

# Application of Fukushima-Derived Radiological Cleanup Metrics for Assessing Decontamination Feasibility in the United States



**2018 EPA International Decontamination  
Research and Development Conference  
May 8-10, 2018; EPA's Research Triangle Park  
Campus, North Carolina**

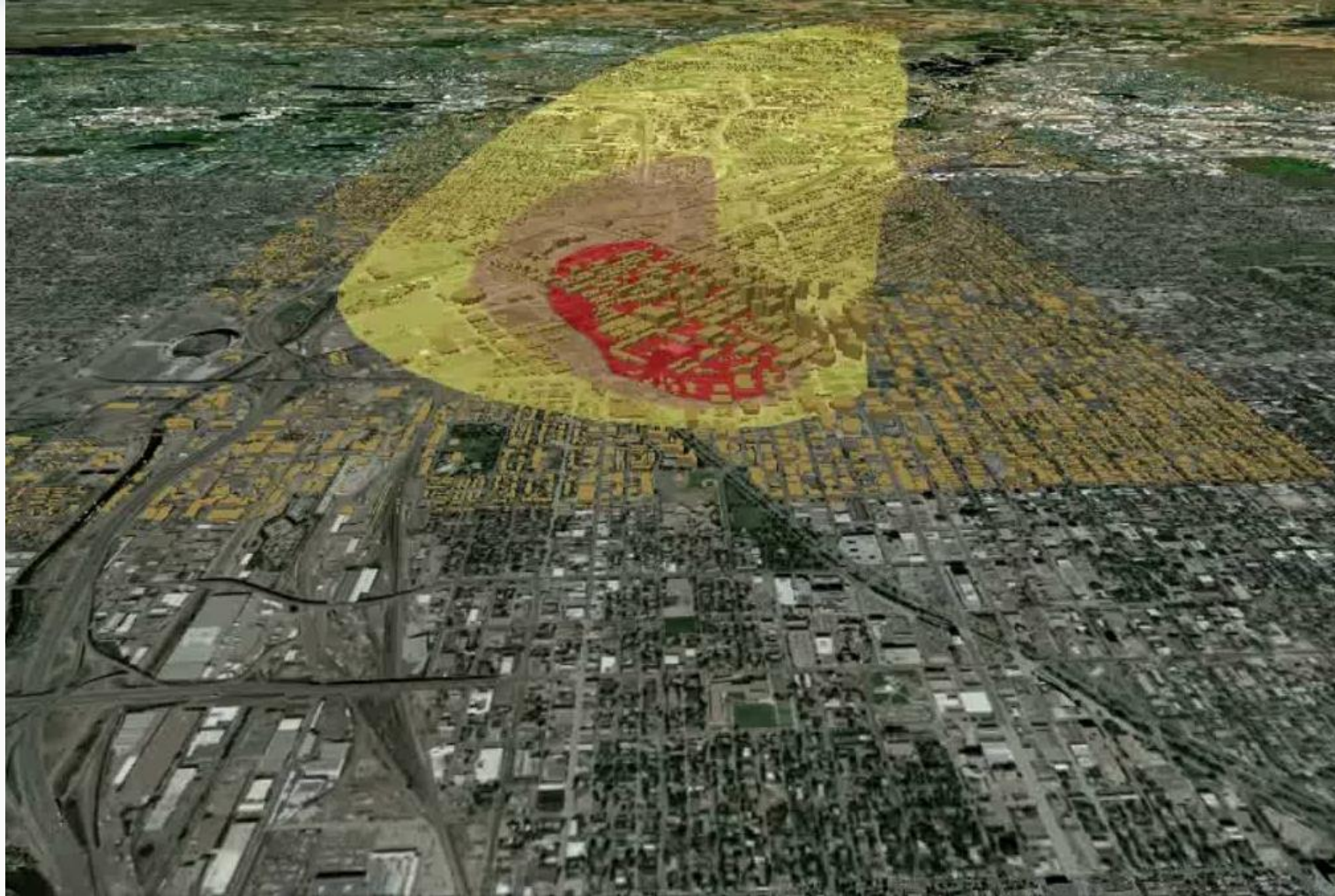
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# Outline

1. Why CBRN waste issues are important
2. WEST description & methodology
3. WEST updates
4. Case study: Fukushima Hirono Town
5. Case study: WARRP & Liberty RadEx waste estimates using Fukushima Decontamination Metrics
6. Summary

# Impact

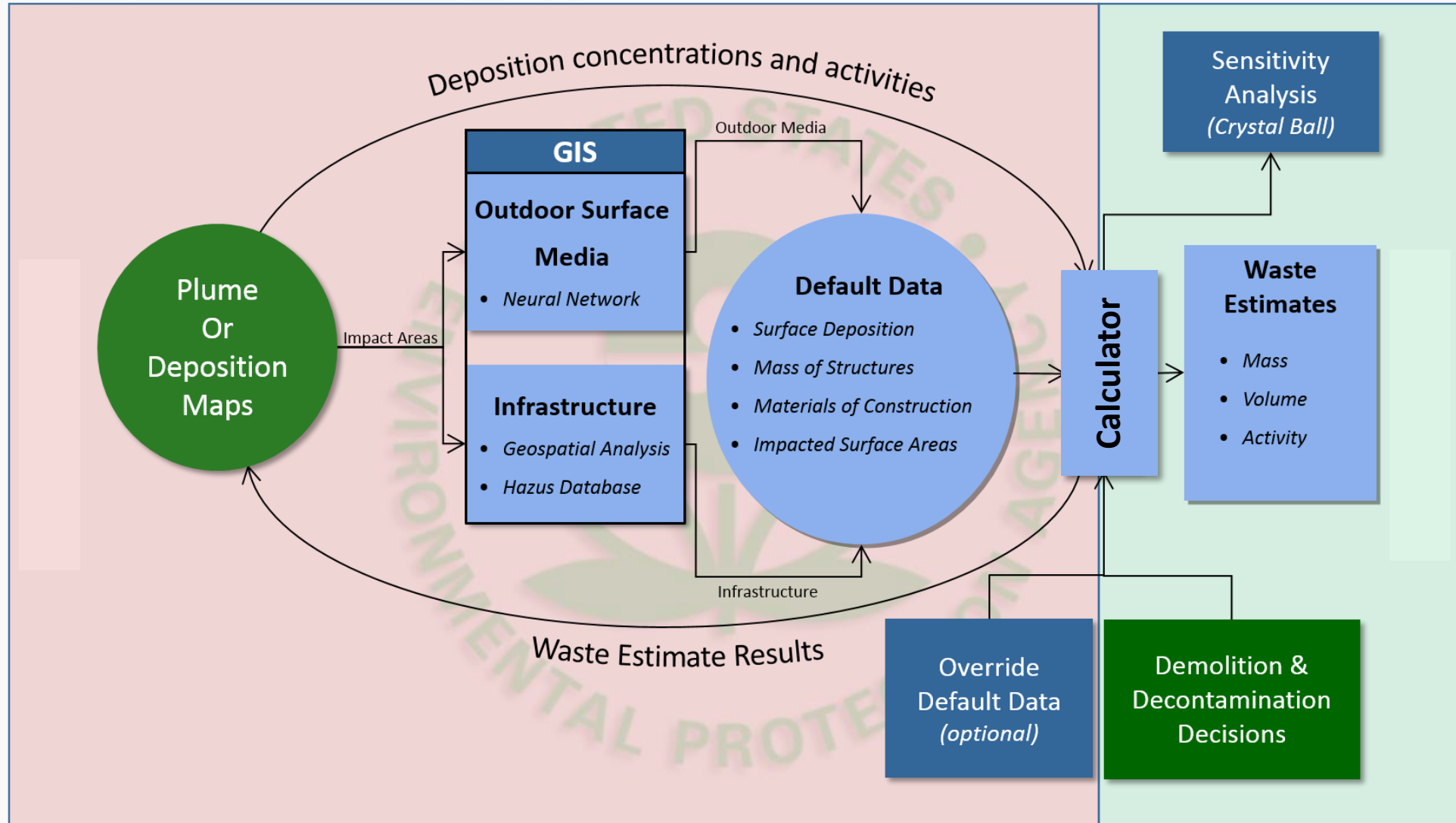


Wide Area Recovery and Resiliency Program (Denver Metro Area)

# WEST: Description

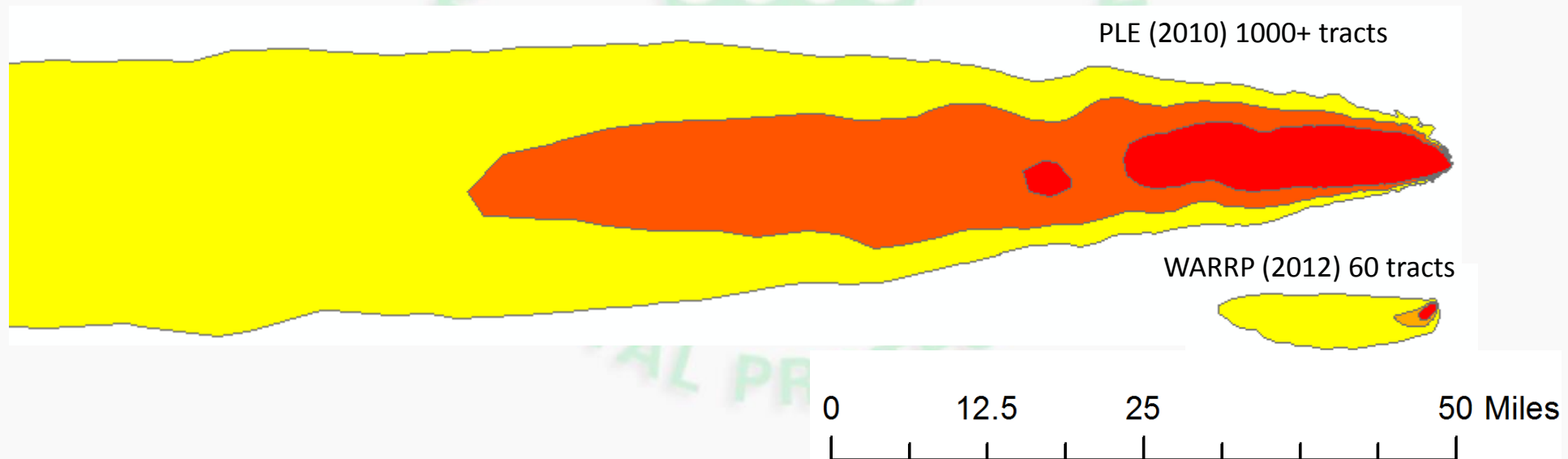
- GIS-based tool that can assist in planning/preparedness activities at all levels of government
  - Decontamination & restoration timeline
  - Decisions need to be made early
- Waste Estimation Support Tool (WEST) Facilitates
  - First-order estimate of waste quantity and activity
  - Potential triage/staging/storage/disposal options
  - Impact of decontamination strategies on waste generation
  - Impact of WM strategies on decontamination decisions
  - Starting point for policy discussions

# WEST: Methodology



# Updates: Platform

- Current WEST platform is built on a VBA-based Excel spreadsheet, ArcGIS plug-in (Python), Hazus (Full Install), and external apps
- Had inherent limitations
  - Excel limit size of scenario (limited to 250-300) census tracts
  - Distribution and installation difficult due to leapfrogging versions of Hazus and ArcGIS
- New WEST version uses ArcGIS plug-in (Python) and Waste Estimator built in MS Access, only need Hazus infrastructure data



# Updates: Imagery Analysis



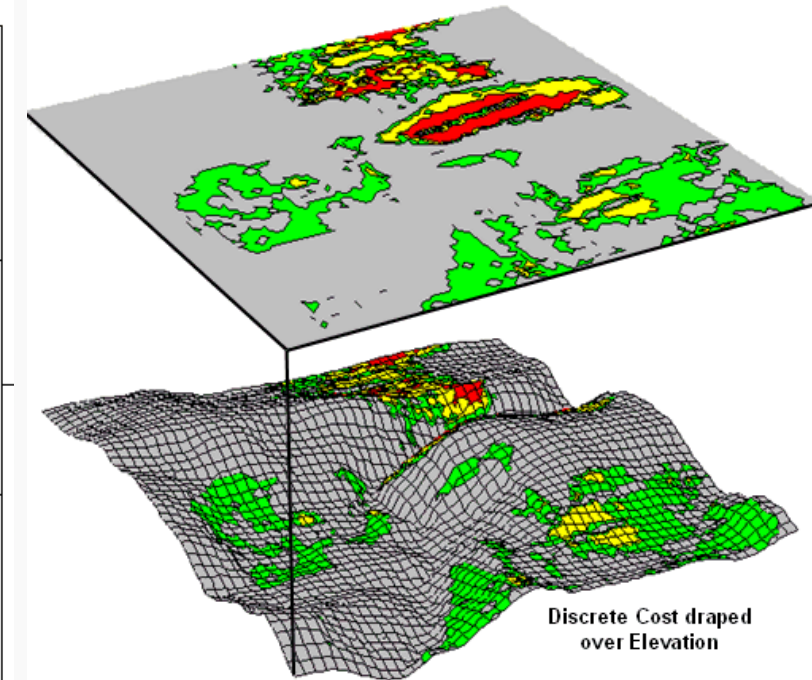
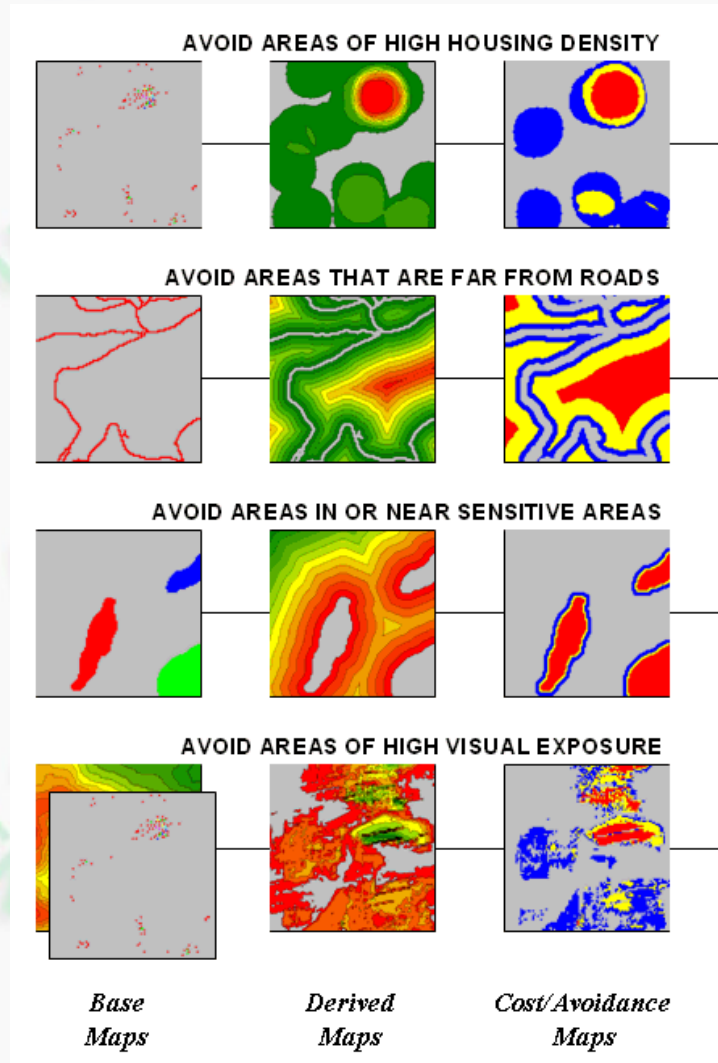
Satellite Image



