

ENGINEERING FORUM TELECONFERENCE MINUTES

November 5, 2003

TOPICS IN THIS MONTH'S MINUTES:

TECHNICAL TOPIC

- ***Elevated Levels of Arsenic and Lead Near Railroad Tracks***

RECAP OF FALL 2003 TSP MEETING

- ***Screening Data Collection Paper***
- ***EF Expertise Contact List***
- ***Update of the RD/RA Handbook***
- ***Engineering Bulletins***
- ***Energy Issue Paper***
- ***Evergreen List***
- ***EF/NARPM RPM Expertise Questionnaire***

NEXT ENGINEERING FORUM TELECONFERENCE CALL

TECHNICAL TOPIC

Julie Santiago (Region 4) asked if any EF members had found elevated levels of arsenic or lead in soils along railroad tracks at any of their sites. At one of Julie's sites, a coal gassification plant is situated adjacent to railroad tracks where concentrations of arsenic have been found to exceed 100 ppm. The PRP claims that they are not responsible for the arsenic contamination. EF members noted that the elevated levels of arsenic and lead could have been caused by a number of factors, including the use of herbicides or pesticides along the tracks, use of foundry slag (as a subbase), diesel fuel emissions, or presence of fly ash from the coal gassification plant. Sharon Hayes (Region 1) has found similarly elevated levels of arsenic and lead at a site located near railroad tracks in Region 1, and will forward the cleanup memo to Julie. Dave Reisman (NRMRL-Cinc.) said that his lab has conducted an analysis of slag from a site near Philadelphia that he will fax to Julie. Dave suggested that Julie contact Bob Mournighan in Region 7 (913-551-7913) for more information on this topic.

RECAP OF FALL 2003 TSP MEETING

EF members generally were pleased with the fractured bedrock technical sessions at fall meeting in Niagara Falls. Bill Rothenmeyer will express the EF's thanks to the Ground Water Forum co-chairs for planning the meeting. Bill reviewed the action items from the fall meeting and provided a brief summary of the discussions.

Screening Data Collection Paper

Ed Mead (USACE) received additional comments on his draft matrix and incorporated the changes into the document. He particularly thanked to Bernie Schorle for his excellent comments. Ed will redistribute the revised matrix to EF members for final review.

EF Expertise Contact List

Mark Granger (Region 2) has incorporated suggested changes into the EF Expertise Contact List and will redistribute the list to the EF. Bill Rothenmeyer will send the expertise survey to new members so they can be included in the contact list.

Update of the RD/RA Handbook

The EF is still looking for funding to update the RD/RA Handbook. Kelly Madalinski (OSRTI) reported that Richard Jeng (OSRTI) and John Smith (OSRTI) have expressed interest in supporting this project.

They have asked for a brief description of the project and its intended benefits. Kelly has notified Steve Kinser (Region 7), who has been the EF lead on the project, about this request.

Engineering Bulletins

Dave Reisman is waiting for final comments on the in situ technologies Engineering Bulletin, which should be ready in January. The next series of 4 bulletins will include bioremediation, hard rock mining, in situ chemical oxidation, and remediation of PCBs in soils and sediments. By mid-year, Dave anticipates completing bulletins on in situ thermal treatment and an update to the outdated SVE bulletin. The eventual plan is to release 2 bulletins every 6 months. If EF members have used these technologies, they should volunteer to review the bulletins before they are finalized. Those who are unfamiliar with the technologies can also review them to ensure that they are useful and comprehensive. Ed Mead would like to review the bulletins as well. Ed said that USACE has completed manuals on some of these technologies, and he will forward the links to the EF. Ed also will look into USACE's foray into preparing O&M SOPs for different technologies and will get back to the EF.

Energy Issue Paper

Mike Gill (Region 9 HSTL) updated EF members on the progress of the energy issue paper. He has received 3 sets of comments and will be forwarding the draft final document to Kelly Madalinski and Dave Reisman for review. Mike noted that similar work is being undertaken in the form of an energy calculator. Mike is unsure who will publish the finalized paper, and which website (e.g., ORD, TIP, CLU-IN, etc.) will host it.

Evergreen List

Mark Granger has incorporated the changes discussed during the fall meeting and will forward the updated list to the EF.

EF/NARPM RPM Expertise Questionnaire

Mike Gill and Karen Mason-Smith have received comments on the RPM Expertise Questionnaire from several members and are in the process of incorporating these changes. Mike will send an electronic version of the interim final questionnaire to EF co-chairs by November 15. An additional EF comment period will follow only if the co-chairs think that the changes to the document are substantive. EF members agreed that the revised questionnaire should then be sent to the NARPM council for review and approval. Mike will add introductory paragraphs giving some background on the EF and NARPM.

ATTENDEES

Sharon Hayes, Region 1
Ray Cody, Region 1
Hilary Thornton, Region 3
Frank Vavra, Region 3
Julie Santiago, Region 4
Tony Holoska, Region 5
Karen Mason-Smith, Region 5
Bernie Schorle, Region 5
Carlos Sanchez, Region 6
Bill Rothenmeyer, Region 8
Harry Ball, Region 9

Mike Gill, Region 9 HSTL
Dave Reisman, NRMRL-Cinc.
Marta Richards, NRMRL-Cinc.
Ed Mead, USACE-Omaha
Johnette Shockley, USACE
Stephen White, USACE
Diane Dopkin, EMS, Inc.