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About the cover:

Recently developed soil remediation techniques provide for quicker and less expensive cleanups and greater environmental safeguards.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (ISSN # 1057-4298. USPS #006-703) is published 12 times a 4298, U3PS #006-703 is published 12 limes a year. Vol. 7. No. 70 1996 Steven Publishing Corp. 3700 IH-35, Wacc. TX 76706. Phone (817) 776-9000, periodicals postage paid at Wacc. TX 76702-2573 and additional mailing offices. Subscription rate for Environmental Protection is 586 for 1 year. Subscriptions maled to Canada please add \$25, to Mexico, please add \$25. For all other foreign countries, please ad \$35. POSTMASTER: Send address changes ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, P.O. Box inges to 2573, Waco, TX 76702. Publication of signed articles does not constitute endorsement of personal views of authors. All rights reserved. Requests for back issues should be made within three months of publication. The publisher is not responsible for the contents of the articles herein and any person following the advice or procedures in these articles does so at his or her own risk. Articles appearing in this journal are indexed in the Environmental Periodicals Bibliography. Authorization to photocopy items for internal or personal use is granted by Stevens Publishing Corp., provided that the base of U.S. \$0.50 per copy, plus U.S. \$0.03 per page is paid directly to Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923 USA (508) 750-8400.



from the editor



New Ways To **Deal With Dirty Dirt**

nnovative techniques for remediating contaminated soils are starting to hit pay dirt. New technologies, such as bioremediaton, are earning high marks for performance and cost containment. The rapid growth of the technologies is in response to the problems with past soil handling practices.

When the original Superfund law was passed and cleanups of major contaminated sites began, it soon became clear that moving contaminated soil offsite wasn't going to be dirt cheap. Besides the exorbitant costs involved, landfilling polluted soil didn't accomplish the goals of protecting the environment and ending legal exposure. Instead of permanently removing the contaminant, landfilling merely transferred it to a different location.

This led to the need for alternative treatment technologies. The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA) authorized the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to promote research on alternative treatment technologies. Because of SARA, the EPA created the Superfund Innovative Technology Evaluation (SITE) program to encourage new cleanup technology development.

Depending on the processes, soil remediation technologies can be divided into three categories. One group, which includes thermal destruction and bioremediation, uses chemical or biochemical means to change the pollutants into nonhazardous products of different chemical composition.

Another category consists of mass transfer technologies that use physical or chemical means to take the contaminants out of the soil and then treat or destroy them in another process step. Soil washing, steam stripping, soil vapor extraction, low-temperature thermal desorption and solvent extraction are examples of these technologies.

The third category is comprised of technologies that bind contaminants into a solid matrix so the contaminants leached into the environment are reduced to levels below those regulated by governmental agencies. Such technologies include cement or lime stabilization, vitrification and other macro- or microencapsulation techniques.

Two of this issue's articles focus on the use of bioremediation-one of the most popular new technologies-to clean up soil and groundwater. The case study on page 24 describes how bioremediation took off at a JFK Airport cleanup and successfully removed jet fuel hydrocarbons. In another article on page 28, William Weinstein details how an Oregon consulting firm concocted a unique "cocktail" of four separate bacteria strains to bioremediate sites contaminated with creosote and other polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

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Waste-To-Energy Plant Revenue Continues Growth

U.S. waste-to-energy plant revenue will grow at a 5-percent compound annual rate between 1994 and the year 2001, according to a recently released study by the Mountain View, Calif., research firm, Frost & Sullivan. In 1994, the industry generated revenue of \$2.14 billion and handled about 32.8 million tons of waste, according to the report.

By the year 2001, waste-to-energy plants are expected to generate \$2.94 billion in revenue and handle more than 45 million tons of waste. Despite the growth, overall revenue has failed to meet expectations as planned facilities were scaled back because of tight financing, the relatively lower costs of landfills and environmental concerns. Obtaining financing will become an even greater problem, and new capital investment will decline.

Mass burn plants, which accounted for 70 percent of market revenues in 1994, are expected to experience the largest part of future growth, according to the report. They are considered the simplest, most widely accepted method offering the safest approach in the near future.

