



Ad-Hoc INDUSTRY

NATURAL RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT GROUP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Groundbreaking Frameworks Released: Innovative Solutions for Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration

Washington, DC – December 10, 2024 – The Ad-Hoc Industry Natural Resource Management Group (Group), in collaboration with federal and state agencies, industry leaders, academic institutions, and professional organizations, has unveiled a groundbreaking document, *“Best Practice Approach Frameworks in the Context of Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration: PFAS, Climate, Remediation/Restoration, and Emergency Response/Restoration.”* This innovative roadmap addresses some of the most pressing challenges in natural resource damage assessment and restoration practices.

The Frameworks tackle four critical challenges in natural resource practice:

1. **Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)**
2. **Climate Change**
3. **Coordinating Remediation and Restoration**
4. **Coordinating Emergency Response and Restoration**

Each Framework offers step-by-step guidance for practitioners navigating complex issues under U.S. law, with potential applicability in the UK, EU, and other jurisdictions.

Comprehensive Guidance and Applications

This document provides detailed guidance on the application of the four Frameworks in case- or site-specific scenarios. It outlines guiding principles and rules of engagement for successful implementation. Developed through extensive collaboration since 2020, the Frameworks represent the collective expertise of multi-stakeholder groups.

Key Features and Benefits

The Frameworks are designed for use by potentially responsible parties (PRPs), natural resource trustees, response agencies, and other stakeholders. They help:

- Identify early decision points in natural resource damage assessment and restoration processes.
- Align stakeholders on site-specific objectives and outcomes.
- Enhance cost efficiency and reduce assessment timelines.
- Promote earlier restoration of natural resources affected by hazardous waste or oil spills.

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Private/Public Collaborative Development

The Frameworks were developed by multi-disciplinary experts and refined through multi-stakeholder input. They were presented and discussed at Natural Resources Symposia convened by the Group in partnership with The George Washington University Law School, the Environmental Law Institute, and the George Washington University Environmental and Energy Management Institute. Workshops in 2024 brought together legal, scientific, and economic experts to finalize the Frameworks.

Availability and Next Steps

The *Best Practice Approach Frameworks*, published in cooperation with the Environmental Law Institute (ELI), are available for download at <https://nrdonline.org/Frameworks.php4>. The document will be updated periodically to reflect advancements in legislation, science, and policy. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback to maintain its relevance.

For more information or inquiries, please contact info@nrdonline.org.

About the Ad-Hoc Industry Natural Resource Management Group

Founded in 1988, the Group is a non-lobbying coalition of multi-sector companies and affiliate law and consulting firms. Its focus is the intersection of natural resources—including air, water, land, and species—and industrial activities such as manufacturing, energy exploration and production, mining, renewable resources, and transportation. The Group works to advance natural resource practices that are balanced, reasonable and predictable.

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