

**Agency of Natural Resources  
Department of Environmental Conservation**

**Waste Management & Prevention Division  
Site Management Section  
1 National life Drive – Davis 1  
Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3704  
802-228-1138**

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Peter Walke, Commissioner

Through: Matt Moran, Petroleum Cleanup Fund Administrator <sup>DS</sup>MM  
Patricia Coppolino, Senior Environmental Program Manager <sup>DS</sup>PC  
Matt Chapman, Division Director <sup>DS</sup>MC

From: James Donaldson, Site Manager <sup>DS</sup>JD

Date: November 1, 2021

Subject: Interim labor reimbursement rates for the Vermont Petroleum Cleanup Fund

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This memorandum provides the rationale for publishing interim maximum labor rates for reimbursement claims through the Vermont Petroleum Cleanup Fund (PCF).

The Sites Management Section is currently in the process of updating the September 2014 *Procedures for Reimbursement from the Vermont Petroleum Cleanup Fund*. As part of converting this guidance document into Rule format, the SMS is reviewing the existing maximum 2014 PCF reimbursement rates that were established for labor categories, subcontracted services, and expendable items relating to site investigation, monitoring, and emergency responses. The SMS anticipates that the draft PCF Rule will be ready to undergo the formal Rulemaking process in Spring or Summer 2022.

The SMS has solicited initial stakeholder input from the Vermont Environmental Consortium (VEC) regarding revised PCF maximum reimbursement rates. VEC has been a recent proponent of raising the maximum reimbursement rates due to inflation and changes to prevailing industry rates. The SMS has conducted our own independent review that included an analysis of consumer price index changes to existing rates, as well as a review of current environmental professional industry rates for the northeast and maximum labor reimbursement rates for other northeastern state fund programs. The attached PCF personnel rates table is the result of the SMS review and discussion with VEC representatives.

As it will likely take many months before the PCF Rule is promulgated, the SMS would like to publish these interim labor category maximum PCF reimbursement rates as soon as possible. Through the SMS' rate review process it has been determined that the 2014 maximum PCF reimbursement rates for the labor categories are significantly undervalued when compared to the 2021 business environment.



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AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

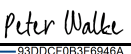
## Interim Petroleum Cleanup Fund Maximum Reimbursement Rates November 2021

A list of maximum reimbursement rates relating to site investigation and monitoring tasks is included in the *Procedures for Reimbursement from The Petroleum Cleanup Fund*, effective September 2014. A review of the 2014 labor rates in comparison to recent years' inflation has prompted the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, Waste Management and Prevention Division to increase reimbursement rates for labor categories. A complete revision of the maximum Petroleum Cleanup Fund (PCF) reimbursement rates will be undertaken in 2022. In the interim, the maximum PCF reimbursement rates provided in the 2014 PCF reimbursement guidance, the interim expendable item rates published on May 23, 2020, and personnel rates in the list below are effective. The rates provided below are subject to change.

Personnel	
Title	Maximum Rate/Hour
Principal	\$165.00
Senior Scientist/Engineer/Geologist	\$135.00
Project Scientist/Engineer/Geologist	\$115.00
Staff Scientist/Engineer/Geologist	\$95.00
Field Technician II	\$80.00
Field Technician I	\$75.00
Draftsperson II	\$85.00
Draftsperson I	\$80.00
Administrator	\$65.00
Secretary/Clerical	\$60.00
Site Supervisor	\$95.00

In order to receive reimbursement for any item(s) on the list above, a PCF reimbursement claim must be provided to the WMPD in accordance with Chapter 9 of the PCF reimbursement guidance. Reimbursement approval is subject to fund availability and WMPD review of the claim and any associated, required deliverable.

Approved by:

DocuSigned by:  
  
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11/10/2021

Peter Walke

Date

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation

