

ENGINEERING FORUM TELECONFERENCE MINUTES

December 5, 2007

TOPICS IN THIS MONTH'S MINUTES:

COST ESTIMATING TOOLS

ACTION ITEMS FROM THE FALL 2007 TSP MEETING

SPRING 2008 NARPM MEETING

FALL 2008 TSP MEETING

COST ESTIMATING TOOLS

Bob Maxey (OSW) joined the teleconference to discuss cost estimating tools that are available to RPMs and RCRA project managers. CostPro software, which was developed by Region 4, has been used by EPA and state regulators since 1996 to evaluate facility owners' and operators' estimates for closure and post-closure. Bob said that CostPro is not an adequate cost estimating tool for remediation projects. CostPro is particularly useful for estimating corrective action costs at landfills. CostPro has many default settings that can be fine tuned to give more accurate results at specific sites. RACER is a more sophisticated software tool that is primarily used for corrective action, although it can be adapted for closure and post-closure purposes.

Mike Davis (Region 7) said his Region uses their primary contractors, Tetra Tech and Booz Allen Hamilton, to conduct financial assurance activities. Bob recommended that each Region have at least one individual who is familiar with using CostPro and RACER. Training on these software programs is offered periodically. EF members should contact Bob if they are interesting in participating in the training. Kelly Madalinski (TIFSD) noted that Ken Skahn (OSW) worked with USACE to develop tools for preparing independent government cost estimates. Don Bahnke (Region 7) will contact Ken to find out if these cost estimating tools are available to RPMs.

ACTION ITEMS FROM FALL 2007 TSP MEETING

The Engineering Forum (EF) co-chairs summarized the fall TSP meeting business session discussions. At the meeting, the EF decided that green remediation should be a primary focus for near-term EF activities.

Bernie Zavala (Region 10, Ground Water Forum) is looking for EF volunteers to join the Engineering, Containment, and Soil Treatment research advisory workgroup within the Waste Research Coordination Team. Jon Bornholm (Region 4) will remind Bernie to send the co-chairs a brief summary of the workgroup and its responsibilities. If any EF members are interested in joining the workgroup, they should contact Bernie Zavala.

Mike Gill (Region 9 STL) will ask Linda Fiedler (TIFSD) if the EF accomplishments/future directions presentation that he gave at the fall meeting can be webcast as an Internet seminar on Clu-In.

Mike Gill has finished incorporating comments into the *Ex-Situ Treatment of Oxygenated Hydrocarbons & Perchlorates in Groundwater* issue paper and sent the final version to Dave Reisman (ORD/NERL-Cincinnati) for publication.

EF comments on the *Smart Energy Resources Guide* drafted by Region 9 for the Cleanup-Clean Air Initiative are due to Mike Gill by January 7.

The evergreen list was updated after the fall meeting and has been posted to the Science Connector website.

SPRING 2008 NARPM MEETING

The EF will propose several session topics for the 2008 NARPM meeting, including the following:

- Green remediation panel session;
- In-situ bioremediation training (in conjunction with the Federal Facilities Forum);
- Application and implication of nanotechnology at Superfund sites; and
- Permeable reactive zones.

The NARPM co-chairs also suggested that the EF put together a session focusing on design-build. If any EF members are interested in pursuing this topic, they should contact Dion Novak (Region 5).

FALL 2008 TSP MEETING

The EF is responsible for planning the fall 2008 TSP meeting. The co-chairs have been asked to submit three potential locations by February. After discussing possible locations, the EF decided to recommend that the meeting be held in either Research Triangle Park (NC), New York City, or Cape Canaveral (FL). EF members will discuss this topic one more time on the January call before reporting back to Headquarters. If EF members would like to propose another venue, they should be prepared to support their recommendation.

ATTENDEES

Aaron Gilbert, Region 1
Stephanie Vaughn, Region 2
Kevin Bilash, Region 3
Russ Fish, Region 3
Fred MacMillan, Region 3
Donna McCartney, Region 3
Hilary Thornton, Region 3
Jon Bornholm, Region 4
Leo Romanowski, Region 4
Nate Nemani, Region 5
Bernie Schorle, Region 5

Don Bahnke, Region 7
Mike Davis, Region 7
Sandra Bourgeois, Region 8
Mike Gill, Region 9 STL
Kelly Madalinski, TIFSD
Bob Maxey, OSW
Suzanne Davis, CA DTSC
John Muegge, CA DTSC
Jim Harrington, NYSDEC
Keith Arnold, EMS, Inc.

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