

What the Law Requires in Making Cleanup Decisions

Before making cleanup decisions,

DOE must evaluate potential cleanup technologies against criteria spelled out in a federal law called CERCLA. There are nine criteria to be considered, which are divided into three categories.

Threshold Criteria determine if the possible solution to an environmental problem protects people and the environment and meets federal and state regulations. **Balancing Criteria** are used to determine which of the criteria meeting the Threshold Criteria will work the best. **Modifying Criteria** are used to determine if the recommended solution is acceptable to Kentucky and the local community.

Every CERCLA decision process starts with an evaluation of alternatives for solving a particular environmental problem. Then, these alternatives are narrowed by applying the nine criteria in a Feasibility Study, which is illustrated here.



Select and implement the best solution.