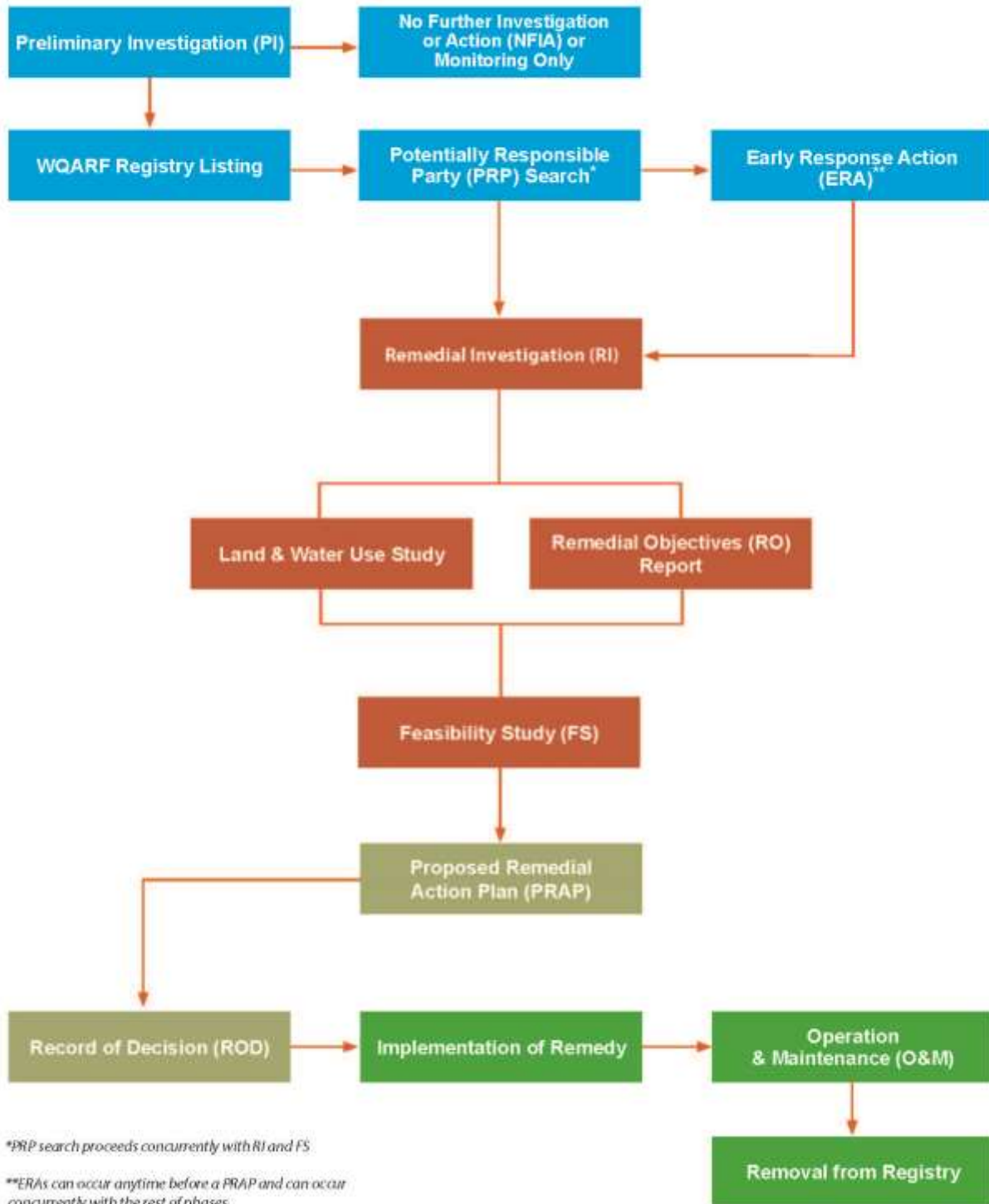


## WQARF PHASES



# **Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Environmental Investigation and Cleanup Process**

**Preliminary Investigation (PI)** – When ADEQ receives information about a potential release of a hazardous substance, the agency may conduct a preliminary investigation. This step determines the potential risk to public health and the environment, and whether further action is required. A PI is not a full investigation to determine the extent of the contamination, nor is its purpose to identify the parties potentially responsible for the contamination.

**No Further Investigation or Action (NFIA)** – Based on the PI, ADEQ can determine that no additional investigation or action is necessary. An investigation can be reopened at a later date if it is determined that the contamination continues to pose a risk to human health and the environment.

**WQARF Registry Listing** – If ADEQ determines that additional investigation or action is necessary, the site is scored using the eligibility and evaluation model. The site registry is the public listing of all sites in Arizona that have been scored. It describes the sites, scores, and current status of investigations and cleanup actions. Placement on the registry does not necessarily mean that the site poses a risk to human health and the environment. It means the site has or may have contamination above a regulatory standard or further investigation is necessary to determine the appropriate action.

**Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) Search** – If a remedial investigation is necessary, the Department may conduct an investigation to identify person(s) and/or businesses(s) who may be liable for the release(s) at the site.

**Early Response Action (ERA)** – Remedial actions initiated (by the Department or any person) prior to the remedy selection at the site. ERAs may prevent spreading or exacerbation of contamination by containing or removing the source of contamination. ERAs may address a current risk to human health or the environment that should not or cannot go unaddressed until a final remedy is developed.

**Remedial Investigation (RI)** – An RI is performed to determine the nature and extent of the contamination at a site as well as to identify impacts to public health and the environment.

**Land & Water Use Study/Remedial Objectives (RO) Report** - Remedial objects are derived from a land and water use evaluation. The land and water use evaluation identifies current and future uses of the land and water at the site. Remedial objectives are the cleanup goals for the site.

**Feasibility Study (FS)** – The FS is performed to identify and evaluate cleanup strategies, technologies, and alternatives that meet remedial objectives to address the contamination at the site.

**Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP)** – Before a long-term cleanup plan is selected for the site, ADEQ publishes the PRAP for public review and comment. This plan outlines ADEQ's preferred cleanup alternative, which is based on information gathered and analyzed in the RI/FS.

**Record of Decision (ROD)** – This public document explains the remedial action plan that has been selected for the site. The decision is based on information and technical analysis generated during the RI/FS and public comment on the PRAP.

**Implementation of Remedy** – The remedy, as outlined in the remedial action plan, is implemented.

**Operation & Maintenance (O&M)** – The remedy is operating and maintenance occurs, as appropriate.

**Removal from Registry** – Once cleanup of the site has occurred, that demonstrates the remedial objectives are met as outlined in the ROD, the site is removed from the registry.