



ITRC Advances Knowledge on Passive Diffusion Samplers



Five years ago passive diffusion bag (PDB) sampling was a relatively unknown technology—it lacked standard protocols, it wasn't accepted by regulatory agencies, and it was not widely used or even recognized within the consulting community. But today, PDB sampling is an established technology accepted by regulators and in widespread use. Much of this progress is directly attributable to the efforts of ITRC's Diffusion Sampler Team.

The team has published two guidance documents on the use of PDBs and a resource CD that are widely used by the professional and regulatory communities:

- User's Guide for Polyethylene-Based Passive Diffusion Bag Samplers to Obtain Volatile Organic Compound Concentrations in Wells (2001), a reissue of a two-volume U.S. Geological Survey document) and
- Technical and Regulatory Guidance for Using Polyethylene Diffusion Bag Samplers to Monitor Volatile Organic Compounds in Groundwater (2004).

The resource CD includes video training and a wealth of other information.

Perhaps most impressively, ITRC instructors have provided interactive Internet-based PDB training at no cost to approximately 800 participants. The team has also participated in field demonstrations of passive sampler technologies and arranged presentations and discussions on current developments and practices with professionals on the leading edge of passive sampler developments.

George Nicholas was honored as the ITRC Team Leader of the year in 2002, reflecting not only his own fine performance but also the productivity and excellence of the work group. Previous support staff member Barry Weand says, "Not only are they a talented group of individuals, but they also embody the principles of teamwork and have given freely of their time to produce truly excellent products."