote the section.

## 7:26C-1.5 General provisions

(a) Any person that the Department allows to participate in the remediation of a contaminated site with Department oversight shall comply with the provisions of this section.

(b) A person conducting the remediation of a contaminated site with Department oversight shall pay all applicable oversight costs pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26C-9.

(c) Any person conducting remediation at a site pursuant to an oversight document or a court order shall, in addition to any other obligation required by law, notify the Department immediately upon knowledge of any condition posing an immediate environmental concern to the public health and safety or the environment. The Department may stop any remediation and any construction, improvement, or change at the contaminated site, due to the immediate environmental concern caused by contaminants.

(d) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as limiting:

1. Any legal, equitable or administrative remedies against any person which the Department may have under any applicable law or regulation;
2. The Department's discretion to pursue or to refrain from pursuing any such remedies; or
3. Except as otherwise stated in this chapter, any legal, equitable or administrative remedy which the party responsible for conducting the remediation may have under any applicable law or regulation.

(e) Failure to comply with the requirements associated with this chapter may result in the Department instituting proceedings to assess and collect civil or civil administrative penalties or penalties pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26C-10, or any other legal or equitable relief.

(f) The participation by any person in any of the procedures outlined in this chapter shall not relieve that person from responsibility to comply with all other applicable statutes and regulations. Except as otherwise stated in this chapter, nothing shall be construed as limiting any legal, equitable or administrative remedies which the party conducting remediation may have under any applicable law or regulation.

(g) Nothing in this chapter prohibits a person from assessing or investigating a potentially contaminated site without the Department's oversight unless:

1. The Department issues a directive pursuant to N.J.S.A. 58:10-23.11f; or
2. The person has actual notice that the Department has begun publicly funded remediation.

New Rule, R.1997 d.499, effective November 17, 1997.