

ENGINEERING FORUM TELECONFERENCE MINUTES

June 1, 2005

TOPICS IN THIS MONTH'S MINUTES:

WASTE RESEARCH COORDINATION TEAM

SPRING 2005 NARPM CONFERENCE WRAP UP

FALL 2005 TSP MEETING PLANNING

Waste Research Coordination Team

Bernie Zavala (Region 10, GWF) briefed Engineering Forum (EF) members about the Waste Research Coordination Team (WRCT), which is a multi-year research planning group that solicits regional research needs and passes them along to EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) and Headquarters. This year, Region 10 is the lead region for the RCRA program. Bernie is looking for volunteers to join one of the following five advisory groups: 1) sediments; 2) groundwater; 3) engineering, containment and soil treatment; 4) site characterization and methods; and 5) human health risk assessment. Each advisory group will be composed of three to four regional representatives, a HSTL, and OSRTI and ORD representatives. Bernie asked EF members to consider joining the engineering, containment, and soil treatment advisory group. He will prepare a brief description of the WRCT and forward it to Sharon Hayes (Region 1) for distribution to EF members. Advisory group duties will include forming a basic understanding of current ORD research; advising the WRCT on regional needs and priorities; providing feedback to ORD on its products; advising the WRCT on which projects have high and low priorities; and providing feedback on quarterly reports from ORD Technical Support Centers. Any EF members who are interested in joining the group should contact Bernie Zavala directly.

Term Limits for Co-Chairs

Sharon Hayes raised the possibility of amending the EF bylaws to include term limits for co-chairs. She is currently serving her second term as co-chair, and Gene Keepper (Region 6) has recently been elected to his second term. Having additional members serve as co-chairs can stimulate new ideas and directions for the EF. EF members also need to share the responsibility of the work required for the co-chair position. EF members decided that no change to the bylaws was needed as the decision to run for additional terms as co-chair should be done on a case-by-case basis. However, it was agreed that new volunteers are needed and are welcome to run for co-chair positions in the future.

Spring 2005 NARPM/TSP Conference Wrap Up

Several members of the EF were involved in presenting training workshops and information sessions at the 2005 NARPM/TSP Conference:

- Ray Cody (Region 1): Engineering Design Considerations for Mitigation of Vapor Intrusion
- Gene Keepper (Region 6): RCRA for RPMs
- Gene Keepper and Dave Reisman (NRMRL-Cinc): In-Situ Treatment Technologies for Contaminated Soil
- Steve Kinser (Region 7) and Bill Rothenmeyer (Region 8): Storm Water Management at Hazardous Waste Cleanup Sites
- Ed Mead (USACE), Leo Romanowski (Region 4), and Bernie Schorle (Region 5): Treatment Design Information Session
- Fran Costanzi (Region 8): Attorney and RPM Panel Session

Ray, Gene, Steve, and Bill discussed the preliminary feedback on their presentations, which overall seemed to have generated good participation and interaction, and noted room for improvement. They are

looking forward to receiving the course evaluation sheets from NARPM in order to better plan possible future sessions. They also are interested in receiving feedback from any EF members who attended their sessions. Bill and Steve agreed that an advanced training course in storm water management was not warranted as the design stage is best handled by hiring a professional.

Fall 2005 TSP Meeting Planning

Currently, the EF is planning two full days of training in long-term ground-water monitoring optimization at the Fall 2005 TSP meeting in San Antonio. This training originally was expected to involve a half-day introduction to optimization modeling followed by a half-day/each of hands-on computer training in three computer models. EF members indicated that most would not be interested in a full 2-day course. As a result, the EF is interested in offering concurrent presentation sessions on system/treatment optimization. The EF co-chairs will discuss interest in the hands-on training with the co-chairs of the Federal Facilities and Ground Water Forums to gauge interest in these sessions. In addition, since the entire TSP membership will not be attending the computer modeling sessions, Gene will contact AFCEE to determine if a minimum number of participants is needed in these classes.

The Fall 2005 meeting also will include a half-day training session on the Triad approach. EF members agreed that rather than a basic overview of Triad, the training should emphasize case studies at sites where Triad was used.

The next conference call of the meeting planning subcommittee is scheduled for June 9 at 3 pm EDT.

ATTENDEES

Ray Cody, Region 1

Sharon Hayes, Region 1

Andy Palestini, Region 3

Hilary Thornton, Region 3

Frank Vavra, Region 3

Jon Bornholm, Region 4

Tony Holoska, Region 5

Karen Mason-Smith, Region 5

Bernie Schorle, Region 5

Terry Burton, Region 6 HSTL

Gene Keepper, Region 6

Carlos Sanchez, Region 6

Steve Kinser, Region 7

Bill Rothenmeyer, Region 8

Neil Thompson, Region 10

Bernie Zavala, Region 10

Kelly Madalinski, TIFSD

Gareth Pearson, ESD–Las Vegas

Dave Jaros, USACE

Diane Dopkin, EMS, Inc.

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