Remediation Regulations ARARs

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The Comprehensive Environmental Response Cleanup and Liability Act (CERCLA) is a law for the cleanup of historic releases. With no environmental cleanup standard of its own, CERCLA looks to federal and state environmental and siting laws to determine cleanup values. The federal and state requirements often overlap. CERCLA determines regulations for cleanup sites through the remedy development process. The federal and state laws and regulations are evaluated to determine Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) which are used during the investigation to help identify data quality objectives.  The more stringent substantive requirements that are identified that are relevant to the cleanup action become part of the cleanup action. Federal and state requirements are compared for stringency. A state requirement cannot be an ARAR unless it is more stringent than a federal ARAR.  CERCLA Projects are only required to comply with substantive requirements. Administrative and procedural requirements are excluded. The universe of federal and state regulations evaluated for ARARs is the same for all remediation projects. Key requirements for cleanups include the CWA, RCRA , CAA, Endangered Species Act, etc., and similar California requirements. Both need to be evaluated for a successful remediation project.

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