Group Cites Six Cities For Lax Crypto Testing

Six cities are taking little action to prevent waterborne *Cryptosporidium* protozoal pathogens from sickening residents, according to a survey of 31 of the nation's biggest water departments.

Conducted by the National Association of People with AIDS, the survey examined how often the municipalities tested water and how quickly they alerted the public to

Cryptosporidium contamination.

The group cited six cities for taking the least action: Atlanta, Ga.; Minneapolis, Minn.; St. Petersburg, Fla.; Newark, N.J.; Dallas, Texas; and Washington, D.C. The Minnesota Health Department doesn't recommend testing for *Cryptosporidium* because the test is not reliable. Tests results vary, catching *Cryptosporidium* between 30 percent and 60 percent of the time, according to NAPWA.

Nevertheless, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is considering a rule to require all water systems that serve more than 100,000 people to test.

Farmers' Pesticide Use On The Rise

The people who raise meat, milk, fruits and vegetables are using more pesticides than ever before, according to



an environmental group. But the health risks of the increase are difficult to measure.

According to unpublished government data, agriculture used 1.25 billion pounds of herbicides, insecticides and fungicides in 1995. Farmers used 1.23 billion pounds in 1994, up 100 million pounds from 1993 and reversing a downward trend.

Farming industry groups say the increase reflects increased acreage under cultivation and weather-related pest problems, such as a beet armyworm plague in cotton. They also point out that farmers are using more environmentally friendly chemicals, such as sulfur. But the compounds also require as much as 10 times the number of applications per acre as synthetics.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency confirmed the findings of the Natural Resource Defense Council and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group. Among the products showing increases were methyl bromide, sulfur, petroleum oil and glyphosate, sold under the brand name Roundup.

Los Angeles Targets Smoking Lawn Mowers

First, the Los Angeles, Calif., region went after clunker cars that belched blue smoke, offering car owners money for retiring the vehicles.

Now, the South Coast Air Quality Management District is going after older gas-powered lawnmowers and lawn equipment and plans to give businesses emission reduction credits (ERCs) if they take the notorious machines out of action.

In Southern California, an estimated 1.73 million commercial and residential mowers, leaf blowers and other tools emit 22 tons per day of volatile organic compounds. That's more VOCs than are discharged by all aircraft in the region, according to the AQMD.

An older, gas-powered lawn mower operating for 20 hours a year produces the same VOCs as a 1996 car driven 26,000 miles, according to the AQMD.

Under the program, businesses can earn ERCs by offering rebates, discounts or other incentives for homeowners to trade in old lawnmowers, edger-trimmers, leaf blowers, chainsaws or other garden power equipment. In addition, businesses will earn ERCs if they replace their old equipment with new models meeting or exceeding the California Air Resources Board's current emission standards.

Some Environmental Firms Still Prosper

Publicly traded environmental firms, except for the hazardous-waste management sector, showed strong revenue growth and increased operating margins in 1995, according to a state-of-theindustry report issued by a Washington, D.C., management consulting firm. In the report, Joan B. Berkowitz of Farkas Berkowitz & Company said the increased growth was due to continuing mergers and acquisitions.

"Operating margins also improved for all sectors except hazardous waste, and we attribute this good performance to strong management," Berkowitz said.

The U.S. market for environmental consulting and remediation services climbed 5 percent to \$12.5 billion in 1995, said Alan L. Farkas of Farkas Berkowitz & Company. "Nearly all of

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the growth in this sector can be accounted for by remediation construction," he said.

Of the \$12.5 billion market, 10 firms continued to command 20 percent of the total share in 1995. To be among the top 10 in 1996, firms will have to generate more than \$170 million in net revenue from U.S. projects. Among the candidates are Bechtel, Camp Dresser & McKee, CH2M Hill, International Technology, ICF Kaiser, Montgomery Watson, Morrison-Knudsen, OHM, Roy F. Weston and Rust International.

Colorado Wants EPA To Relax Ozone Regs For Industries, Businesses

Metropolitan Denver, Colo., has done such a good job cleaning up ozone that state environmental officials are asking the federal government to relax ozone regulations for industries. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is taking a cautious look at the proposal,

Texas Wants More Time To Comply

Unable to meet a Nov. 15 deadline, Texas' top environmental official asked the federal government for more time to clean up its air. Barry McBee, chairman of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Com-



mission, said the Environmental Protection Agency should give the state additional time to see if its current air-pollution control program works.

