



Benefits of the Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council

ITRC --Bringing Success to the States!

April 2004

How is ITRC Helping Change the Landscape of Environmental Remediation?

In Washington State...

Dean Yasuda, state Point of Contact for Washington, stated that 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 review and approval of an RI (Remedial Investigation) work plan to investigate the extent of contamination at a small arms firing range in the state of Washington.

The Kick off Meeting in California....

In the state of California, State Point of Contact Paul Hadley holds a “kickoff meeting” early in the year to communicate with representatives from California EPA Boards and Departments who participate in ITRC. Typically this meeting is held prior to the spring meeting. This group meets with the Director of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), among others, in the summer to brief him on the story of the ITRC, activities ITRC is involved with and how they benefit the state Environmental Departments. Discussion items include a synopsis of upcoming ITRC meetings; update on current team activities; training opportunities, both classroom and internet-based; and other general information regarding ITRC and its interactions with the state of California.

Mr. Hadley has conducted these “orientation” meetings over the past three years and considers they are a key component of getting the word out about the ITRC. The meetings also help the Director understand how the efforts of each of the representatives are benefiting the state of California.

TRIAD Process and Brownfield sites ...

On the March 2004 POC and TL conference call, Stu Nagourney described to the telephone audience the nature of the TRIAD process and its importance in the Air Force remediation efforts for solvents at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. A key participant in the TRIAD success in New Jersey has been Brian Sogorka, State Point of Contact for New Jersey. Mr. Sogorka described the value of the TRIAD approach to environmental remediation decision-making and suggested the value of TRIAD especially related to brownfield sites. He suggested

to all of the other POCs on the conference call that they can save considerable amounts of time and money for cleanup by using the decision processes and characterizations based on TRIAD. The document *Technical and Regulatory Guidance for the Triad Approach: A New Paradigm for Environmental Project Management* has been published and is out for concurrence among state Points of Contact.

Diffusion Sampler Successes Continue with the Air Force ...

Another successful Air Force story comes from the Diffusion Sampler team. The new guidance document, *Technical and Regulatory Guidance for Using Polyethylene Diffusion Bag Samplers to Monitor Volatile Organic Compounds in Groundwater (DSP-3)*, has recently been released for public use and is available on the ITRC website (www.itrcweb.org). Mario Ierardi of the Air Force (RPA/EV) responded enthusiastically: “Congratulations on an excellent job with this document. In my 25 years of government service I have never seen a diverse group of regulators, private industry and the services work so effectively together. You truly represent a model for others to follow. I would like to see this nominated for Government Excellence and Quality Awards. Thank you for your excellent work for improving the understanding of this technology.” According to Barry Weand, “This has been a very hard working, professional and congenial group to work with. In past experiences I have found that personal agenda and egos often got in the way of progress. My dealings with this group have been much the opposite. A conference call just a month ago to tidy up a few issues left me amazed that we could all discuss the issues rationally and come to agreement within a relatively short time.”

Interactions and Synergy of the State POC and Team Leader Call ...

The synergy that comes from state regulators – state Points of Contact and Team Leaders for ITRC- coming together through forums such as monthly conference calls is effective in improving the overall efficiency of all. For example, the monthly state POC and Team Leader conference call is consistently attended by some 30-45 people. When someone on the call makes a suggestion or explains a successful use of ITRC products, each person can take that information and build on it to create their own success. Paul Hadley reported on the successful use of a kickoff meeting with his Director and other interested parties and the success that brings with it in terms of understanding what the ITRC can and does do in the lives of the regulators, how ITRC documents and teams can be helpful in solving some of their remediation issues, and the types of teams that regulators from particular states may want to be a part of. This ‘kickoff’ or orientation meeting gets all the players off to a good start at the beginning of the year. This seems to be a successful model in California that can be duplicated in other states.

POCs working together to engage EPA Regions ...

In developing an outreach to the EPA region in which they reside, state POCs have been working together to ensure effective discussions with the EPA representatives. ITRC is highlighting its purposes, usefulness to the regional EPA staff, and reviewing successful applications of ITRC training and documents in real-time remediation projects. To date, these discussions have been held with Regions IV, V, VII, VIII, IX and plans are underway for additional meetings. As a result of an outreach meeting with EPA region VII and ITRC representatives, Mary Yelken recently spoke to an EPA group consisting of Regional Hazardous Substances Technology Liaisons (HSTLs) and Regional Science Liaisons. The regional liaisons were very enthusiastic about ITRC, particularly noting that the mission of the HSTLs is directly related to the mission of the ITRC.

Triad approach going to Three More Air Force Bases...

Stu Nagourney reported on the request by Air Force Undersecretary Koetz that three Florida Air Force installations utilize the TRIAD approach to environmental management. ITRC representatives have been invited to participate in their initial discussions to ensure they have a complete and thorough understanding and application of TRIAD to their sites.

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 guidance documents and training events is available at www.itrcweb.org.

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