Defining Sediment and Soil at Clean-up Sites

Options for delineating soil versus sediments

Option 1: The water’s edge is the vertical demarcation line for sediment/soil.
Option 2: The ordinary high water mark (OHWM) is the vertical demarcation line for sediment/soil.
Option 3: The 100-year floodplain boundary is the demarcation line for sediment/soil.

Approach

Factors related to the definition of sediment and soils including the following:

A. What standards/guidelines/administrative rules should be used to evaluate materials in situ and what are the implications depending on the definition of sediment vs. soil?
   o What other considerations are there when determining the demarcation between sediment and soil?
B. What standards/guidelines/administrative rules should be followed for ex situ management of materials once they have been removed (i.e. dredging)?
C. What bearing does the definition of sediment and soil have on the use of various funding sources to implement sediment clean ups?
D. What bearing does the definition of sediment have on the implementation of administrative rules or statutes?