Dallas-Fort Worth ozone levels exceed federal standards and last year were the dirtiest in a decade. Under the 1990 Clean Air Act, Dallas-Fort Worth is classified as a moderate ozone violator.

EPA Regional Administrator Jane Saginaw said she would not extend the deadline without proof the area was making progress. She said the state knew about the deadline six years ago and had plenty of time to plan.

Of the 33 U.S. urban areas classified as moderate violators, Dallas-Fort Worth is one of only nine that hasn't cleaned up its area.

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because it could set a precedent for other states to bypass federal oversight.

Denver has not violated federal ozone standards since 1987.

The Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry is proposing a new air-pollution regulation that would give state environmental officials flexibility to allow businesses to emit excess pollutants that create ozone.

The state also is asking for less stringent pollution controls on new industrial plants in the metro area. Plan supporters say the exemptions would not increase ozone pollution because they could total no more than 5 tons of ozone-causing volatile organic compounds—about 1.5 percent of the total VOC emissions in the Denver area. But it comes as the state plans to reduce ozone in the Denver area by 6 percent by 2010, largely by taking advantage of cleaner running vehicles.

EPA officials said they doubt they would approve the proposal as part of Colorado's proposed ozone-control plan.

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Columbia River Not As Dirty As Thought The Columbia River receive

The Columbia River received a good bill of health compared to other major rivers, but it is still plagued by DDT and other pollutants in its lower 146 miles, according to a six-year study. The report on the 1,200-mile river—which drains parts of seven states and British Columbia—was compiled by the Lower Columbia River Bi-State Program, a joint effort of Oregon and Washington.

The study found that the Willamette River, a tributary to the Columbia, delivers a disproportionate load of metals, pesticides and organic pollutants.

Researchers measured chemicals in water, sediment and fish; funded studies of mink and otter; assessed the impact of pollutants on bald eagles; and weighed the risk to people who eat contaminated fish. Five contaminants found in the river posed a threat to human health—polychlorinated biphenyls, dioxins and furans, DDT, arsenic and mercury.

Theories Differ On Lake Apopka, Fla., Pollution Sources

A 1947 hurricane, and not nitrate-rich farm runoff, polluted Lake Apopka north of Orlando, Fla., according to a recent University of Florida study. But state and federal officials continue to blame fertilizer-laced farm runoff for turning the massive lake into a 31,000-acre pea-green sea of algae that has already cost \$60 million in restoration projects.

The new theory contends the lake was already experiencing problems when surrounding muck farms started to discharge fertilizer in the 1940s. A hurricane scoured the lake bottom, killing most of the grasses and plants, according to the UF study by Daniel Canfield and Roger Bachmann.

"There are a number of lakes where (fertilizer-based) nutrients aren't the issue," Canfield said. "Lake Apopka is one of them."

Canfield and Bachmann suggest a massive lake drawdown, or draining, to allow plants to take root and kill the ever-present algae that blocks to sunlight needed for plants, grasses and sport fish.

Lake managers criticized the theory, arguing that most scientific research fails to support it.

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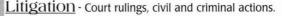
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legal update

Group Wants EPA To Warn Before Searches

The Washington Legal Foundation, a nonprofit public interest law and policy center based in Washington, D.C., has petitioned the EPA for a rulemaking. The rule would require the agency to provide a written Miranda-style warnings, similar to what police officers must give to arrested persons, to regulated entities before inspectors are given access to premises to conduct searches for environmental violations.

- Entities may insist that a search warrant be issued before any EPA inspection.
- They have the right to accompany and videotape inspectors, as well as the right to obtain split portions of any samples taken by the inspectors.
- They have the right to obtain legal counsel.

The foundation also wants the EPA to provide similar instructions to company employees and other witnesses before they are interviewed by agency representatives.

EPA Proposes New Guidelines To Assess Cancer Risks

To protect public health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently proposed new guidelines to assess the cancer risk posed by environmental pollutants and chemicals. The guidelines will modernize the methods used to determine cancer risk by incorporating a broad range of evidence, including microbiological testing and genetic data.

