

## The Use of Site Registry Status Codes

The provincial Site Registry is available through BC OnLine ([www.bconline.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bconline.gov.bc.ca)). This service lets you access information about sites in which the Province has an environmental interest. Fact Sheet 20 explains what the system is and how to access information on it. Further instructions are provided in the *Site Registry User's Guide*.

Explained here is the meaning of the status codes that the ministry assigns to sites when it is creating records for the Site Registry.

### What are status codes?

Status codes are administrative labels the ministry assigns to each site based on existing notations, documents, and other legal information. The codes are used to assist ministry staff in the internal tracking of assessment or remediation activity at a site – they are not legal terms or definitive assessments that describe remediation at a site.

There are nine status codes in all:

- Active - Under Assessment
- Active - Assessment Complete
- Active - Under Remediation
- Active - Remediation Complete
- Inactive - No Further Action
- Inactive - Remediation Complete
- Site Profile Received
- Soil Received
- Unknown Status

### What determines how status codes are assigned?

The assignment of a status code is usually based on some form of “official sign-off” from the ministry. The following examples are considered to have provided official sign-off:

- 1) A Letter of Comfort issued before July 1, 1995, indicating that a site had been cleaned up to requirements set out in the ministry’s “Criteria for Managing Contaminated Sites.”
- 2) A Certificate of Compliance issued on or between July 1, 1995, and March 31, 1997, stating that a site had been cleaned up to requirements set out in the ministry’s “Criteria for Managing Contaminated Sites.”
- 3) A Certificate of Compliance issued on or after April 1, 1997, stating that a site had been cleaned up to numerical standards defined in the *Waste Management Act* or *Environmental Management Act* and Contaminated Sites Regulation.
- 4) A Conditional Certificate of Compliance issued on or between April 1, 1997, and July 8, 2004, stating that a site had been cleaned up to the risk-based standards in the *Waste Management Act* and Contaminated Sites Regulation.
- 5) A Certificate of Compliance issued on or after July 8, 2004, indicating that a site had been remediated either to the numerical or risk-based standards under the *Environmental Management Act* and Contaminated Sites Regulation.

### What does each status code mean?

#### Active – Under Assessment

This code means that a site is undergoing or requires an environmental investigation.

Example: A site owner reports that a site is being investigated.

### **Active – Assessment Complete**

This code means that a site (or area of concern at a site) has been investigated sufficiently to allow a decision about whether remediation is needed. There is also enough information present to support any recommended remedial approach.

Example: A detailed site investigation has led to a remediation plan being proposed.

### **Active – Under Remediation**

This code means that a remediation plan for a site has been developed and accepted by the ministry, or even implemented already, or that remediation is known by the ministry to be occurring at the site. No information, however, has been submitted to the ministry or obtained by it to indicate that remediation is complete.

Example: The ministry has been notified that independent remediation is occurring at a site.

### **Active – Remediation Complete**

This code usually means that cleanup is complete under the risk assessment/risk management approach. All risk management works at a site have been constructed, appropriate permits and approvals have been obtained, official sign-off has been issued, and requirements such as treatment, monitoring, or maintenance are ongoing. This code is also sometimes applied to sites whose cleanup has been completed under the numerical standards approach.

Example: Risk-based remediation at the site is complete, a Certificate of Compliance has been issued, and the ministry is receiving quarterly monitoring reports on the site.

### **Inactive – No Further Action**

This code means that:

- a site may not have gone through the entire remediation process *and* the ministry currently requires no additional information or action; *or*
- a site may be considered not to require further action or it is considered to have been

remediated by the site owner or operator through independent remediation, *but* formal confirmation of remediation has not been provided by the ministry.

Example: A service station owner notifies the ministry that it has cleaned up the site, but no ministry review, confirmation, or sign-off has been requested.

### **Inactive – Remediation Complete**

This code means that official sign-off has occurred and no *Environmental Management Act* permits, orders, or other requirements (such as monitoring, treatment, or maintenance of works) exist.

Example: No requirements are outstanding, the site is remediated, and a Certificate of Compliance has been issued.

### **Site Profile Received**

This code means that a site profile has been entered into the Site Registry but, to the ministry's knowledge, no site investigation or remediation has been done.

### **Soil Received**

This code means that a Contaminated Soil Relocation Agreement under the *Environmental Management Act* has been finalized, and that a site has received, or will receive contaminated soil under that agreement.

### **Unknown Status**

This code means that a site is known to the ministry, but (because of circumstances such as lack of reporting) its status is not known.

Example: A complaint to the ministry triggers the addition of a site to the Site Registry, but the situation has not been investigated.

*Note: This summary is solely for the convenience of the reader. The current legislation and regulations should be consulted for complete information.*

*For more information, contact the Environmental Management Branch at [site@gov.bc.ca](mailto:site@gov.bc.ca)*