

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL  
DIVISION OF AIR AND WASTE MANAGEMENT  
SITE INVESTIGATION & RESTORATION BRANCH

**Memorandum**

TO: Kathleen M. Stiller, Program Manager II, SIRB *JMS 2/24/10*

THROUGH: Qazi Salahuddin, SIRB *QS 2/24/10*  
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FROM: Timothy Ratsep, SIRB *TR 2/24/10*

SUBJECT: Policy for Default Soil Cap Thickness at SIRB Sites

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During the selection of a soil cap as the selected remedial alternative to protect human health and the environment at a hazardous release site, the soil cap thickness can vary depending on site conditions. DNREC-SIRB developed this policy to allow variable thickness of the soil cap at a site administered under HSCA based on the end use of the site or an area of the site.

For Sites that will be used for commercial, industrial or recreational use, the default soil cap thickness requirement is one (1) foot. For Sites that will be of a residential use, the SIRB will keep the current default thickness of two (2) feet. In addition, when using the default soil cap thickness, the SIRB will require the use of a marker fabric to restrict the possibility of future direct contact with the surface soil materials

This policy is not to change the discretionary aspects that SIRB has regarding remedial decisions. However, this policy will set a default standard for soil cap thickness regarding the amount the Department will reimburse for certified Brownfield Site expenses. The variable thickness is only to be used as a default basis and site specific conditions allow the SIRB to require different thicknesses.