In addition, the guidelines will focus on cancer-causing environmental contaminants to which people are most likely susceptible and identify parts of the population that may be more susceptible. The guidelines will also identify agents that are not likely to have effects at environmental levels because they only cause cancer in laboratory animals at excessively high doses.

HWIR: Keep Delisting Hazardous Waste Flexible

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to set constituent-specific levels for "delisting" low-risk solid wastes designated as dangerous because they are listed as hazardous wastes in the EPA regulations or because they have been mixed with, derived from or contain "listed" hazardous wastes.

Under the proposed guidelines, if a solid waste contains hazardous constituents in concentrations less than or equal to the specified levels, the waste will be eligible to be delisted and to "exit" out of the hazardous-waste management system required under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

Once a solid waste is delisted, it is regulated as nonhazardous solid waste and subjected to less burdensome regulation under RCRA, resulting in reduced costs for waste management.

All the listed hazardous constituents are in the proposed new Appendix X of 40 CFR 261. To be delisted and reclassified as nonhazardous, a waste must also meet the applicable land disposal restriction requirements in 40 CFR 268.

The proposal, referred to as the Hazardous-Waste Identification Rule (HWIR), sets a risk-based floor to hazardous-waste listings. Many of the "exit levels" that allow the wastes to be delisted and redesignated as nonhazardous were established using an innovative risk-assessment that evaluates potential exposure pathways.

The assessment focused on both human and environmental receptors potentially affected by the wastes.

EPA To Unveil Air Emissions Strategy For Electric Utilities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency expects to release this month an initial proposal for a comprehensive strategy to regulate air emissions generated by electric utilities. The EPA's utility strategy, known as the "Clean Air Power Initiative," will concentrate on three pollutants—sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides and mercury.

According to the EPA, a regulatory approach that incorporates a "cap and trade" emission trading scheme would be appropriate for controlling sulfur dioxide, NO_x and mercury. Such an approach was established by Clean Air Act for regulation of SO_2 emissions under the EPA's acid-rain program.

It involves setting a cap on overall emissions from the industry and allocation of those emissions to different utilities in the form of allowances. Under the acid-rain program, utilities can release one ton of SO_2 for each allowance they hold and can buy or sell allowances as necessary.

EPA To Implement Water Pollution Credit Trading

The EPA is in the process of instituting its first trading policy for water pollution sources in watersheds. Sewage treatment plants and other entities that are able to achieve more pollutant reductions than required will be able to sell or barter credits to other sources.

The agency strongly supports effluent trading within watersheds to achieve water-quality standards. The EPA asserts that the trading creates economic incentives that go beyond minimum compliance requirements.

EPA Amends Policy On Canceled Pesticide Stocks

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently decided to provide a public comment period before amending its 1991 policy on existing stocks of canceled pesticides. The EPA's current policy distinguishes between pesticides that pose significant risks and those that do not.

The EPA will not allow continued sales, distribution or use of canceled pesticides that pose significant risks to public health or the environment unless the benefits associated with the use exceed the risk. On the other hand, the EPA will generally allow unlimited sale by persons other than the registrant and unlimited use of existing stocks of canceled pesticides that do not pose a significant risk.

Simplified Drinking Water Rules For Lead, Copper

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently resolved to make several minor changes to the national primary drinking water regulations for lead and copper to improve the rules' implementation. The EPA's intent is to eliminate unnecessary requirements, streamline and reduce reporting burdens and promote consistent national implementation.

The changes proposed in this action do not affect the lead or copper maximum contaminant level goals or the basic regulatory requirements.

in the lab

Northwestern Uses Cells For Toxicity Testing

Northwestern University researchers have developed a promising new system for testing toxicity without live animals. The test involves growing a thin layer of cells on a membrane and monitoring the electrical resistance of the cells as they are exposed to chemicals.

The fully automated system measures the electrical resistance of the cell layer, called the "transepithelial electrical resistance" (TER), which decreases as the cells are damaged by a toxic chemical. The TER reduction can be followed continuously.

Currently, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration only accepts tests on live animals, called the Draize test.

