



Remedial Investigation

Aquilologic has extensive experience designing, implementing, and reporting on contaminant characterization and remedial investigation (RI) programs. Our experience includes complex hydrogeologic settings, sensitive ecological habitats, multiple and comingled releases, multiple source sites, and numerous potentially responsible parties (PRPs).

If a release of contaminants has been detected or suspected, the release must be investigated to characterize the nature, extent and magnitude of the contaminant. In addition, this investigation must characterize the environment into which the release has occurred – the geologic, hydrologic and ecologic setting, and the pathways the contaminant may follow from the source to a potential receptor. Thus, the characterization is needed to assess the risk the release poses to human health and the environment, the potential for contaminants to impact receptors, and to assist in the design of remediation or mitigation measures. The investigation of the contamination is the first step in the remediation process, and good characterization is critical in determining whether the remedy selected will be successful.

Field data collection often follows an iterative process, where data from each phase of the investigation are used to define the next phase. The process continues until characterization is complete; that is, the nature, extent, and magnitude of the contaminants are known, and the environmental setting and pathways characterized. While the risks to receptors, human health and the environment can be assessed at any point during the investigation process, only when characterization is complete, can the risks be fully evaluated. In addition, clean-up can be implemented during the investigation process as an interim remedy, but only when characterization is complete, can a final remedy be developed.