Surface-classified Image

# Updates: Logistics/Site Analysis

- Use GIS to:
  - Identify most optimal routes
  - Make recommendations on where to locate, expand, or consolidate waste staging and temporary storage locations
  - Impacts of waste quantity and generation rate





# Updates: Additional Waste Parameters

- Vegetation and vehicles are likely key components of waste streams
- Developing new methods (remote sensing) and leveraging pre-existing models



# Decontamination Metrics



Topsoil stripping (mechanical digger)



Manual topsoil stripping



Thin layer topsoil stripper





Reversal tillage with plough




Fixation agent application



Solidified soil separation and recovery machine

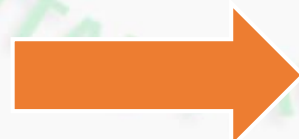
Reference	Forest-1
Land use type	Forest
Surface	Ground
Topography	Flat
Decontamination method	Manual removal of litter and humus
Content	Removal of litter and humus (manual), vacuum collection, packaging and transportation
Decontamination method outline	Initially litter and humus are gathered manually with rakes before being collected with a vacuum tanker and then packed into flexible bags. Waste bags are transported to temporary storage by truck.
	  <p>Manual removal of humus and litter</p> <p>Packing into flexible waste bags</p>
Machinery required	Vacuum tanker (sucking force 100 m <sup>3</sup> hr <sup>-1</sup> ), truck with loader crane

 <p>JAEA-Review 2014-011</p> <p>Remediation of Contaminated Areas in the Aftermath of the Accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station: Overview, Analysis and Lessons Learned Part 1: A Report on the "Decontamination Pilot Project"</p> <p>Fukushima Environmental Safety Center</p> <p>Sector of Fukushima Research and Development</p> <p>March 2015 Japan Atomic Energy Agency 日本原子力研究開発機構</p>	target areas: flat forest ground	
	maximum vacuum distance is 100 m	
	area decontaminated (1 person day)	50 m <sup>2</sup>
	Volume of waste generated	20-90 t m <sup>-2</sup>
	Waste type	Litter, humus
	Volume of water used	—
	Collection method	—
	Collection rate	—
	DF	1.1-10
	Gamma dose rate reduction	5-90%
operation cost, area > 1000 m <sup>2</sup> )	530 Yen m <sup>-2</sup>	
<p>define the required stripping depth before beginning decontamination</p> <p>is important to minimise variability of decontamination level due to a</p> <p>vacuum tankers to prevent secondary contamination.</p> <p>ch as litter and dead branches should be collected separately from</p> <p>tion purposes.</p>		

Media Type	Decon Tech	Source	
Soil	Excavation/Physical Removal - Machine Assisted	JAEA	
	Excavation/Physical Removal - Manual Removal	JAEA	
	Excavation/Physical Removal with Solidification Agent - Machine Assisted	JAEA	
	Reversal Tillage	JAEA	
	Soil Inversion	JAEA	
Streets - Asphalt	Excavation/Physical Removal - Machine Assisted	JAEA	
	Foam/Rinse	EPA	
	Grinding	EPA	
	Grit Blasting	EPA	
	Low Volume Foam/Rinse	EPA	
	Media Blasting (Dry Ice)	JAEA	
	Media Blasting (Sand)	JAEA	
	Media Blasting (Shot)	JAEA	
	Polymer/Gel	EPA	
	Road Sweeper	JAEA	
	Strippable Coating	EPA	
	Ultra-High-Pressure Washing	JAEA	
	Water Blasting	EPA	
	Streets/Sidewalks - Concrete	Abrasion	JAEA
		Foam/Rinse	EPA
Grinding		EPA	
Grit Blasting		EPA	
High-Pressure Washing		JAEA	
Low Volume Foam/Rinse		EPA	
Media Blasting (Shot)		JAEA	
Polymer/Gel		EPA	
Strippable Coating		EPA	
Ultra-High-Pressure Washing		JAEA	
Water Blasting	EPA		



