
PROTOCOL

Exposure Pathways

Introduction

This protocol has been developed in order to support the Savannah River Site environmental remediation program. The purpose of this protocol is to provide clarification on the concept of exposure pathways.

Details

An exposure pathway describes the course a contaminant takes from source to the exposed individual. It consists of five elements, as follows:

1. source (landfill, spill, etc.);
2. exposure media (groundwater, air, etc.);
3. exposure point (drinking water well, shower, etc.);
4. exposure route (ingestion, inhalation, dermal absorption, etc.); and
5. receptor (resident, worker, etc.).

Information about exposure pathways is included in the discussions on risk characterization in order to describe the situation at the unit under investigation.