**Section 732.312 Classification by Exposure Pathway Exclusion**

a) An owner or operator electing to classify a site by exclusion of human exposure pathways under 35 Ill. Adm. Code 742, Subpart C, shall meet the requirements of this Section, except as provided in subsections (a)(1) and (j) of this Section.

1) Such election shall be made in writing by the owner or operator as part of the submission of the site classification plan under subsection (b) of this Section. The election may be made at any time until the Agency issues a No Further Remediation Letter, provided, however, that the election must be received by the Agency prior to March 1, 2006. On or after March 1, 2006, owners and operators desiring to proceed with the exclusion of human exposure pathways under 35 Ill. Adm. Code 742, Subpart C, must elect pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 734.105 to proceed in accordance with 35 Ill. Adm. Code 734 and conduct site investigation and corrective action in accordance with that Part instead of meeting the requirements of this Section.

2) An owner or operator who chooses to revoke an election submitted under subsection (b) of this Section shall do so in writing.

b) The owner or operator, prior to conducting any site evaluation activities, shall submit to the Agency a site classification plan including, but not limited to, a contaminant identification and groundwater investigation plan (if one or more of the criteria set forth in Section 732.202(h)(4)(A) through (C) of this Part are met), satisfying the minimum requirements for site evaluation activities as set forth in this Section. The plans shall be designed to:

1) Determine the full extent of soil or groundwater contamination exceeding the most stringent Tier 1 remediation objectives of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 742 for the applicable indicator contaminants. Such activities may include soil borings with sampling and analysis, groundwater monitoring wells with sampling and analysis, groundwater modeling, or a combination of these activities.

2) Collect data sufficient to determine which, if any, of the applicable exposure routes under 35 Ill. Adm. Code 742 can be excluded pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 742, Subpart C. The data shall include, but is not limited to, site-specific data demonstrating the physical characteristics of soil and groundwater.

c) A Licensed Professional Engineer or Licensed Professional Geologist (or, where appropriate, persons working under the direction of a Licensed Professional Engineer or Licensed Professional Geologist) shall conduct the site evaluation. The results of the site evaluation shall provide the basis for determining the site classification. The site classification shall be certified by the supervising Licensed Professional Engineer or Licensed Professional Geologist.

d) As a part of each site evaluation, the Licensed Professional Engineer or Licensed Professional Geologist shall conduct physical soil classification and contaminant identification in accordance with the procedures at subsection (b) of this Section.

e) In addition to the plan required in subsection (b) of this Section and prior to conducting any site evaluation activities, any owner or operator intending to seek payment from the Fund shall submit to the Agency a site classification budget plan with the corresponding site classification plan. The budget plan shall include, but not be limited to, a copy of the eligibility and deductibility determination of the OSFM and an estimate of all costs associated with the development, implementation and completion of the site evaluation activities required under subsection (b) of this Section, excluding handling charges. Formulation of budget plans should be consistent with the eligible and ineligible costs listed at Sections 732.605 and 732.606 of this Part and the maximum payment amounts set forth in Subpart H of this Part.

f) Sites shall be classified as No Further Action if the Licensed Professional Engineer or Licensed Professional Geologist determines that all applicable exposure routes can be excluded from further consideration pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 742, Subpart C.

g) Sites shall be classified as High Priority if the Licensed Professional Engineer or Licensed Professional Geologist determines that any of the applicable exposure routes cannot be excluded from further consideration pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 742, Subpart C.

h) Within 30 days after the completion of a site evaluation in accordance with this Section, the owner or operator shall submit to the Agency a site classification completion report addressing all applicable elements of the site evaluation. The report shall contain all maps, diagrams, and any other information required by this Section, the results or conclusions of all surveys and investigations and any documentation necessary to demonstrate those results or conclusions, and the certification of a Licensed Professional Engineer or Licensed Professional Geologist of the site's classification as No Further Action or High Priority in accordance with this Section. For any site classified as High Priority, the report shall also contain the certification of a Licensed Professional Engineer or Licensed Professional Geologist as to which exposure routes, if any, have been excluded from further consideration under 35 Ill. Adm. Code 742, Subpart C.

i) The Agency shall have the authority to review and approve, reject, or require modification of any classification plan, budget plan, or report submitted pursuant to this Section in accordance with the procedures contained in Subpart E of this Part.

j) Notwithstanding subsections (b) and (e) of this Section, prior to March 1, 2006 an owner or operator may proceed to conduct site evaluation activities in accordance with this Section prior to the submittal or approval of any otherwise required site classification plan or budget plan. However, any such classification plan and budget plan shall be submitted to the Agency for review and approval, rejection, or modification in accordance with the procedures contained in Subpart E of this Part prior to payment for any related costs or the issuance of a No Further Remediation Letter. On or after March 1, 2006, owners and operators desiring to proceed with the exclusion of human exposure pathways under 35 Ill. Adm. Code 742, Subpart C, must elect pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 734.105 to proceed in accordance with 35 Ill. Adm. Code 734 and conduct site investigation and corrective action in accordance with that Part instead of meeting the requirements of this Section.

k) If, following the approval of any site classification plan, an owner or operator determines that revised procedures or cost estimates are necessary in order to comply with the minimum required activities for the site, the owner or operator shall submit, as applicable, an amended site classification plan or associated budget plan for review by the Agency. The Agency shall have the authority to review and approve, reject, or require modification of the amended plan or budget plan in accordance with the procedures contained in Subpart E of this Part.

 BOARD NOTE: Owners or operators proceeding under subsection (a)(2) or (j) of this Section are advised that they may not be entitled to full payment from the Fund and that applications for payment must be submitted no later than one year after the date the Agency issues a No Further Remediation Letter. Furthermore, owners or operators may only be reimbursed for one method of site classification. See Subpart F of this Part.

Owners and operators are also advised that the total payment from the Fund for all corrective action plans and associated budget plans submitted by an owner or operator must not exceed the amounts set forth in Subpart H of this Part.

(Source: Amended at 30 Ill. Reg. 4928, effective March 1, 2006)