



Benefits of the Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council

Small Arms Guidance Beneficial to Arizona Closures

January 2004

ITRC Paving the Way

The ITRC's Technical and Regulatory Guidelines series publication *Characterization and Remediation of Soils at Closed Small Arms Firing Ranges* and the associated internet training class have provided the background and authoritative information needed for knowledgeable and effective regulatory oversight in the responsible closure of two former military small arms ranges in Arizona. Much of the information can be found elsewhere, but the ITRC team has presented a wealth of experience and information in a particularly relevant and logical format. "Use of the ITRC resources saved many hours of research, provided clear direction for efficient field investigations, and improved the agency's credibility in requiring adequate characterization of these sites," according to a regulator familiar with the Arizona sites.

ITRC Documents Helping to Characterize Sites

Historical aerial photographs and Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis evaluated in light of information presented in the guidance document clearly indicated that a former trap shooting range had not been adequately characterized for closure as proposed. Additional field reconnaissance at the heavily modified site confirmed the shotfall area to be much more extensive than previously acknowledged. Additional characterization of the site will be necessary.

At the other site, soil contamination was confirmed and remediated prior to closure not only in the target and backstop area but also from muzzle blast at and downwind of the firing line.

Getting Better Results through ITRC Resources

Technical support staff with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality praises the ITRC information. "Clearly, our agency has been better able to provide the highest quality regulatory oversight, at reduced cost for both the agency and the regulated parties, through the availability and application of ITRC resources."

Whom can I contact to learn more about this example of ITRC success?

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What is ITRC?

ITRC is all about environmental cleanup—getting the right technology or strategy applied to the situation at hand. Many times that “right technology” is a new technique, approach, or device that leads to faster, better, more cost-effective cleanup strategies. Often finding and implementing the “right” technology or strategy require innovation on the part of the site manager and industry consultant. Approving the “right” technology may require state environmental offices to change their decision-making process. ITRC teams, documents, and training courses not only provide information but also foster interaction within the environmental community. ITRC is a catalyst, providing a network of experts and industry leaders to think creatively and explore better methods of site characterization and remediation, leading to more efficient decision-making with an increased level of confidence and trust.

How does ITRC measure success?

So what has ITRC accomplished? How do we measure success within the framework of environmental cleanup? Protection of human health and protection of the environment are two of ITRC’s critical goals. Our accomplishments and success can be measured by the following:

- Assistance to the community
- Acceleration of cleanup—Cutting approval time
- Decreasing the cost of cleanup—Slashing remediation costs
- Knowledge transfer to facilitate cleanup—Finding better solutions and transferring technologies
- Building expertise industry- and nationwide
- Paving the way for new technologies
- Long-term management of cleanup sites
- Institutional innovation—Breaking down regulatory barriers

ITRC captures the value of these accomplishments and exchanges in several ways. First, ITRC teams develop guidance documents to help regulatory staff, site managers, and technology vendors in the deployment of innovative technologies. Second, ITRC members form a network of technical resources, expertise, and support for implementing new ideas in their own organizations. Correspondingly, the measures of ITRC success include the extent to which guidance documents are used in deploying specific technologies at specific sites (product use), the degree to which ITRC helps create acceptance of innovative technologies as regular practice rather than as an extraordinary occurrence (institutional change), and the effectiveness of the synergy created in the environmental community as ITRC teams collectively address cleanup issues from various perspectives.

A complete list of guidance documents and training events is available at www.itrcweb.org.