The Hazard Ranking System (HRS)

The Surface Water Migration Pathway

October 26, 2023 Molly Wenner





The surface water migration pathway evaluates contaminated surface water impacting drinking water, fisheries, sensitive environments, and resources



Surface Water Drinking Water Threat Scoresheet



TABLE 4–1—SURFACE WATER OVERLAND/FLOOD MIGRATION COMPONENT SCORESHEET

Factor categories and factors	Maximum value	Value assigned
Drinking Water Threat		
Likelihood of Release:		
1. Observed Release	550	
2. Potential to Release by Overland Flow:		
2a. Containment	10	
2b. Runoff	25	
2c. Distance to Surface Water	25	
2d. Potential to Release by Overland Flow (lines 2a[2b + 2c])	500	
3. Potential to Release by Flood:		
3a. Containment (Flood)	10	
3b. Flood Frequency	50	
3c. Potential to Release by Flood (lines $3a \times 3b$)	500	
4. Potential to Release (lines 2d + 3c, subject to a maximum of 500)	500	
5. Likelihood of Release (higher of lines 1 and 4)	550	
Waste Characteristics:		
6. Toxicity/Persistence	(a)	
7. Hazardous Waste Quantity	(a)	
8. Waste Characteristics	100	
Targets:		
9. Nearest Intake	50	
10. Population		
10a. Level I Concentrations	(b)	
10b. Level II Concentrations	(b)	
10c. Potential Contamination	(b)	
10d. Population (lines 10a + 10b + 10c)	(b)	
11. Resources	5	
12. Targets (lines 9 + 10d + 11)	(b)	
Drinking Water Threat Score:		
13. Drinking Water Threat Score ([lines $5 \times 8 \times 12$]/82,500, subject to a maximum		
of 100)	100	

Surface Water Human Food Chain Threat Scoresheet



Likelihood of Release

Observed release Surface water body

Waste Characteristics

Toxicity Persistence/bioaccumulation Hazardous waste quantity

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Targets

Food chain individual Population

Factor categories and factors	Maximum value	Value assigned
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Human Food Chain Threat		
Likelihood of Release:		
14. Likelihood of Release (same value as line 5)	550	
Waste Characteristics:		
15. Toxicity/Persistence/Bioaccumulation	(a)	
16. Hazardous Waste Quantity	(a)	
17. Waste Characteristics	1,000	
Targets:		
18. Food Chain Individual		
19. Population		
19a. Level I Concentrations	(b)	
19b. Level II Concentrations	(b)	
19c. Potential Human Food Chain Contamination	(b)	
19d. Population (lines 19a + 19b + 19c)	(b)	
20. Targets (lines 18 + 19d)	(b)	
Human Food Chain Threat Score:		
21. Human Food Chain Threat Score ([lines 14 $ imes$ 17 $ imes$ 20]/82,500, subjec	et to a	
maximum of 100)		

Surface Water Environmental Threat Scoresheet



Likelihood of Release

Observed release Surface water body

Waste Characteristics

Ecosystem toxicity Persistence/bioaccumulation Hazardous waste quantity

Targets

Sensitive environments

TABLE 4–1—SURFACE WATER	OVERLAND/FLOOD MIGRATION COMPONENT SCORESHEE	T
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Factor categories and factors	Maximum value	Value assigned
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Environmental Threat		
Likelihood of Release:		
22. Likelihood of Release (same value as line 5)	550	
Waste Characteristics:		
23. Ecosystem Toxicity/Persistence/Bioaccumulation	(a)	
24. Hazardous Waste Quantity	(a)	
25. Waste Characteristics	1,000	
Targets:		
26. Sensitive Environments.		
26a. Level I Concentrations	(b)	
26b. Level II Concentrations	(b)	
26c. Potential Contamination	(b)	
26d. Sensitive Environments (lines 26a + 26b + 26c)	(b)	
27. Targets (value from line 26d)	(b)	
Environmental Threat Score:		
28. Environmental Threat Score ([lines $22 \times 25 \times 27$]/82,500, subject to a max-		
imum of 60)	60	

Surface Water Migration Pathway WHAT IS YOUR SITE?

What is Your Site?

