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FINAL ASTM E1527-21 Update!







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Thursday, January 5, 2023 12:00 PM CST





Presenter



Julie Kilgore, Chair, ASTM E-1527 TASKFORCE

- President of Wasatch Environmental based out of Salt Lake City
- 25 years of experience in environmental assessment, investigation, remediation, and regulatory agency coordination
- Chairs the task group responsible for revising the E1527 Standard Practice for ESAs: Phase I ESA Process
- Served on the ASTM International Board of Directors
- Appointed by the EPA as an environmental professional representative on the regulatory negotiation Federal Advisory Committee to assist in developing the federal All Appropriate Inquiry regulation that ultimately adopted by reference the ASTM E1527-05 standard practice
- An incredibly bright and accomplished individual, a great friend of ERIS, and the entire environmental assessment and remediation industry!



Moderator



Scott Davis, SVP, Industry Engagement, ERIS



Implementing the New ASTM E1527-21 Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Standard Practice

January 2023

Julie Kilgore President, Wasatch Environmental E1527 Task Group Chair

E1527 Revision Drivers

- CERCLA and the All Appropriate Inquiries rule require that assessments be conducted "consistent with good commercial and customary practice"
- ASTM uses a consensus-based method among Users and Producers to develop a **consistent** process that is expected to result in a **consistent** deliverable.
- Inconsistencies in process and quality signaled the areas where the standard could be improved.
- Review of recent litigation and claims also provided insight for areas where the standard could be improved.



ASTM Revision Process

- ASTM global requirement: All standards be revisited no later than once every eight years to ensure market relevance
- E1527 Task Group formally convened Feb 2018
- Extensive balloting process completed and revised standard published in 2021
- Once E1527 is published, ASTM submits notification to EPA that a new standard is available
- This same process is followed for the E2247 Phase I ESA for Forestland or Rural Property



EPA Regulatory Process

- For E1527 (and E2247), once EPA is formally notified by ASTM that a new or updated standard is available, EPA can begin the formal approval process of referencing that standard as a tool for complying with the All Appropriate Inquiries regulation
- EPA proposed a "direct final rule" to reference the updated standard
- If no comments are received, a direct rule can immediately go into affect.
- If comments are submitted, EPA withdraws the direct rule and proceeds with addressing comments

This is the normal process

and

the same process that took place when E1527-13 was published



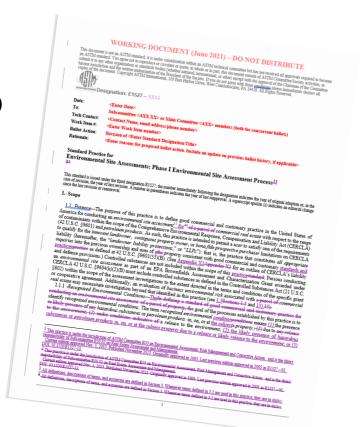
Availability

- E1527-21 Published November 2021
- Available through astm.org (redline also available)
- E1527-13 now a "historical standard"
- ▶ EPA has issued a final rule stating that the E1527-21 standard, effective 2/13/2023
- ▶ EPA will remove reference to E1527-13 after one year to "provide parties with an adequate opportunity to complete AAI investigations that may be ongoing and to allow all parties sufficient notice to become familiar with the updated industry standard"



Key Changes

- Revised Definitions (stronger, clearer)
- Guidance Language ("Discussion")
- Historical Research
- Site Reconnaissance
- Report
- Appendices





What the Heck is a REC?

Recognized Environmental Condition (REC) definition reworded:

- 1. **Presence** of HS or PP due to a release to the environment
- Likely presence of HS or PP due to a release of likely release to the environment, or
- 3. Presence of HS or PP under conditions that pose a **material threat** of a future release to the environment



What is "Likely"?