Implement Technologies



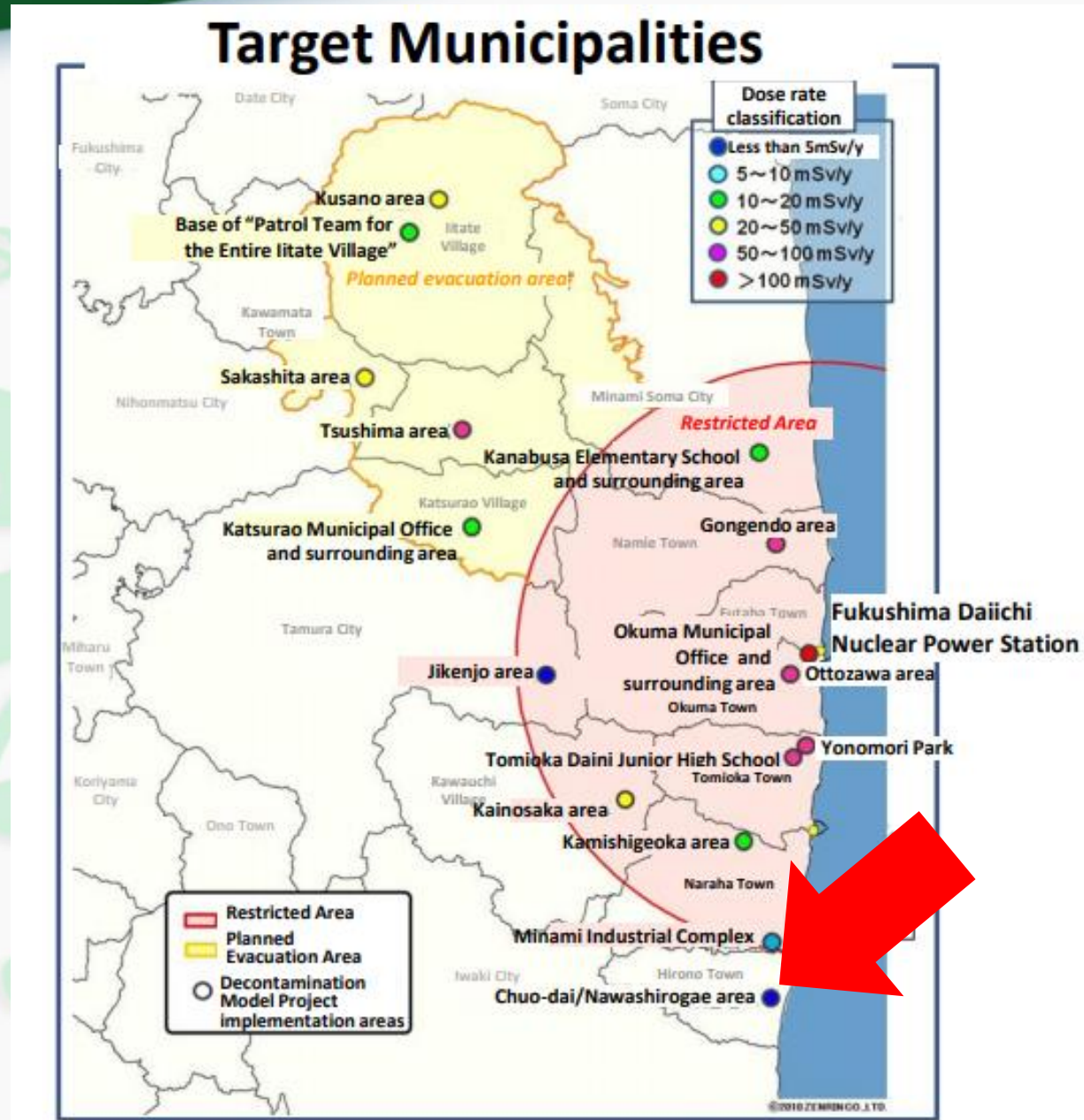
Document/Collect Metrics



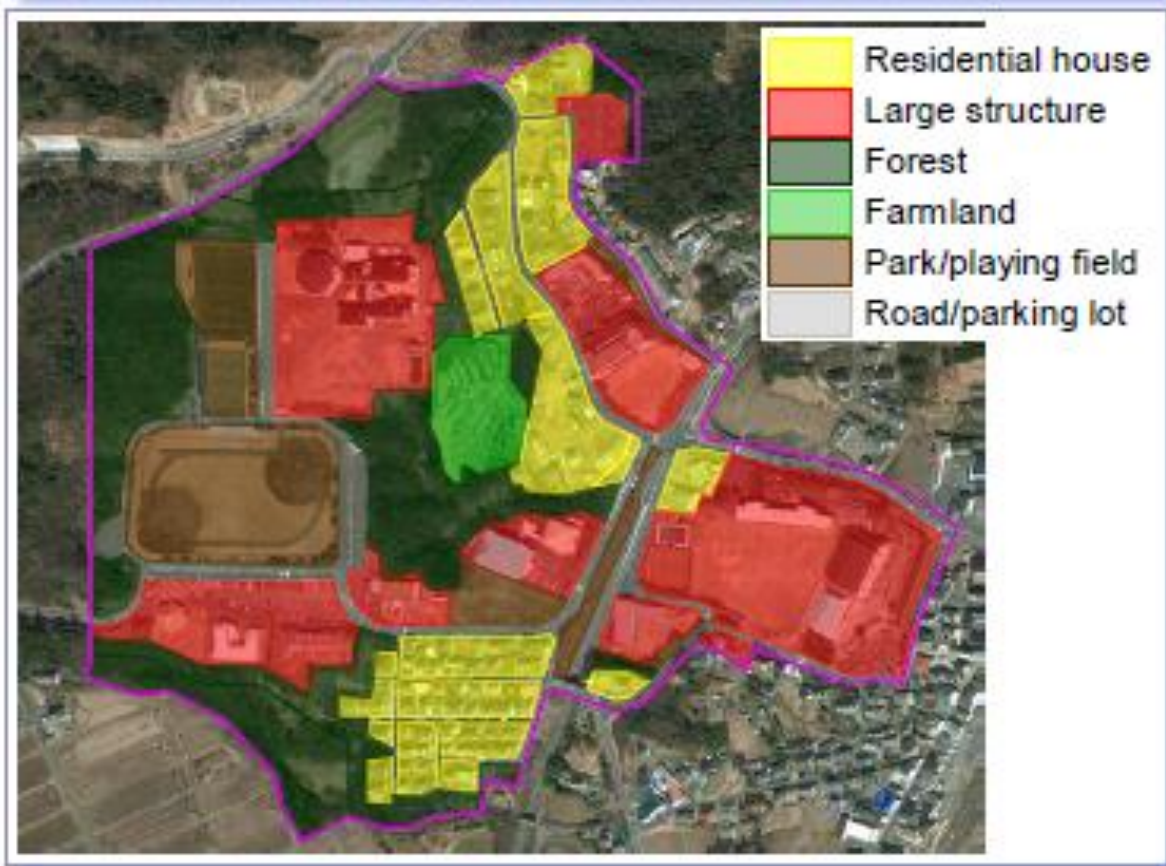
Scale Using Models/Decision Tools

# Case Study: Hirono Town

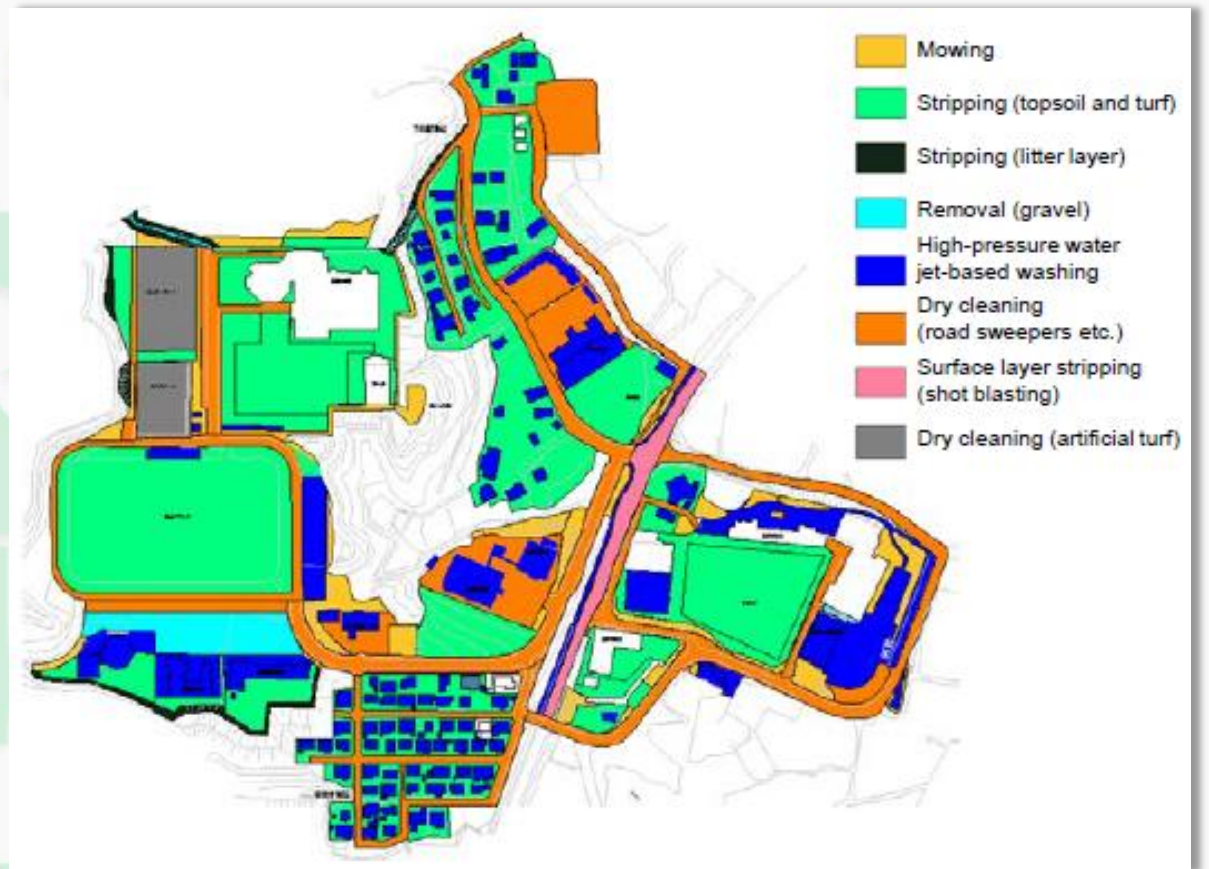
- Fukushima serves as an opportunity to ground test results and add new decontamination technologies
- Japan conducted “Decontamination Model Project”
- A series of towns were selected to test decon technologies
- NHSRC selected Hirono town as testbed
- Infrastructure and surface media information were collected using EPA tools