Surface Water Migration Pathway - Conceptual Site Model



HRS Evaluation Surface Water Pathway Structure

Overland/Flood Migration ComponentGround Water to Surface Water Component				
Drinking Water Threat	Hu Ch	uman Food nain Threat	·	Environmental Threat
Likelihood of Release				
Waste Characteristics				
Targets				

Sampling Matrices
Surface water
Sediment
Benthic or other tissue

Overland/Flood Migration Component



Ground Water to Surface Water Component



ELEMENTS OF SURFACE WATER MIGRATION PATHWAY EVALUATION



Elements of the Surface Water Migration Pathway



Sources

Sediment Plume with No Identified Source

 "...Sources <u>do not include</u> those volumes of surface water or surface water sediments that have become contaminated by migration."

Except: in the case of contaminated surface water sediments with no identified source, the contaminated sediments may be considered a source



Observed Release

Overland/Flood Migration Component



Observed Release *by Direct Observation*



Observed Release *by Chemical Analysis*



Observed Release by Chemical Analysis – Sample Similarity







Eligible Surface Water Body

Classified into 4 categories



Hazardous Substance Migration Pathway



Hazardous Substance Migration Path Target Distance Limit



Watersheds



Watersheds



Quiz #1: Hazardous Substance Migration Path

1. The surface water migration pathway TDL starts at the source and ends 15 miles downstream.

a) Trueb) False

Quiz #2: Eligible Surface Water Bodies

2. Which of these is not an HRS surface water body classification:

- a) River
- b) Lake
- c) Wetland
- d) Ocean
- e) Coastal Tidal Water

Waste Characteristics

Drinking Water Threat

- <u>Human toxicity</u> Evaluates the toxicity of a substance in drinking water consumed by humans
- <u>Persistence</u> Reflects the likelihood a hazardous substance will remain undegraded while travelling from PPE to TDL

Human Food Chain Threat

- <u>Human toxicity</u> Evaluates the toxicity of a substance in fish consumed by humans
- <u>Persistence</u> Reflects the likelihood a hazardous substance will remain undegraded while travelling from PPE to TDL
- <u>Bioaccumulation</u> Reflects tendency for a substance to accumulate in the tissue of a human food chain aquatic organism



Environmental Threat

- Ecosystem toxicity Evaluates the toxicity of a substance to aquatic organisms and wildlife consuming those organisms
- <u>Persistence</u> Reflects the likelihood a hazardous substance will remain undegraded while travelling from PPE to TDL
 - <u>Ecosystem Bioaccumulation</u> -Reflects tendency for a substance to accumulate in the tissue of any aquatic organism, not just human food chain organisms

Surface Water Pathway

DRINKING WATER THREAT



Drinking Water Threat

This threat considers the populations and resources that use <u>surface water</u> for drinking water, agricultural, food production, and recreational purposes.



Drinking Water Threat



Drinking Water Threat Level of Contamination

Sample Type	Target	Drinking Water Threat			
Level I	Level I				
Surface Water	Surface water intake	 Must meet observed release criteria and be at or above concentration corresponding to: Non-zero MCLG, MCL, Oral 10⁻⁶ cancer risk, or Oral RfD 			
Level II					
Surface Water	Surface water intake	Must meet observed release criteria			
Sediment	Surface water intake	Must meet observed release criteria			
Sessile Benthic or other tissue	Surface water intake	Must meet observed release criteria			
Potential for Contamination					
n/a	Surface water intake	Within 15-mile TDL and outside any zone of actual contamination			
Description is the TDI					

Resource targets within the TDL

Surface Water Pathway

HUMAN FOOD CHAIN THREAT



Human Food Chain Threat

This threat considers <u>human</u> <u>consumption of fish</u> and other aquatic organisms. The population factor estimates the amount of pounds of aquatic organisms that are produced annually for human consumption







Human Food Chain Threat Documenting Presence of a Fishery within the TDL

e.g., Fish census data, catch data, stocking data <u>and</u>

e.g., interviews of fisherman, expert written statements

Closed due to site hazardous substances (e.g., do not eat advisory)

Human Food Chain Threat Determining Fishery Production

Human Food Chain Threat Level of Contamination

arget	Human Food Chain Threat
ishery	Must meet observed release criteria and be at or above concentrations corresponding to: • FDAAL for fish or shellfish, • Oral 10 ⁻⁶ cancer risk, or • Oral RfD
ishery	Must meet observed release criteria
ishery	Must meet observed release criteria
ishery	Must meet observed release criteria
ishery	Within 15-mile TDL and outside any zone of actual contamination
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Surface Water Pathway
ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT

Environmental Threat

This threat evaluates sensitive environments, such as wetlands, critical habitat for endangered species, and many other types of unique environments.

