

GROUND WATER FORUM TELECONFERENCE

Thursday June 7, 2001

SUPERFUND TECHNICAL LIAISON PROGRAM/TSP FORUM INVOLVEMENT

Craig Thomas (Region 5, Federal Facilities Forum) spoke with the Superfund Technical Liaisons (STLs) during their meeting in Chicago regarding increased involvement with the TSP Forums. The STLs designated primary STL contacts for each of the three Forums. The GWF contacts will be Steve Mangion (Region 1) and Norm Kulujian (Region 3). Steve indicated he was not certain what their involvement would entail other than participating on conference calls. The STLs are examining the list of activities that were proposed by the Engineering and Federal Facility Forum co-chairs to determine mutually beneficial activities. He explained that the STL program has been around for 10-12 years to provide support for the RCRA and Superfund programs in terms of building capacity for technical problems. They also provide a bridge between ORD and the regional RPMs and technical support staff, especially in reporting regional technical issues back to Headquarters so that ORD can factor them into their research program. In addition, they provide technical expertise whenever they can. The STLs are revising their mission statement and will share it with the Forum when it is done. Norm indicated that his role as an STL contact to the GWF is as an assistant to Steve. He reminded the GWF that he is an engineer, not a hydrogeologist, and hence not an expert in the ground-water issues.

Rich Steimle suggested that an STL website would be a good idea since there is no central place to find out their activities. Steve indicated that the STLs discussed creating a website, but this is not yet an action item. He thinks that the more likely approach would be a bi-annual summary of activities. Norm indicated that the STLs would summarize their expertise for the Forums so if there were specific problems, Forum members could check to see if an STL person could help.

The STL positions in Regions 5 and 6 are vacant. Steve suggested that if these Regions are interested in having an STL, they should have their senior management raise the issue with Kevin Teichman, who is the ORD contact at Headquarters.

UPDATE ON THE GROUND WATER TO INDOOR AIR ISSUE PAPER

Helen Dawson noted that the original reason for writing the issue paper was that no formal EPA guidance existed. However, she has found a 1992 document entitled *Air Superfund National Technical Guidance Study Series: Assessing the Potential for Indoor Air Impacts at Superfund Sites* (EPA 451/R-92/002). The document specifically addresses ground-water contamination to indoor air. Ruth Izraeli mentioned that she thought the issue was not an absence of guidance, but that using models recommended in the guidance could result in a finding of "no problem," when, in fact, actual monitoring showed a problem. Helen said she is changing the problem statement to reflect this issue. The approach in the proposed new RCRA guidance is very similar to the approach in the 1992 Superfund guidance. Both approaches involve performing a simple screening-level assessment based on Henry's Constant and diffusion to the soil using an attenuation factor that is based on radon to estimate what concentration may be in indoor air. If the screening shows a potential for a problem, then more site-specific conditions must be examined, including physical sampling of soil gas and indoor air. Helen is also evaluating what data is available on the ground truthing of the models. She also mentioned that both guidance documents recommend alternative methods to the Johnson and Ettinger model, to provide a conservative estimate.

Helen has been comparing actual field data to the screening models results. She has not done this for all her sites, but thinks it will be useful to look at the sites where they have sampled indoor air and found there was not a problem—what would the screening models have predicted? So she has altered her approach away from evaluating the Johnson and Ettinger model to evaluating the screening models using actual data. Helen asked the GWF to provide her with comments on the 1992 guidance.

The Engineering Forum also has been looking at this issue and may develop an issue paper. The GWF needs to ensure that there isn't a duplication of effort.

Vince Malott mentioned that he summarized the presentation on ground-water contamination to indoor air that Kathy Baylor (Region 9) made in San Diego, to the brownfields staff in Dallas. They expressed a great deal of interest because of the similarity with other brownfields sites above ground water plumes with VOCs.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Judy Canova asked if there was any new information on state involvement in the Forums. Vince replied that there hasn't been any new discussion of the issue.

Steve Mangion asked if there has been any follow-up on the DOE vadose zone initiative. The answer was no.

Dick Willey asked Helen about the potential for elevator shafts to act as pistons to draw contaminated air into them. Was this being considered? Helen said that she had not considered this, and has not seen the issue raised in all the reading that she had done. She would appreciate any information on the issue, if available, though.

ATTENDEES

Steve Mangion, STL, Region 1
Dick Willey, Region 1
Darryl Luce, Region 1
Ruth Izraeli, Region 2
Kevin Willis, Region 2
Norm Kulujian, Region 3
Dave Petrovski, Region 5
Vince Malott, Region 6
Greg Lyssy, Region 6
Jeff Johnson, Region 7
Helen Dawson, Region 8
Rich Frietas, Region 9
Mark Filippini, Region 9

Bernie Zavala, Region 10
Brian Lewis, CA DTSC
Mark Henry, MI DEQ
Jennifer Sutter, OR DEQ
Judy Canova, SC DHEC
Helge Gabert UT Division of Solid and
Hazardous Waste
Rich Steimle, HQ/TIO
Henry Schuver, HQ/OSW
Dave Burden, NRMRL/SPRD-Ada
Bill Myers, EMS, Inc.