

## ENGINEERING FORUM TELECONFERENCE MINUTES

March 3, 2004

### TOPICS IN THIS MONTH'S MINUTES:

#### *TECHNICAL TOPIC*

#### *PLANNING FOR SPRING 2004 TSP MEETING*

#### *SPECIAL PROJECTS UPDATES*

- *EF/NARPM RPM Expertise Questionnaire*
- *Highlights Newsletter*
- *USACE O&M SOPs*
- *1,4-Dioxane White Paper Review*

### NEXT ENGINEERING FORUM TELECONFERENCE CALL

---

#### *Technical Topic*

Mitch Cron (Region 3) asked EF members if they had any experience treating a public water supply for 1,4-dioxane contamination. At the Bally Ground Water Contamination Superfund site in Pennsylvania, samples taken from the public water system indicate 1,4-dioxane levels between 30 and 50 ppb. The human health limits for drinking water included in the Administrative Order Consent (AOC) for consideration are 3 ppb (based on the Integrated Risk Information System [IRIS], CAEPA), and 6 ppb (based on Region III Tox). The PRP would like to install a new well for the public, pump water from the old well to maintain capture of the ground-water plume (1,4-dioxane and TCE, PCE, DCE, etc.), and discharge that water to a creek. The air-stripper currently operating onsite would remove the volatile contaminants prior to discharge, but not the 1,4-dioxane. The PRP is confident that a NPDES permit can be obtained from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection that will allow the 1,4-dioxane to be legally discharged. Current thinking is that the NPDES permit may set an action level of approximately 100 ppb. Mitch is certain that the PRP will claim that any treatment of 1,4-dioxane to lower levels, either for public consumption or for surface water discharge, is impossible due to prohibitive costs and treatment technology limitations. The PRP also is concerned about the possible generation of toxic byproducts resulting from treatment.

If possible, Mitch would like to install a new well and treat the discharge for 1,4-dioxane to sub-6ppb levels, but the PRP will resist this solution, claiming that it is technically infeasible, and that any 1,4-dioxane treatment will be inordinately expensive. Mitch asked EF members if they knew of any case studies dealing with similar issues at other sites. Dave Reisman (NRMRL-Cinc.) asked Mitch if he had considered biological treatment options, such as advanced oxidation. Ed Mead (USACE-Omaha) noted that Linda Fiedler's recent white paper on 1,4-dioxane indicated that biological treatment was mostly ineffective. Dave said that ORD's has worked on 1,4-dioxane issues at other sites, including Lowry Air Force Base, and offered to put Mitch in contact with Janet Pearson (303-312-6354), the RPM for Lowry. For treatability studies, Ed recommended that Mitch contact Gary Peyton (Illinois State Water Survey; email: g-peyton@uiuc.edu) and Dr. Mark Zappi (Mississippi State University; email: zappi@che.msstate.edu). Ed also e-mailed Mitch the contact information for Ray Milne (Applied Process Technology Inc.; tel: (925) 977-1811 ext. 202), Tom Mohr (Santa Clara Valley Water District; email: rmilne@aptwater.com), and Dr. Reid H. Bowman (Applied Process Technology, Inc.; tel: (925) 977-1811).

If any Forum members or other RPMs have additional information or contacts, they should email Mitch at [cron.mitch@epa.gov](mailto:cron.mitch@epa.gov).

### ***Planning for the Spring 2004 TSP/NARPM Meeting***

A tentative agenda for the EF business sessions at the spring 2004 TSP meeting was distributed prior to the call. Any comments on this agenda should be sent to the co-chairs. EF members recommended that the business sessions be held on consecutive days so that participants who need to leave mid-week can attend both sessions. The EF decided that Monday and Tuesday afternoons would work best for most attendees. The co-chairs will schedule a 2-hour session from 3:30 to 5:30 PM on Monday afternoon and a 4-hour session from 1:30 to 5:30 PM on Tuesday afternoon.

Sharon Hayes (Region 1) noted that Rich Steimle (OSRTI) will pay for 5 nights lodging for attendees from western Regions (due to longer travel times) and the co-chairs (who must attend the Monday morning plenary), and 4 nights for the remainder of participants. All TSP members can register for the conference on March 15, regardless of whether they are an RPM or not. EF members are reminded that they must also register EMS. The co-chairs informally polled EF members to get an idea of how many plan to attend the meeting; approximately 22 indicated they would attend. Karen Mason-Smith (Region 5) volunteered to organize the EF dinner, tentatively scheduled for Tuesday night.

### ***EF/NARPM RPM Expertise Questionnaire***

Sharon Hayes indicated that she has received 17 responses to the EF/NARPM RPM Expertise Questionnaire. She entered these responses into an Excel spreadsheet, which she distributed to EF representatives responsible for tabulating their Region's responses. Each representative should use the spreadsheet as a template for compiling their Regional data rather than adding it to Sharon's, so that the co-chairs end up with separate spreadsheets for each of the 10 Regions. March 15 is the new deadline for receiving responses from RPMs. Once the Regional representatives have received all their responses, they should incorporate the data into Sharon's Excel spreadsheet and send it to Sharon prior to the April 7 teleconference.

### ***Highlights Newsletter***

EF members should receive a copy of the Fall 2003 TSP meeting *Highlights* newsletter in the coming weeks. EF members should distribute this newsletter to all RPMs and RCRA project managers in their Regions.

### ***Issue Paper Updates***

Ed Mead sent examples of USACE's O&M SOP manuals to the EF for review. Bill Rothenmeyer (Region 8) will follow up with Dave Reisman to see how the EF can contribute to improving or expanding upon these valuable tools.

Steve Kinser (Region 7), the head of the EF standing subcommittee on technical review, will contact Linda Fiedler (OSRTI) for a deadline commenting on the 1,4-dioxane white paper.

### **ATTENDEES**

Ray Cody, Region 1	Steve Kinser, Region 7
Sharon Hayes, Region 1	Bill Rothenmeyer, Region 8
Mitch Cron, Region 3	Mike Gill, Region 9 HSTL
Andrew Palestini, Region 3	Neil Thompson, Region 10
Frank Vavra, Region 3	Ellen Rubin, OSRTI
Leo Romanowski, Region 4	Jeff Catanzarita, ERT-Edison
Julie Santiago-Ocasio, Region 4	Dave Reisman, NRMRL-Cinc.
Tony Holoska, Region 5	Ed Mead, USACE-Omaha
Karen Mason-Smith, Region 5	Dave Jaros, USACE-Omaha
Nate Nemani, Region 5	Lindsay Lien, USACE-Omaha
Bernie Schorle, Region 5	Jim Harrington, NYSDEC
Gary Miller, Region 6	Keith Arnold, EMS, Inc.