# Case Study: Hirono Town

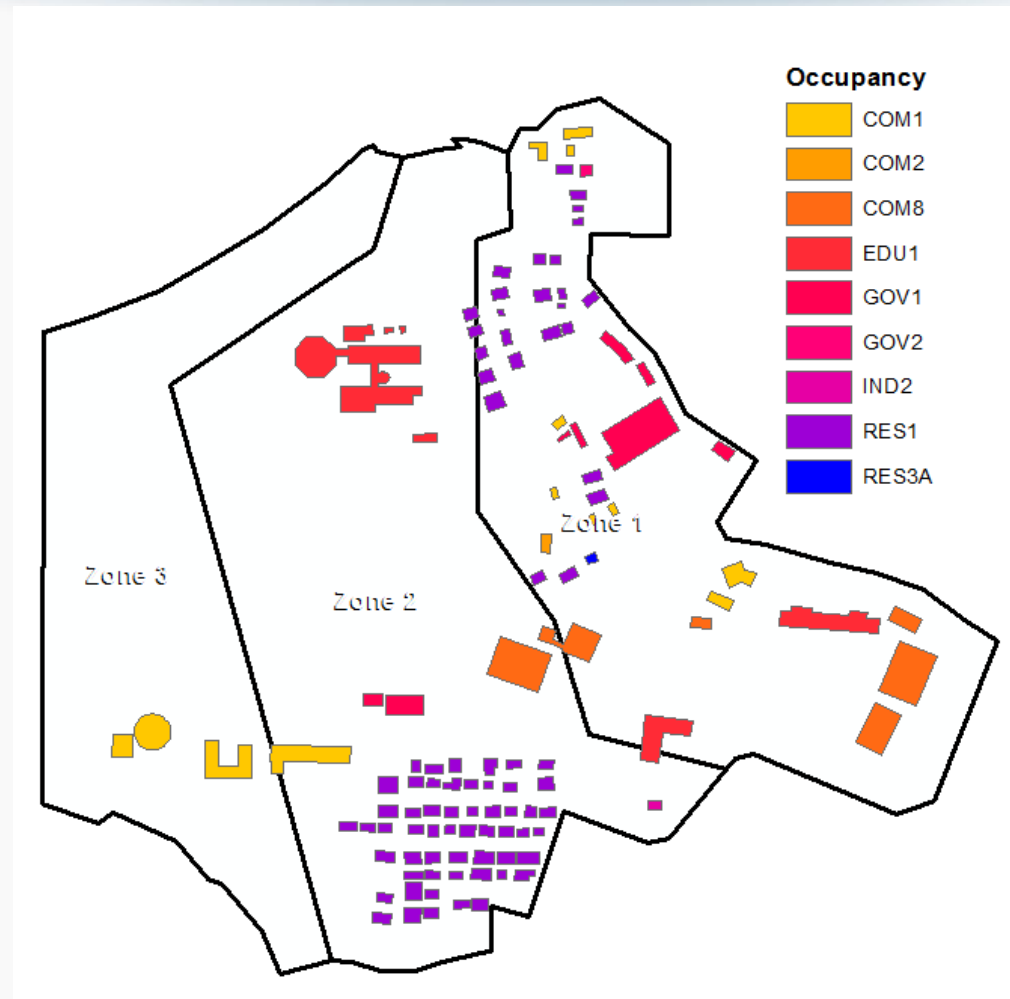


Site selection & infrastructure

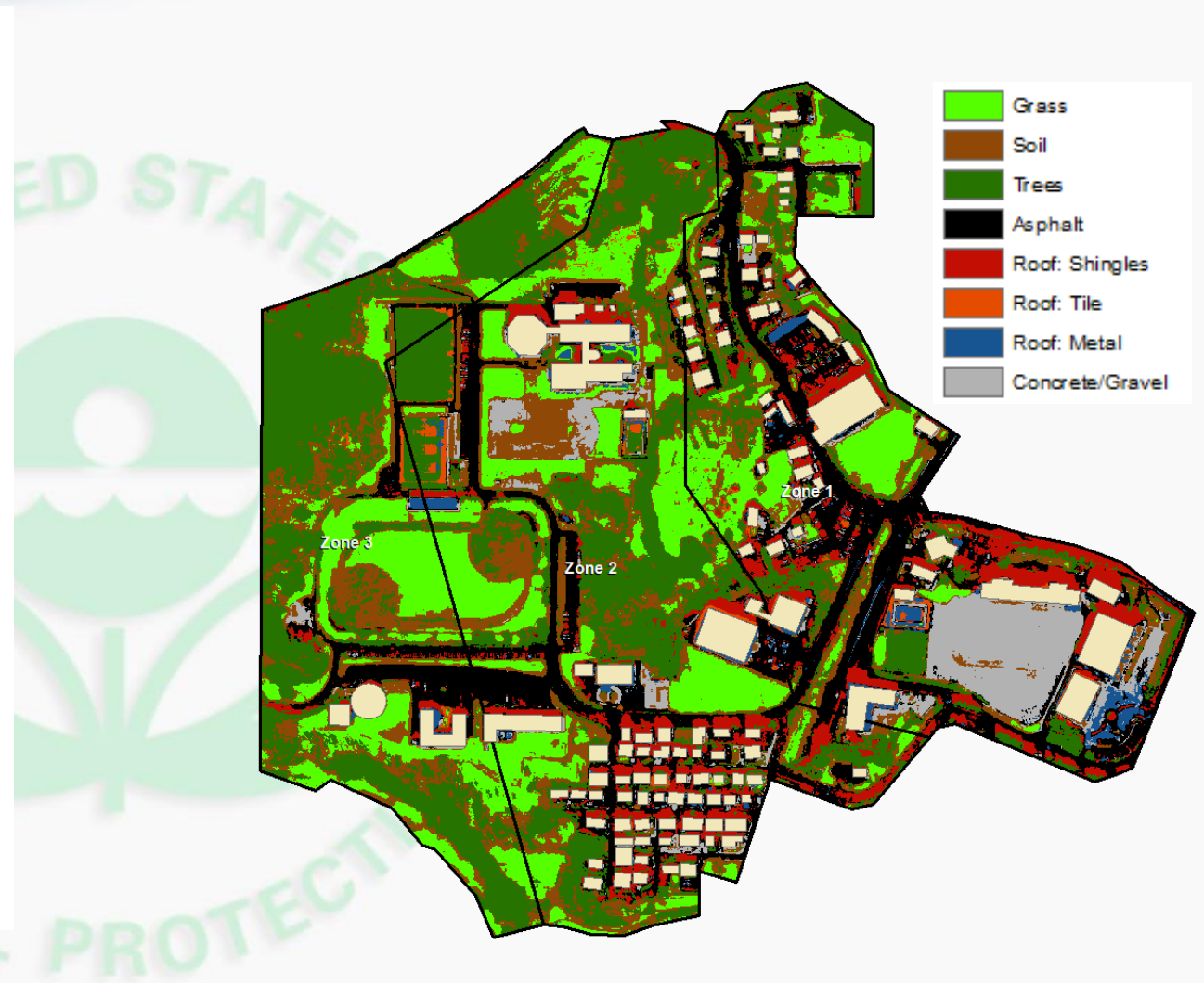


Decontamination Selection

# Case Study: Hirono Town



WEST: Site selection & Infrastructure



WEST: Surface Selection/Decon

# Case Study: Hirono Town

## Decontamination Approach

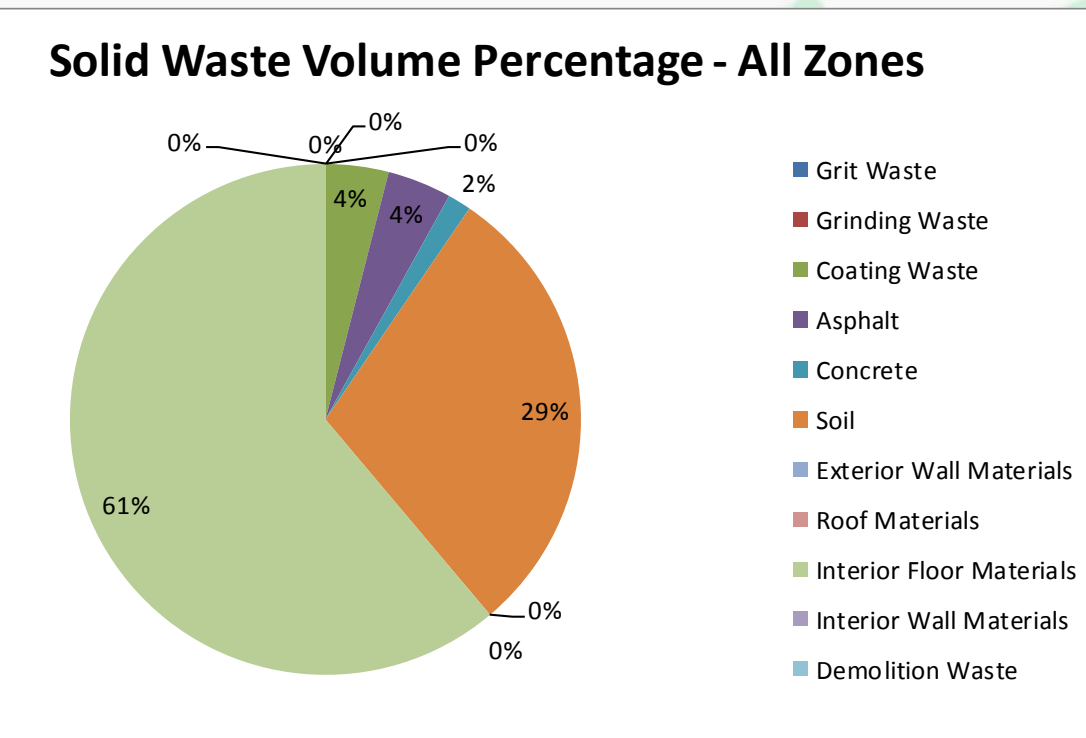
Surface	Decon Method	Decon Method Distribution
Soil	Stripping (turf)	62%
Concrete	Removal (gravel)	6%
Asphalt	Dry Cleaning	33%
Roof	Pressure Wash	100%
<i>Interior Walls</i>	<i>Strippable Coating</i>	<i>100%</i>
<i>Interior Floors</i>	<i>Excavation/Physical Removal</i>	<i>100%</i>

