Benefits of the Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council

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

May 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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Paul Hadley, State POC from California, spoke of the incredible improvements over time that have come with an institutional maturity. ITRC is proving to be invaluable in pushing forward new approaches to remediation and the 2004 teams are only indicative of how far ITRC has come in value production.

> "The two teams I'm working with this year- Perchlorate and Bioremediation of DNAPLs- have hit the ground running. Sometimes in the past, teams would be very slow getting started and have little to show for the first six months' efforts. We now have people being very engaged right at the beginning, offering reference documents for others to review, providing access to case studies, and in general participating in the dialogue. Several things are responsible for this improvement in productivity including having some industry representatives who are back for second or even third team tenure. Having the experience is a real asset. The level of expertise is also incredible."

Mr. Hadley surmises that 4-5 non-government representatives have come back for a second term on one of the teams he is on, and one individual is now working on his third team. He also credits the quick start of teams to this year's membership and team processes; an effective team training; and maturity and experience of team members and team leaders.

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Mihir Mehta, State Point of Contact from South Carolina, distributes the internet-based training class schedule to a number of his contacts, as do many of the State POCs. "In South Carolina, this training has been considered towards the continuing education credits for professional licenses," Mr. Mehta states.

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Regulatory council strives to maximize multi-state resources- Excerpts from April 2004 West Virginia Environmental Newsletter "InDepth"

Dr. Pasupathy Ramanan (Ram) has found himself right in the middle of the country's up-and-coming environmental technologies. As the agency point of contact for the Interstate Technology Regulatory Council, his job is to encourage Department of Environmental Protection's variety of experts to share their resources and knowledge with other states. ITRC, a state led, national coalition that works with industry and stakeholders to achieve regulatory acceptance of environmental technologies, provides the forum for such sharing.

"It's not more work for people," Ramanan said. "It's just a matter of sharing. If you put in the time to make sure your findings become part of a guidance document in a manageable, accessible format, it might pay off down the road in other research you are doing."

"In some government agencies, coworkers might not know what the person in the next office is working on. This is one way to open up the lines of communication, even within single agencies," Ramanan said. DEP membership in the council is free, but he directs at least 10 percent of his time away from his work as an Office of Environmental Remediation project manager and on promoting information exchange within the agency, within the state and to Licensed Remediation Specialists. With the continued support of his supervisors, Ramanan said he hopes people within DEP will see the advantages of such a network.

"There is so much information available out there on wetlands, for example," he said. "ITRC and its participating agencies pool their information and bring it together in a manageable format so someone in California can see what we found here in West Virginia. Everyone benefits. I call it 'sharing values.' "

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Dan Nicoski, State Point of Contact for Kansas, reports on successful use of ITRC products at Fort Riley, Kansas. The detection of trichloroethylene (TCE) in soil prompted a removal action at the Fort. A proposed remedy for the impacted area, approximately 200 ft by 300 feet and 10 feet deep, included the use of potassium permanganate. The State project manager reviewed ITRC's "Technical & Regulatory Guidance for In-situ Chemical Oxidation of Contaminated Soil and Groundwater" to evaluate the use of this chemical for TCE degradation. Following approval of this technology, a Lang Tool Deep Digger/In-situ Blender was used to mix the potassium permanganate into the impacted soil. Due to the use of this technology, a reduction in the number of monitoring points and subsequent analytical costs will save the Army approximately $300,000!

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David Randolph, state of Tennessee Point of Contact, provides information about ITRC at conferences and workshops. In the spring 2004, Mr. Randolph provided information packets and general information about ITRC to participants in the Solid and Hazardous Waste Conference in the Greater Smoky Mountains. "Many of the consultants I spoke with did not know about ITRC. It is critical that we educate all our consultants about the products and capabilities of ITRC network," stated Mr. Randolph.

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Ted Livieratos of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality also participated in the internet training "In Situ Bioremediation of Chlorinated Solvents in Groundwater" and sees potential savings associated with information provided in the training. At the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Lab (INEEL) Test Area, a large chlorinated solvent plume is present in the Snake River Aquifer underneath Test Area North at the INEEL. "The training helped provide information that was directly applicable to review of Operation and Maintenance regarding an ongoing bioremediation and pump and treat process in that area, saving perhaps up to $10,000," Mr. Livieratos stated.