New Note added to the REC Definition:

"Likely" is that which is neither certain nor proved, but can be expected or believed by a reasonable observer based on the logic and/or experience of the environmental professional, and/or available evidence, as stated in the report to support the opinion given therein.



REC vs HREC vs CREC

- Recognized Environmental Conditions:
 - Presence or likely presence of a release . . . to the environment
- Historical Recognized Environmental Condition (revised in 2013)
 - Past releases affecting the subject property, addressed to <u>unrestricted</u> use
 - Must consider current regulatory framework (rules change)
 - HRECs are not RECs
- Controlled Recognized Environmental Condition (introduced in 2013)
 - Past releases affecting the subject property, addressed to anything above unrestricted use
 - CRECs are a subset of RECs (meets the "presence" test) and must be included in the conclusions section of the report



REC vs HREC vs CREC

- If there is residual contamination **present** at concentrations above unrestricted use criteria, that condition, by definition, will be either a REC (not yet fully addressed) or a CREC (fully addressed and controls understood).
- If there is residual contamination **present** at concentrations above unrestricted use criteria, that condition cannot by definition, be an HREC.



New Definition: Property Use Limitation

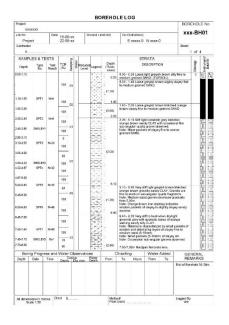
- Not a new concept. E1527-13 states
 - "... controls (for example, property use restrictions, activity and use limitations, institutional controls, or engineering controls)
- Task Group replaced "property use restrictions" (not previously defined) with "property use limitations" (now defined)"
- E1527-21: PUL defined broadly to capture a wide variety of risk-based mitigation end points:

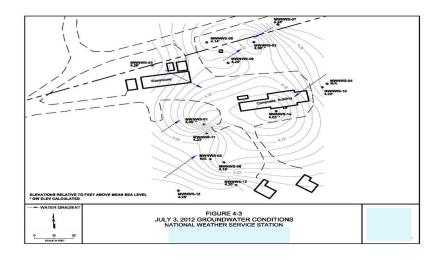
"limitation or restriction on current or future use of a *property* in connection with a response to a *release*, in accordance with the applicable regulatory authority or authorities that allows *hazardous substances* or *petroleum products* to remain in place at concentrations exceeding unrestricted use criteria."



Physical Setting Review

Include physical setting source information obtained from agency file reviews







Historical Research

- Objective is to identify uses back to 1940 or first developed use (unchanged)
- Intervals (unchanged):
- Standard Historical Sources (unchanged)
 - Aerial photos, fire incurance maps, street directories, topographic maps, building department records, interviews, property tax files, zoning/land use records



Historical Research

- Users and producers agreed that additional, consistent rigor needed
- Clearer emphasis on property identification:
 - The subject property is defined by its current boundaries
 - Properties may be different in use, size, configuration, or address than in the past
 - Research of additional addresses may provide further information to meet the objective
- Clarified Type of Use:
 - Specific information about uses is more helpful than general information
 - If the general type of use is retail, industrial, or manufacturing, then additional standard resources shall be reviewed if they are likely to identify a more specific use and are reasonably ascertainable
 - Note: Merely identifying that a building is present may not satisfy the historical research objective. For example, tenant operations in a retail building may have included past dry cleaning or other activities of concern.



E1527 Task Group and Industry Input Regarding Dry Cleaners

- ▶ EPA: Dry cleaners are currently the primary source of new superfund sites
- Illinois Drycleaner Fund: As of 2016, 88% of dry cleaner investigations for active dry cleaners exceeded action levels
- Consultant input: for older dry cleaners, that percentage is higher
- Small Business Administration: If a dry cleaner has ever been present, multimedia investigation is required
- North Carolina DEQ Dry Cleaning Solvent Cleanup Act Program: PCE continues to be the most prominent cleaning agent used at dry cleaners
- Many dry cleaner operators have not upgraded to newer machines