# Case Study: Hirono Town

## Outdoor decon (only):

Solid waste: 1.48E+04 metric tons

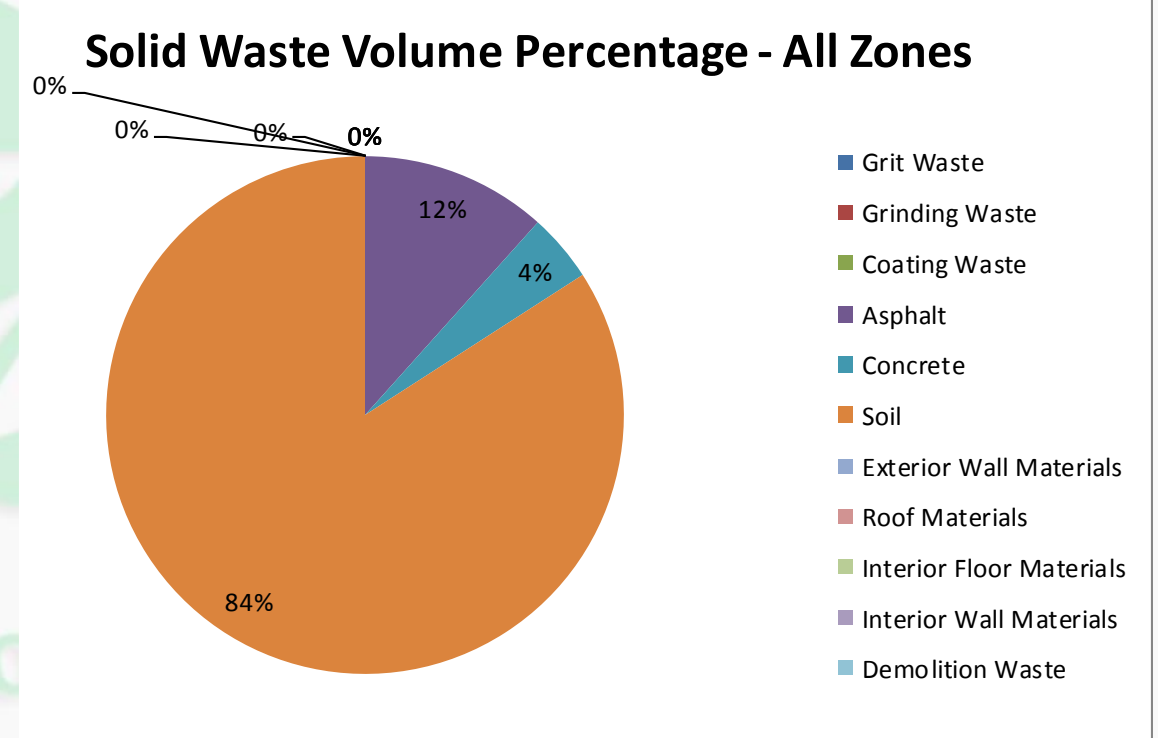
Liquid waste: 1.52E+02 m<sup>3</sup>



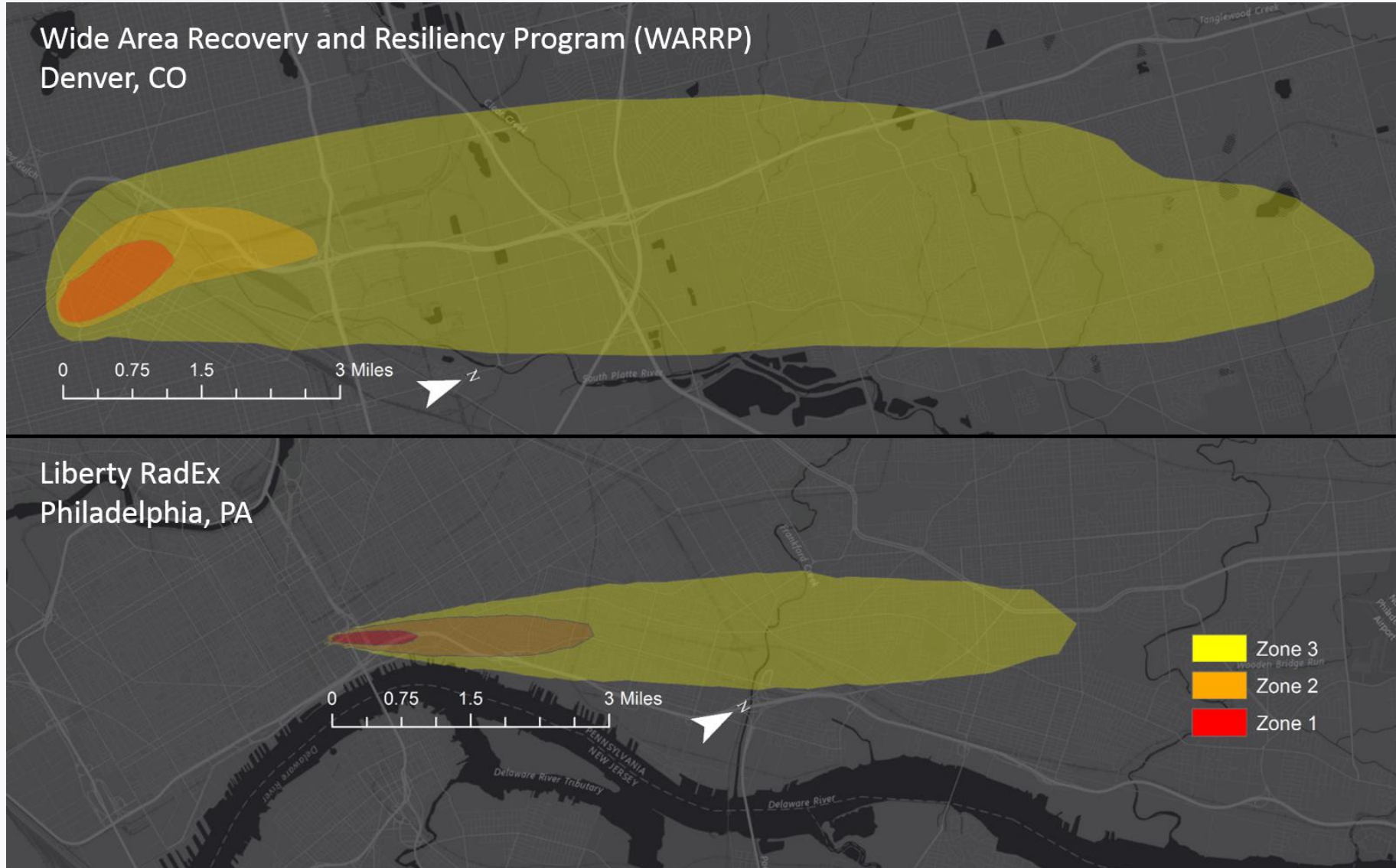
## Outdoor & indoor decon:

