



Benefits of the Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council

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

April 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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In what has become a ‘typical’ impact of the synergy of the ITRC, Ted Dragovich of the Illinois EPA reports the following.

“Yesterday morning at nine I was directed by my manager to find out the number of permit reviewers and support staff employed by the states of California, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania in their RCRA and solid waste programs. The information was needed by 3 pm the same day. I did not know who to contact to obtain this information, so I called my ITRC contacts in those states. All of them were able to either provide me with the information I requested or get me in touch with the appropriate people. In every case I was able to get the information in time to meet my deadline.”

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People attending classroom and internet training continue to report direct and immediate benefits. For example, Diffusion Sampling has saved considerable money at several sites. These actual product savings are the result of the information and the guidance received. With respect to site review, savings have occurred in areas in which the following technologies have been used: Phytotechnologies, Chemical Oxidation, and Enhanced Bioremediation. “Once again, ITRC becomes a part of life in our regulatory efforts. There is a considerable amount of undocumented, uncalculated benefit from ITRC. The effort now is to communicate these impacts to consultants, other regulators and to EPA,” suggests David Randolph of Tennessee, state ITRC Point of Contact.

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Mark Harding, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribal Representative to the Senior Management Board and the Massachusetts Governor appointed Community Advisory Council, participated in classroom training regarding UXO basic training in April 2003. Mr. Harding indicated potential savings of up to \$100,000 through the usage of new technology over the long term cleanup at the Massachusetts Military Reservation on Cape Cod.

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Naji Akladiss of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection reports on a site contaminated with solvents in Corinna, Maine. The consultant working on this project submitted a proposal for remediation of several of the zones within the site. To remediate one of these zones, the consultant recommended surfactant flushing remediation technology. The Department of Environmental Protection staff was not completely familiar with this technology so the project manager, the project engineer, and several others involved in similar sites attended the internet training provided by the ITRC. They were also unsure as to the necessary characterization for this type of technology. The internet training helped them determine the capabilities of the technology and whether it would be effective in this situation, in addition to understanding the characterization requirements. Naji Akladiss went on to say, “The training was a useful tool for both staff and consultants to get some direction regarding the best use of the technology. They did decide to proceed with the characterization phase prior to implementation.”

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“We just finished the nation’s biggest PRB trench to remediate a nitrate problem created by a leaky Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) lagoon. The trench was more than 800 feet long, 25 feet deep and 4 feet wide. Wheat straw was used as a source of carbon which acted as the electron donor. We are taking monthly samples from the down gradient monitoring wells to see the effectiveness of the PRB. The EPA office of groundwater research at Ada, Oklahoma has also joined with us as cooperative partner. This is definitely a success story right from the pages of ITRC guidance document. Being an agricultural country, Pakistan uses a great deal of urea fertilizer and nitrate pollution in the groundwater is a serious problem,” according to Dr. Jim Shirazi.

Dr. Shirazi of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture and a member of the ITRC Sampling Team made several presentations to various groups in Pakistan late in 2003. “The presentations included this one about nitrate remediation in groundwater. We had a success story from Oklahoma which we have been sharing with others based on ISB and PRB team efforts,” according to Dr. Shirazi. The 9th Biennial Conference of APSENA (Association of Pakistani Scientists and Engineers in North America), was held

in Pakistan and featured topics as diverse as energy conservation, contract manufacturing, desalination of saline water, and the remediation of groundwater contaminants discussed by Dr. Shirazi.

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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!