



Benefits of the Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council

ITRC Potpourri Spells S-u-c-c-e-s-s!

August 2004

ITRC is working to be a catalyst behind cleanup solutions in the environmental industry. Internet and Classroom training, Technical and Regulatory Guidance Documents and the sheer synergy that occurs when experts throughout the country gather to discuss and work toward solutions to common problems each contribute to ITRC success. The following stories are examples of how the ITRC brings value to the environmental community on a daily basis.

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Bob Truelson of Yukon Environment attended the internet-based training on constructed wetland treatment. He has been able to apply information from that training event in the Icy Waters land-based aquaculture of Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada. “We have an aquaculture business that is relying on a natural wetland treatment to do much of the polishing work downstream of their facility. They are also gearing up to make enhancements in their settling ponds to try and mimic some of the sots of attenuation that can be achieved by providing sinuosity to the flow path, plantings of emergent vegetation, oxygenation, etc. The course confirmed some of the practices that are being planned,” according to Mr. Truelson.

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In another example of the synergy generated from ITRC involvement in the environmental remediation world, three ITRC classroom training events were held in conjunction with the Midwest Risk Assessment Symposium in Indianapolis in August, 2004. The Phytoremediation, Triad and Accelerated Bioremediation classes were made available to Symposium participants. “In fact, some of the students were able to stay for the Symposium at a reduced cost,” according to Paul Hadley, California state Point of Contact.

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Dr. Patrick McLoughlin, Technical Director at Microseeps, Inc. in New Jersey, suggests that the use of a sampling and analysis technique for soil gas and vapor extraction system performance monitoring was approved more quickly as a result of ITRC experience and networking. In addition, a savings up to \$100,000 could be realized at one site. Dr. McLoughlin suggests that “as ITRC helps spread the word, this technology can be used at hundreds of other sites. They won’t all generate savings this large **but the total annual**

savings could easily be greater than \$1 million!” Mr. Spence Hammond, an Air Quality Engineer with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, confirmed approval of the use of “Microseeps published method to demonstrate compliance on facility S-3231, URS Consultant’s Assured Transportation Site (SVE of PCE contaminated soils). The District determined that the method met or exceeded the minimum performance of alternative, approved methods of sampling and analysis for this task, based upon the information submitted.”

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The Triad successes keep piling up! In New Jersey, Deana Crumbling of the EPA Region 2 says, “It is fortuitous that what we learn from New Jersey can feed so directly into the ITRC through you (the ITRC network). I am quite amazed how well it has worked out with the people and organizations linked together so nicely- thanks to the vision you -Stu Nagourney, NJ Team Leader for the Sampling, Characterization and Monitoring Team- and Brian Sogorka- NJ State POC- have shown!” EPA and the ITRC are working together to ensure the Triad approach is marketed beyond traditional technical networks. Stu Nagourney says, “I’m very excited and heartened that EPA’s Technology Innovation Office (TIO) is looking into getting ‘marketing’ assistance in promoting Triad. I think we may be rapidly reaching the stage where we need to rely on more than just technical arguments to make our point and gain traction for the concept with regulators and other stakeholders”.

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Tom Cozzi, Director in the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, values the benefits of ITRC training to members of his department. “We have thousands of cases [in New Jersey] that involve spills of gasoline and leaking underground storage tanks (UST), many of which impact our groundwater. Thanks to your willingness to open your doors to our personnel for the MTBE training we were able to make the course available to nearly all of our UST Program staff, their managers, and other interested staff who have MTBE issues at their sites.” Mr. Cozzi goes on to place a value of the training alone at over \$40,000. “We encourage you, ITRC, to continue your efforts to develop training and guidance that will accelerate the deployment of innovative environmental technologies. The training was very well received and we were impressed with the quality of the speakers, technical content of the course and the presentation format,” Mr. Cozzi continues.

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At the former Tobyhanna Artillery Range located between Monroe and Wayne Counties in eastern Pennsylvania, Gary Moulder of the PA Department of Environmental Protection provided resources from the Draft Geophysical Prove-Outs (GPO) Document and the Munitions Response Historical Records Review (MR HRR) document to project team members. Since this was the first Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) project undertaken by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the guidance in these documents was

instrumental in getting project personnel up to speed quickly for field operations at this UXO site. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is performing a \$3 million Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis at the former artillery range.

In addition, the 2-day classroom training session on Phytotechnologies held at the Penn State University's Capital Campus in Middletown, PA was a great success with over 140 public officials, environmental consultants and students attending the class. The workshop far exceeded the expectations of the course organizers. Instructors Dr. David Tsao with BP Remediation Management and Steven Rock with the US Environmental Protection Agency National Risk Management laboratory in Cincinnati, both nationally known experts, introduced class participants to the fundamentals of phytotechnologies. The workshop was designed to update and educate the participants on the latest findings and applications of plant-based remedial technologies. This workshop was the largest Phytotechnology training session to date and included a 'homework assignment' to participants involving a hypothetical brownfields redevelopment project.

Whom can I contact to learn more about these examples 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 ITRC documents and training is available on www.itrcweb.org!