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In Mississippi, a confidential RCRA site is benefiting from internet training on Permeable Reactive Barriers (PRB) attended by Dale Showers of Brown and Caldwell. Mr. Showers explained that

> "The biggest benefit we realized from the training was confirmation of our design. We had recently gone through the process with ETI and were interested in what they and others had to say about testing, design and installation of PRBs. It gave us increased confidence in our design."

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In developing an invitation list to a technical conference on Coal Gasification, Gary Garrett of the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB) was able to use the informal

network of state regulators at the 18 states involved with the SSEB through which to determine the appropriate party to coordinate state interest. "A considerable amount of time and effort was saved by having a contact in each state who could give me immediate information on the agency representatives that we could contact. ITRC, once again, builds bridges in the environmental community," according to Mr. Garrett.

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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!

Regulatory council strives to maximize multi-state resources

By Lalena Price

Dr. Pasupathy Ramanan (Ram) has found himself right in the middle of the country's up-and-coming environmental technologies. As the agency point of contact for the Interstate Technology Regulatory Council, his job is to encourage Department of Environmental Protection's variety of experts to share their resources and knowledge with other states. ITRC, a state led, national coalition that works with industry and stakeholders to achieve regulatory acceptance of environmental technologies, provides the forum for such sharing.

"It's not more work for people," Ramanan said. "It's just a matter of sharing. If you put in the time to make sure your findings become part of a guidance document in a manageable, accessible format, it might pay off down the road in other research you are doing."

ITRC consists of 42 states, the District of Columbia, multiple federal partners including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, industry participants, and other stakeholders. These groups cooperate to break down barriers and reduce compliance costs, making it easier to use technologies, and helping states maximize resources. ITRC unites diverse experts and stakeholders to deepen technical knowledge and streamline the regulation of new environmental technologies.

"In some government agencies, coworkers might not know what the person in the next office is working on. This is one way to open up the lines of communication, even within single agencies," Ramanan said. DEP membership in the council is free, but he directs at least 10 percent of his time away from his work as an Office of Environmental Remediation project manager and on promoting information exchange within the agency, within the state and to Licensed Remediation Specialists. With the continued support of his supervisors, Ramanan said he hopes people within DEP will see the advantages of such a network.

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ITRC accomplishes its mission in two ways: it develops guidance documents and training courses to meet the needs of both regulators and environmental consultants, and it works with state representatives to ensure that ITRC products and services have maximum impact among state environmental agencies and technology users. It is operated and integrated into the Environmental Research Council Institute of the States. ERIS was created by the Environmental Council of States to operate as its center for Research.

ECOS works by connecting states with each other and our federal partners and others to share experiences about how to best manage the environment. "The benefits are numerous. We are developing a network of contacts to dialogue on environmental issues related to West Virginia," Ramanan said. "We enjoy cost savings by implementing new technologies and time savings by using the comprehensive technical and guidance documents developed by the ITRC project teams. We get to participate in the Web-based and classroom training offered to any member for free."

An important facet of the relationship among state agencies and ITRC is funding for projects. Members propose projects and once five states volunteer to participate, funds may be allocated. Technical teams are then formed. Projects are mostly technology oriented in the fields of environmental control, remediation, site characterization, landfills, wetlands, or other environmental topics. Progress is monitored and output from the teams on every project is available to anyone for free. Ramanan, along with Carroll Cather of the Office of Waste Management have proposed "Waste Stream Management and Disposal," a three-year project to identify the scope of the problems posed by improper management and disposal of common wastes such as end-of-life electronics including cathode ray tubes, methamphetamine lab wastes, and waste tires. They propose to educate the public and explore various options for recycling, when possible. Their project awaits funding. Currently OER and the Office of Water Resources utilize ITRC the most. "I'm

hoping that once people understand the benefits of the coalition, more divisions and offices will climb aboard," he said. For more information on ITRC and to view Ramanan and Cather's project, go to www.itrcweb.org. From there you also can view guidance documents and see five-year program plans and project areas.