Testing the toxicity of new chemicals used to involve exposing the eyes of live animals to potentially toxic chemicals. The procedures were expensive, time consuming and sometimes drew the ire of consumers and animal rights groups.

The tests are required for new cosmetics, industrial chemicals, solvents and household products.

Pacific Northwest Lab Develops Plasma Process

A new waste conversion technology for treating solid wastes could provide major economic and environmental benefits. The technology, known as the controlled plasma glassification process, will soon be available commercially and differs significantly from other plasma technologies on the market.

The CPG process uses electrically conductive gas, or plasma, to vitrify or heat waste until it becomes molten. The resulting material, a solid glass or metal, prevents contaminants from leaching into the environment. The technology is well suited to tackle most solid waste streams, including hazardous, medical, radioactive, mixed industrial and municipal solid waste.

The CPG process handles large amounts of waste in a small unit, while reducing environmental impacts. It produces fewer hazardous emissions than alternative technologies such as incineration. The new process was developed by Pacific Northwest Laboratory and two independant consultants.

Savannah River Resolves Problem With Hydrides

A scientist at Savannah River Technology Center has developed a solution to the plugging problems metal hydrides pose. He has devoloped a dimensionally stable metal hydride composition in the form of granules or pellets.

The pellets absorb and desorb hydrogen rapidly and remain stable through thousands of cycles. They are also more durable by a factor of 1,000 than metal hydride itself. Operations have successfully implemented hydride applications from hydrogen storage to hydrogen separation. Their potential industrial applications are being explored.

Metal hydrides—a special group of metals that absorb, store and release hydrogen—play a major role in Savannah River Site defense operations. In commercial hydrogen processing and hydrogen energy fields, the materials offer many applications.

After several absorption/desorption cycles, metal hydrides break down into a fine powder that can create serious problems.



Aggressive gases are dangerous to release and corrode conventional metallic/alloy exchangers. In Europe, companies that incinerate garbage and biological waste count on CALORPLAST heat exchangers to condense the acidic components and recover the heat too! These exchangers are also effective in stack gas plume reduction by removing water from scrubber exhaust. They're made of tough, impact-resistant PVDF or polypropylene, capable of handling gas stream temperatures up to 280°F. and are customized for each application. Smooth plastic surfaces minimize fouling and incrustation, even in severe environments. Now, these proven CALORPLAST heat exchangers are available in the U.S. at affordable prices. **For application assistance, call (800) 854-4090**.

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GEORGE FISCHER +GF+

the grapevine

The Water and Wastewater Equipment Manu-Association facturers Inc., Washington, D.C., selected Susan Helling as vice president.

Scientific Technologies Inc., a manufacturer of factory automation applications, including safety light curtains, industrial sensors and optical profiling scanners, consoli-

dated its operations into a new custom-designed facility in Hayward, Calif.

Grady W. Williams, P.E., joined CDM Federal Programs Corp. as manager of its new office in Frankfurt, Germany.

The Portland Cement Association, Skokie, Ill., named Charles M. Wilk waste management program manager.

Robert A. Brunson was named director of environmental and regulatory

For the latest scoop on the comings and goings in the environmental field.

Mokena, Ill.

affairs for Quantum Chemical Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.

James McNulty was elected chief executive officer of The Parsons Corp., an engineering, construction, and research and development firm based in Pasadena, Calif.

Bruce Berndaro was appointed national sales manager of ALAR Engineering Corp.,

Robert J. Fungaroli (B.J.) was promoted to manager of AAA Environmental's Raleigh/Durham, N.C., office.

Northern Environmental Technologies, an environmental engineering and hydrogeology firm, opened a new office in Brainerd, Minn.

Kleinfelder Inc., a California-based engineering consulting firm, opened offices in Denver, Golden and Colorado Springs, Colo. Heading the Denver office is Russell Erbes; Golden, Jeffrey Meyers; and Colorado Springs, Ron Turner.

George Harlow is the new senior advisor on environmental issues for Marine Shale Processors Inc., based in Morgan City, La.

HDR Engineering Inc. named Eric L. Keen department manager of its Irvine, Calif., office.

Barbara Johnson joined U.S. Safety, Lenexa, Kan., as an account executive for Texas and the western United States.

