



Walter Wright, Jr.
wwright@mwlaw.com
(501) 688.8839

Human Health Risk Assessment Screening Tool for Atypical Risk Exposure Scenarios: Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials Report

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The Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (“ASTSWMO”) released a report addressing a risk assessment screening tool titled:

Human Health Risk Assessment Screening Tool for Atypical Risk Exposure Scenarios (“Report”)

The *Report* was prepared by ASTSWMO’s Investigation and Remedy Selection Focus Group pursuant to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Cooperative Agreement. Ms. Dianna Kilburn of the Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment – Division of Environmental Quality (“DEQ”) participated in the *Report’s* preparation. Ms. Kilburn serves as the Manager of the Technical Branch in DEQ’s Office of Land Resources.

The stated purpose of the *Report* is to:

. . . help regulators review risk assessments that do not fit typical residential or commercial/industrial scenarios.

Atypical situations are stated to include:

. . . exposures from trespassing, recreating, or short-term work assignments, etc.

The *Report* states that the tool is intended to help:

. . . reviewers determine if the variables used are within reasonable ranges and what variables have the highest impact on the ultimate outcome of a risk assessment.

Note that Human Health Risk Assessments (“HHRA”) are utilized to determine if site contaminants are a concern to human health and the environment. They are a tool used by federal and state environmental regulators.

Various federal and state programs use risk-based corrective action or remediation standards which tailor cleanup levels according to site-specific factors. The programs often take into account factors such as to what extent the site is accessible and/or the future land use. Typically, superimposed upon these various procedures or site specific analyses is a requirement that the resulting standards be protective of human health and the environment.

As the *Report* states, an HHRA uses environmental data to estimate adverse health effects based on:

- Nature
- Magnitude
- Probability

Contaminated media from which adverse health effects could occur potentially include:

- Soil
- Vapor
- Groundwater
- Surface water

As a result, the HHRA can be utilized to determine potential uses of a property and/or whether and what type of cleanup could ensure safe use utilization.

A copy of the *Report* can be downloaded [here](#).