

ENGINEERING FORUM TELECONFERENCE MINUTES

October 1, 2003

TOPICS IN THIS MONTH'S MINUTES:

PLANNING FOR FALL 2003 TSP MEETING

ISSUE PAPER UPDATES/ONGOING PROJECTS

- *Highlights Newsletter*
 - *Technical Topics for Teleconference*
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PLANNING FOR FALL 2003 TSP MEETING

The technical sessions agenda for the fall 2003 TSP meeting was distributed in mid-September. Mark Granger (Region 2) said that he and Kevin Willis (Region 2, Ground Water Forum) have devised a tentative itinerary for the Monday toxic tour field trip that includes a stop at Model City. Model City is a hazardous waste receiving and storage facility, parts of which are still active. Several of the on-site disposal units and lagoons have been capped. Jim Harrington (NYSDEC) recommended that the group visit the Hooker Chemical site, which is already on the itinerary. He also noted that the Outer Harbor site would be an interesting stop, but the site is off limits at the moment. Jim will check with his state colleagues in the Buffalo area to see if there are any other sites that may be of interest to the EF.

Bill Rothenmeyer (Region 8) went through the agenda for the Monday afternoon and Thursday EF business sessions. Dave Reisman (NRMRL-Cinc.) will spend 30 minutes on Monday reporting on the engineering bulletin updates and a new project. In addition, Ed Mead (USACE) and Gene Keepper (Region 6) will discuss the screening data collection and in-situ soil treatment papers, respectively.

On Thursday, Mark Granger will spend 30 minutes discussing the evergreen and EF contact lists. Bill will reserve some time for Steve Kinser (Region 7) to discuss the update to the RD/RA handbook. Fran Costanzi (Region 8) will contact Steve to find out if he has made progress in securing funds for the project and will report to Bill how much time is needed to cover this topic during the Thursday business session.

Karen Mason-Smith (Region 5) and Mike Gill (Region 9 HSTL) will spend 1 hour updating members on the Engineering Expertise Survey, which some members felt should be renamed to be more “non-engineer” friendly. One member suggested calling it the “Superfund Project Management Background Study.” Karen will distribute the interim final survey to EF members prior to the meeting. All comments on the draft should be sent to Karen. The group decided to focus only on Superfund RPMs in the initial survey, and if successful, distribute to RCRA project managers at a later date. Leo Romanowski (Region 4) suggested that language be included in the survey making it clear that the survey is only for Superfund RPMs. Members agreed that in order to get defensible statistics, a large number of responses is necessary. At the fall meeting, Regional representatives will be assigned to distribute the survey and follow up with non-responders.

Kaushalya Khanna (Region 5) asked if non-TSP members could attend the meeting sessions. The TSP meetings are open to non-TSP members, but if additional people will be attending, they should let EMS know for planning purposes.

ISSUE PAPER UPDATES/ONGOING PROJECTS

Highlights Newsletter

The highlights newsletter from the spring 2003 TSP meeting has been completed and is ready for distribution to Regional Superfund RPMs and RCRA Corrective Action project managers. Bernie Schorle (Region 5) already has distributed the newsletter, along with a cover letter he drafted explaining its purpose, to RPMs in his Region. Bill Rothenmeyer complemented Bernie on the cover letter and suggested that other Forum members use it as a template for their own cover letters. Bernie will forward the cover letter to the Forum.

Technical Topics for Teleconferences

The co-chairs reminded Forum members that a primary purpose of the EF calls is to discuss technical issues. Members should forward technical topics or questions from RPMs to the co-chairs at least a week before each call so they can be included in the agenda.

Julie Santiago would like to discuss the presence of high concentrations of arsenic and lead at sites near railroad tracks at either the fall meeting or during the next November EF teleconference.

ATTENDEES

Sharon Hayes, Region 1
Mark Granger, Region 2
Frank Vavra, Region 3
Jon Bornholm, Region 4
Leo Romanowski, Region 4
Julie Santiago, Region 4
Tony Holoska, Region 5
Kaushalya Khanna, Region 5
Karen Mason-Smith, Region 5
Bernie Schorle, Region 5
Gene Keeper, Region 6

Carlos Sanchez, Region 6
Fran Costanzi, Region 8
Bill Rothenmeyer, Region 8
Harry Ball, Region 9
Dave Reisman, NRMRL-Cinc.
Ed Mead, USACE-Omaha
Jim Harrington, NYSDEC
Keith Arnold, EMS, Inc.