Revised Historical Research – Subject Property

- The following standard resources shall be reviewed if reasonably ascertainable, likely to be useful, and applicable to the subject property
 - * Aerials

* Topos

* Fire Insurance Maps

- * City Directories
- If not reviewed, state why
- Additional standard resources shall be reviewed, as needed, to satisfy <u>the</u>
 <u>objective</u>
- Can continue to use "other historical resources"



New Section: Historical Research - Adjoining Property

- During research of the subject property, past uses of the adjoining properties that are obvious shall be identified to evaluate if those uses may have led to RECs
- If researched for the subject property, if they provide coverage the adjoining properties, and if they are likely to be useful in satisfying the objective, review the following:

Aerials Topos

Fire Insurance Maps City Directories

If reviewed for the subject property and not the adjoining property, say why

- Additional standard historical resources should be reviewed if warranted to satisfy the objective.
- Can continue to use "other historical resources."



City Directories

▶ EPs were interpreting **E1527-13** differently:

"Uses in the area surrounding the *property* shall be identified in the *report*, but this task is required only to the extent that this information is revealed in the course of researching the *property* itself"

E1527-13 says factors to consider include:

"... the time and cost involved in reviewing surrounding uses (for example ... reviewing *local street directories* **for more than the few streets** that surround the site is typically too time-consuming)





Historical Research – Surrounding Area

- Substantially unchanged
- Factors to consider in making this determination include . . . reasonably ascertainable; the time and cost . . . (for example, analyzing aerial photographs is relatively quick, but reviewing local street directories for more than the few streets that surround the subject property is typically too time-consuming); information is useful, accurate, and complete . . .



AUL Search in Land Title Records

The User may rely on title insurance documentation (i.e. preliminary title reports or title commitments) typically prepared for title insurance.

The user must inform the EP if the title report identified environmental liens/AULs

Unless expressly added by a change in the Phase I scope of work, the EP is not responsible for reviewing land title records for environmental liens or AULs

Third-party vendors offer this service, as long as the title search information report reviews land title records back to 1980

Section 6.2 of the Standard



Significant Data Gap

New Definition:

▶ 3.2.84 significant data gap—a data gap that affects the ability of the environmental professional to identify a recognized environmental condition.





Strengthen the Deliverable

- Consistent use of "Subject Property"
- More robust discussion about how significant data gaps affect the EP's opinion.
- Conclusions must include RECs, CRECs, and Significant Data Gaps
- Include Photos and Site Map

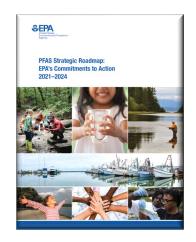




PFAS/PFOS Today . . . Tomorrow?

- "Emerging Contaminants" added to list of Non-Scope Considerations in Section 13
- Additional discussion within Appendix X6. Summary of Common Non-scope Issues

Once the emerging contaminants are defined to be a *hazardous substance* under CERCLA, as interpreted by EPA regulations and the courts, these substances must be evaluated within the scope of E1527





Final Thoughts on Changes to E1527

- Latest revisions reflect input from across the country from users and producers representing current good commercial and customary
- Many of the changes were requested by User groups seeking better consistency in the Phase I process and deliverables
- EPs producing quality deliverables will likely see little substantive change in their process
- Read the Standard
- Take an ASTM Phase I class offered by ASTM



Comments or Questions?



Contact Information



- Julie Kilgore
- President, Wasatch Environmental, Inc.
- Chair of the ASTM E1527 Task Group
- Member of the EPA Federal Advisory Committee established to develop the proposed "All Appropriate Inquiry" (AAI) regulation

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UPCOMING WEBINARS

January 10



An Economic Outlook for 2023:

THE FORECAST FOR CRE

January 18



ERIS' New Report
Authoring Platform:
SCRIVA



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FINAL ASTM E1527-21 Update!

