

Interim Standards for Petroleum in Ground Water and Soil
Developed by NRCA and WRA December 1998

Parameter	Ground Water	Soil
TPH	50 ppm	1000 ppm
BTEX	1000 ppb	135 ppm
Benzene	200 ppb	5 ppm
Toluene	Nc	30 ppm
Ethyl Benzene	nc	50 ppm
Xylene	nc	50 ppm

Note:

BTEX¹ = **Benzene**² + **Toluene** + **Ethyl Benzene** + **Xylene**

TPH³ = **Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon**

nc = no criteria set for this parameter

ppm = parts per million

ppb = parts per billion

¹ BTEX – This standard is additive for the components involved. This was set at 1000 ppb. Benzene is included in this value hence the other components should add up to 800 ppb.

² Benzene – This was set at 200 ppb as it was recognised that benzene being carcinogenic should not be arbitrarily included in the standard set for BTEX.

³ TPH – This is similar to the gasoline range organics which is the nomenclature used by the USEPA to refer to petroleum products within the range C1 – C10 of the carbon chain. Source document #2 has set this value at 50 ppm taking into account the quality and use of the water.

NRCA – Natural Resources Conservation Authority

WRA – Water Resources Authority