The Industrial Safety Equipment Association, Arlington, Va., appointed Janice C. Bradley, CSP, technical director.

John Chahbandour was named project manager at Water Management Consultants, Denver, Colo.

John C. Johnston was elected president and chief operating officer of Farr

Revolutionizing Odor Control

Epoleon Corporation introduces an all new concept for odor control that works through specific methods of chemical neutralization to actually eliminate odorcausing gases. Epoleon's water-based formulas can be dripped or fed into wastewater, added into scrubber systems, or sprayed topically. Best of all, Epoleon's biodegradable, all-natural composition makes it equally safe and effective.

Unprecedented Achievement

Upon contact, Epoleon's unique for-mulations will chemically attack and neutralize both acidic and alkali gases simultaneously. This makes for a thorough reduction in odor.

Epoleon chemically converts odorful organic acids into stable, organic salt compounds which are odorless, nontoxic and biodegradable. Because of its advanced organic composition, Epoleon agents are compatible with many types of bacteria and inorganic chemicals.

Here's how Epoleon works:

Deodorization process for Epoleon N-100 and N-7C formulas.

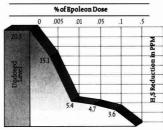
Ammonia (NH₃) -CH2COOH + NH3→-CH2COONH4 Trimethylamine(CH₃)₃N -CH₂COOH + (CH₃)₃N \rightarrow ·CH₂COONH(CH₃)₃

 $\begin{array}{l} Hydrogen \ Sulfide \ (H_2S) \\ \cdot CH_2COONa + H_2S \rightarrow NaHS + \cdot CH_2COOH \end{array}$

Methyl Mercaptan (CH₃SH) -CH₂COONa + CH₃SH → CH₃SNa + -CH₂COOH

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Since its introduction, Epoleon has achieved international acclaim. Reports documenting Epoleon's effectiveness continue to pour in from around the



world. To quote Dr. Lawrence C. Koe from the University of Singapore, "Epoleon N-7C has been tested under laboratory conditions for reactions with municipal sewage samples. The chemical was found to be capable of reducing the potential of sewage to emit H2S volatiles. A dose of 0.5% Epoleon N-7C on sewage resulted in complete elimination of H₂S emission."1

¹ Dr. Lawrence C. Koe. Laboratory Study on the Effectiveness of Epoleon N-7C for Hydrogen Sulphide Reduction (National University of Singapore), 1991.

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Before I poked it, sniffed it, examined it and tested it,

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- John Spencer, P.E.

Leaving no stone unturned is something environmental consultants like John Spencer know all about. Which is why we've developed a professional liability insurance program that can withstand the same degree of digging.

Perhaps it's because a board of practicing environmental consultants works to ensure our program meets your unique needs. Or maybe it's our network of independent agents who specialize in loss prevention and insurance for your profession. Of course, it could also be our ability to leap into action long before a dispute becomes an actual claim.

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Design Professionals Insurance Company Security Insurance Company of Hartford The Connecticut Indemnity Company A.M. Best Rating: A (Excellent) @ March 1996, DPIC Companies, Inc.

Circle 113 on card.

the grapevine

Co., a Los Angeles, Calif., manufacturer of particulate, liquid and gaseous filtration systems.

Adirondack Environmental Services Inc., Albany, N.Y., hired Paul D. Watson, a certified industrial hygienist and certified environmental trainer.

Jay Davis is the new manager of sales for the Engineered Systems Division of Kinetico, Newbury, Ohio.

William J. Goodwin was appointed

16 Environmental PROTECTION

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vice president and director of marketing for Berryman & Henigar's western regional operations in Santa Ana, Calif.

Mansour Ghiasi joined Brownfield Development Corp., Arlington Heights, Ill., as vice president of operations.

U.S. Filter Corp., Rockford, Ill., acquired Zimpro Environmental Inc., Rothschild, Wis.

The U.S. Department of Interior's Minerals Management Service honored Exxon Co. U.S.A., Houston, Texas, with the 1995 National Safety Award for Excellence for its commitment to safety and environmental protection while operating on the outer Continental Shelf.