TABLE 4–23—SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTS RATING VALUES Assigned Sensitive environment value Critical habitat^a for Federal designated endangered or threatened species 100 Marine Sanctuary National Park **Designated Federal Wilderness Area** Areas identified under Coastal Zone Management Act^b Sensitive areas identified under National Estuary Program^c or Near Coastal Waters Program^d Critical areas identified under the Clean Lakes Program^e National Monument^f National Seashore Recreational Area National Lakeshore Recreational Area Habitat known to be used by Federal designated or proposed endangered or threatened species 75 National Preserve National or State Wildlife Refuge Unit of Coastal Barrier Resources System Coastal Barrier (undeveloped) Federal land designated for protection of natural ecosystems Administratively Proposed Federal Wilderness Area Spawning areas critical⁹ for the maintenance of fish/shellfish species within river, lake, or coastal tidal waters Migratory pathways and feeding areas critical for maintenance of anadromous fish species within river reaches or areas in lakes or coastal tidal waters in which the fish spend extended periods of time Terrestrial areas utilized for breeding by large or dense aggregations of animals h National river reach designated as Recreational Habitat known to be used by State designated endangered or threatened species 50 Habitat known to be used by species under review as to its Federal endangered or threatened status Coastal Barrier (partially developed) Federal designated Scenic or Wild River State land designated for wildlife or game management 25 State designated Scenic or Wild River State designated Natural Areas Particular areas, relatively small in size, important to maintenance of unique biotic communities State designated areas for protection or maintenance of aguatic lifeⁱ 5

Solution Environmental Threat Wetlands Characterization

Environmental Threat Level of Contamination

Sample Type	Target	Environmental Threat
Level I		
Surface Water	Listed sensitive environmentWetland	Must meet observed release criteria and be at or above concentrations corresponding to: • AWQC/NRWQC for protection of aquatic life, or • AALAC
Level II		
Surface Water	Listed sensitive environmentWetland	Must meet observed release criteria
Sediment	Listed sensitive environmentWetland	Must meet observed release criteria
Benthic or other tissue	Listed sensitive environmentWetland	Must meet observed release criteria
Potential for Contamination		
n/a	Listed sensitive environmentWetland	Within 15-mile TDL and outside any zone of actual contamination

Quiz Question on Surface Water Migration Pathway Threats

5. The Sensitive Environments Threat only scores wetlands:

a) Trueb) False

FITTING THE PIECES TOGETHER FOR THE HRS EVALUATION

Surface Water Migration Pathway

Elements of the Surface Water Pathway Migration

Elements of the Surface Water Pathway Migration Mapped to Factor Categories

Summary of Surface Water Migration Pathway Threat

- When you have a **source** with a hazardous substance that could or already has entered (released into) into surface water
- When the contamination <u>has impacted</u>, or <u>threatens to impact</u>, one or more <u>surface</u> <u>water bodies</u>
- When you have <u>enough contamination</u> that is also <u>toxic enough</u> to impact <u>surface water</u>
- <u>People</u> are <u>actually ingesting</u> contaminated surface or ingesting contaminated fish; contaminated wetands or other sensitive environments

Key Points for Information Gathering

Drinking Water Threat

• Surface water intakes in TDL

- Service connections
- Number of people served by each connection
- Resources that use surface
 water within TDL
- Water flow information at intakes in cubic feet per second
- Standby intakes, pumpage data, information on blended systems

Human Food Chain Threat

- Fisheries in TDL an area of a surface water body from which food chain organisms are taken
- Documentation of the catching and consumption of fish from the fishery is required
- Pounds of fish production per year for human consumption needs to be estimated

Environmental Threat

- Terrestrial or aquatic resource, fragile natural setting or other area with unique or highly valued environmental or cultural features
- Wetland frontage or perimeter
- Sensitive environments and point values in HRS rule and guidance

