

ENGINEERING FORUM TELECONFERENCE MINUTES

November 1, 2006

TOPICS IN THIS MONTH'S MINUTES:

TECHNICAL TOPIC

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UPDATE ON RECENT REQUESTS

TECHNICAL TOPIC

Noah Heller of BESST, Inc., gave a presentation on a production well profiling technology that his company has licensed from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) that eliminates the need for pump removal. During hazardous waste site characterization and monitoring, being able to profile a well for flow velocity and water quality (contaminant distribution) without having to remove the pump is both useful and cost effective. This technology eliminates the need to remove the pump house roof, as well as the need to disconnect plumbing and electrical components. BESST profiling surveys are performed at the actual dynamic production rates of the well, thereby producing results that have less variability for interpretation. In addition, this technology minimizes or eliminates the need to interrupt service when profiling a production well.

The technology is miniaturized such that the profilers are small enough to slip past the pump column and motor. The result is a low cost approach to collecting well yield and water quality data from the production well. The yield data is obtained by using an innocuous tracer, and the system generates a flow profile very similar to that achieved with a spinner tool. BESST, Inc., has been successful in applying this technology at several sites. The technology has many applications, including flow velocity profiling, well yield, chemistry, video surveys, test holes and predictive maintenance for production wells, as well as use in agricultural wells and process production wells at refineries and manufacturing facilities.

Noah also described BESST's zone isolation sampling technology (ZIST) miniaturized monitoring well technologies for single well and multi-level completions. BESST has developed multiple monitoring well systems to address most water and soil-gas monitoring applications. All systems can be installed with sand and bentonite or with packers. The ZIST system isolates the well screen, eliminating drawdown and reducing purge volume. The pump can easily be removed from the well for maintenance.

For more information on these technologies, contact Noah Heller either by telephone (415-302-7354) or by email (nheller@besstinc.com). Noah also will be at the TSP/GRAC meeting in Long Beach.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

No nominations were received for Sharon Hayes' (Region 1) soon-to-be-vacant co-chair position. The EF could operate with only two co-chairs, but that would increase the time commitment for future co-chairs. This issue will be discussed during the EF business session in Long Beach.

Sharon announced that Jim Brown (Region 1) will replace her on the forum.

Mike Gill (Region 9 HSTL) revised the text from the old solicitation for new members. Jon Bornholm (Region 4) will review Mike's edits and incorporate them into the new solicitation. EF members

discussed the possibility of allowing non-Regional or non-EPA friends of the forum to become full members. Kelly Madalinski (TIFSD) will discuss this issue with Rich Steimle (TIFSD) and will report back during the EF business session in Long Beach.

FALL 2006 TSP MEETING

The Fall 2006 TSP meeting is being held in conjunction with the Groundwater Resources Association of California's (GRAC) 2nd Tools and Technologies Symposium. The symposium will take place November 14-16 at the Westin Hotel in Long Beach, CA. The EF business session will take place on Monday, November 13, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. PST. A speaker phone and conference line will be available for those who would like to participate remotely. The call in number is 866-299-3188, and the access code is 7036039901#. Jon Bornholm will draft an agenda for the EF business session and distribute it to EF members.

SPRING 2007 NARPM MEETING

The spring 2007 NARPM Conference will be held in Pittsburgh, PA, the week of May 21-25, 2007. The EF has asked the NARPM co-chairs for two, two-hour time slots. Abstracts are due November 17. Mike Gill will draft an abstract for a possible session on nanotechnologies. Other potential topics for the two reserved EF timeslots will be discussed in Long Beach. Bernie Schorle (Region 5) will serve as liaison between the EF and NARPM.

UPDATE ON RECENT REQUESTS

Lindsay Lien (USACE) asked Mike Gill if Brian Caruso's (Region 8 HSTL) request for information on community wastewater systems installed as part of a CERCLA action was specific to wastewater systems. Mike could not answer this question, but he will put Lindsay in touch with Brian.

Hilary Thornton (Region 3) reported that Frank Vavra (Region 3) has received numerous responses to his request for information on methods to find large quantities of mercury below sediments. Hilary said that Frank is looking specifically for detection and assessment methods for measuring mercury concentrations in river or creek sediments. Kelly has some information on this topic and will follow up with Frank.

ATTENDEES

Ray Cody, Region 1	Kendra Morrison, Region 8
Sharon Hayes, Region 1	Bill Rothenmeyer, Region 8
Stephanie Vaughn, Region 2	Mike Gill, Region 9 HSTL
Fred MacMillan, Region 3	Kelly Madalinski, TIFSD
Andy Palestini, Region 3	Dave Reisman, NRMRL-Cinc.
Hilary Thornton, Region 3	Sam Bass, USACE
Jon Bornholm, Region 4	Lindsey Lien, USACE
Leo Romanowski, Region 4	Hugh Rieck, USACE
Bernie Schorle, Region 5	Noah Heller (BESST, Inc.)
David Seely, Region 5	Keith Arnold, EMS, Inc.
Carlos Sanchez, Region 6	
Sandra Bourgeois, Region 8	

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