Solid waste: 1.51E+04 metric tons

Liquid waste: 1.52E+02 m<sup>3</sup>



# Case Study: WARRP & Liberty RadEx





# Case Study: WARRP & Liberty RadEx

## JAEA Decontamination Approach

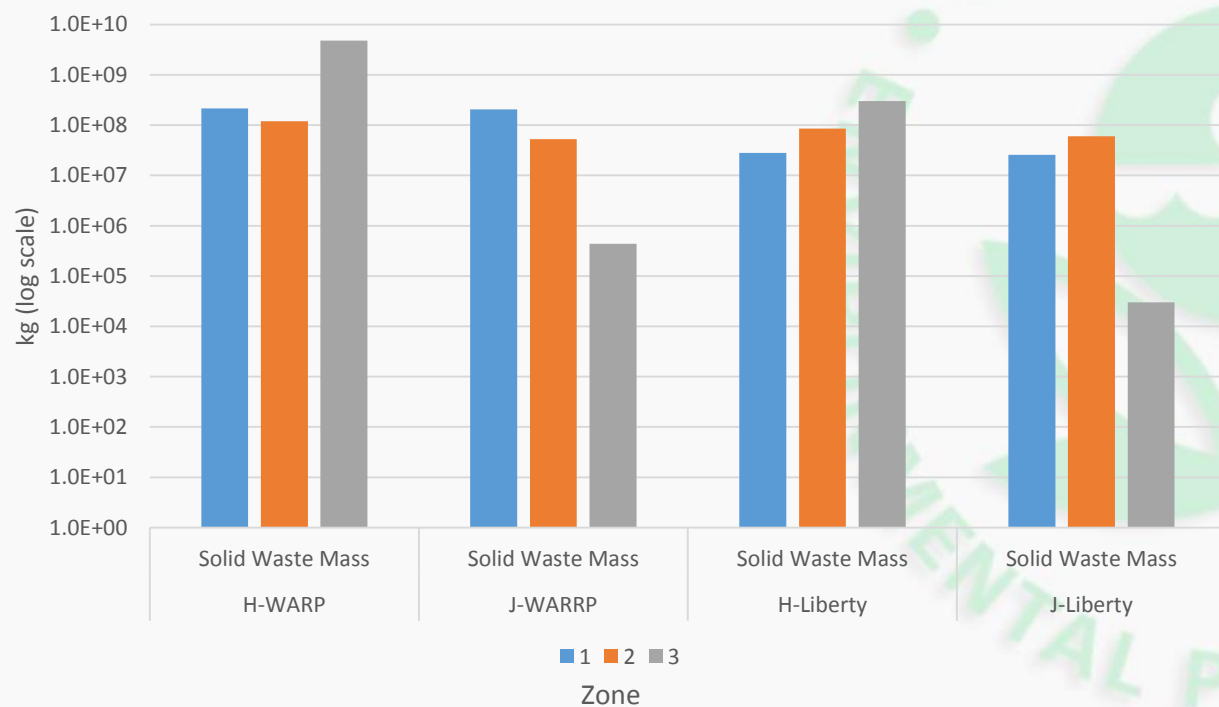
Surface	Decon Type	Zone 1 (%)	Zone 2 (%)	Zone 3 (%)
Exterior Walls, Excluding Roofs	Surface Brushing	100%	100%	100%
Interior Floors	None	None	None	None
Interior Walls, Including Ceilings	None	None	None	None
Roofs	Brushing & High-Pressure Washing	100%	100%	100%
Soil	Excavation/Physical Removal - Machine Assisted	100%	100%	100%
Streets - Asphalt	Excavation/Physical Removal - Machine Assisted	90%	50%	0%
	Road Sweeper	10%	50%	100%
Streets/Sidewalks - Concrete	Abrasion	100%	50%	25%
	Ultra-High-Pressure Washing	0%	50%	75%

## Historical Decontamination Approach

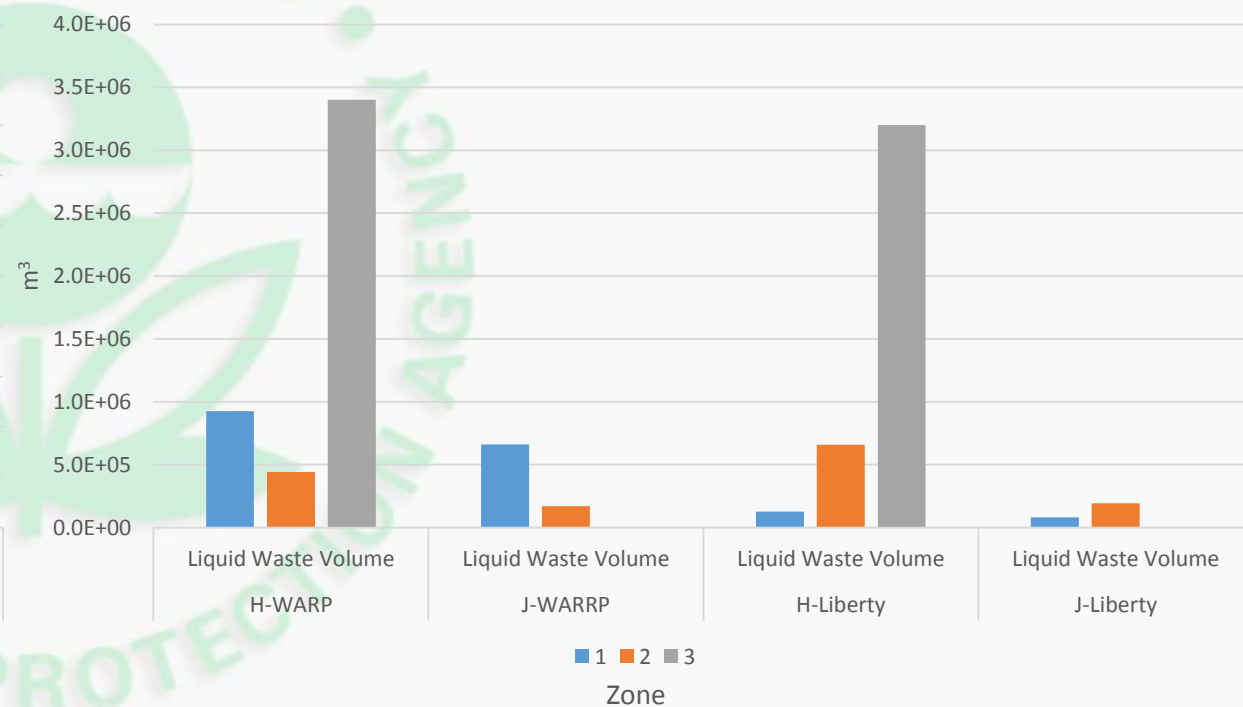
Surface	Decon Type	Zone 1 (%)	Zone 2 (%)	Zone 3 (%)
Exterior Walls, Excluding Roofs	Water Blasting	100%	100%	100%
Interior Floors	None	None	None	None
Interior Walls, Including Ceilings	None	None	None	None
Roofs	Water Blasting	100%	100%	100%
Soil	Excavation/Physical Removal - Machine Assisted	100%	100%	100%
Streets - Asphalt	Excavation/Physical Removal - Machine Assisted	90%	25%	0%
	Grinding	10%	50%	50%
	Water Blasting	0%	25%	5%
Streets/Sidewalks - Concrete	Grinding	100%	50%	25%
	Water Blasting	0%	50%	75%

# Case Study: WARRP & Liberty RadEx

WARRP & Liberty RadEx Solid Waste Mass Comparing Historical and JAEA Decontamination Metrics by Zone



WARRP & Liberty RadEx Liquid Waste Volume Comparing Historical and JAEA Decontamination Metrics by Zone



J= JAEA  
H= Historical

# Summary

- Methodology presented here is not limited to waste estimation
- Improvements to decon technologies can have significant impacts on the waste stream
- Operational (field > lab) data represents the most optimal source of information
- OCONUS cultural norms and/or laws/regulations may impact how results are reported
  - i.e., Fukushima waste totals often exclude indoor materials

# Disclaimer

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through its Office of Research and Development (ORD) funded and managed the research described here under Contract EP-D-11-006 to Eastern Research Group (ERG). It has been subjected to the Agency's review and has been approved for publication and distribution. Note that approval does not signify that the contents necessarily reflect the views of the Agency. Mention of trade names, products, or services does not convey official EPA approval, endorsement, or recommendation.

# Thank You

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