Scott Evans has been appointed aboveground storage tank products manager for Tracer Research Corp.'s aboveground fuel tank and pipeline services group in Houston, Texas.

Joan M. Tanaka joined HDR Engineering Inc. as an environmental engineer in the company's Chicago, Ill., office.

Michael L. Foreman was appointed vice president of the field services divison at Berryman & Heniugar and is based in the firm's San Diego, Calif., headquarters.

Robert C. Renner is the new deputy executive director of The American Water Works Association, Denver, Colo.

Christopher Matthews joined HDR Engineering Inc. as an environmental scientist in the company's Charlotte, N.C., office.

Safety-Kleen Corp., Elgin, Ill., received this year's Governor's Award for Excellence in Hazardous Waste Reduction in the state of Wisconsin.

Todd W. King, P.E., joined Camp Dresser and McKee Inc.'s Detroit, Mich., office.

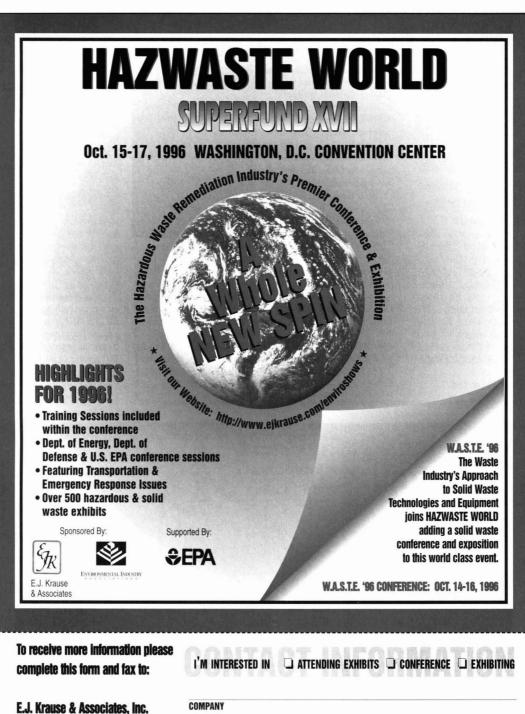
SCS Engineers, Long Beach, Calif., opened its first Texas office in Austin, with Steve Hamilton as its manager.

Walter L. Scruggs was appointed vice president and general manager of Electrocatalytic Inc.'s U.S. operations, based in Warren, N.J.

William J. Conlon, P.E., DEE, joined Rust Environment & Infrastructure as vice president and will lead the company's Midwestern water services business.

David Burstein was named executive vice president of Parsons Infrastructure & Technology Group, a global business unit of The Parsons Corp., Pasadena, Calif.

Robert Welch joined Adatek Inc., Sandpoint, Idaho, as national sales manager. EP



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on the cutting edge



New Thermal Conductivity Analyzer

Teledyne's new Model 2000A Thermal Conductivity Analyzer is a versatile microprocessor-based instrument for measuring binary mixtures of gases. The analyzer combats nonlinearly with a linearizing circuit that automatically corrects the signal output and meter readout. Teledyne Analytical Instruments.

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New Filter Press Technology DryVac Environmental announces the development of a new dewatering technology that will revolutionize the filter press industry. The technology is built around a filter press plate that incoporates both a new design and new materials, resulting in a system where sludges and other products can be dried to 100 percent solid in conventional presses without any follow-on equipment. This reduces solid volumes and weights by 50 percent to 80 percent of those achieved by conventional processes. DryVac International. Circle 141 on card.

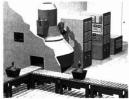
First Wind-Driven Generator for Offshore Platforms The French turbine manu-

facturer VERGNET, one of the world's leading producers



of wind-driven turbines for more than 25 years, has produced and installed the first wind-driven generators on an offshore platform. A world first, the use of wind turbines to power remote platforms provides sufficient energy to operate the platforms through battery storage, cutting refueling and maintenance costs in half. **VERGNET**. *Circle 142 on card*.

Infectious Waste Sterilization Now Easier On Site BioSterile Technology announces electron beam infec-



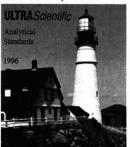
tious waste sterilization as a cost-effective method of sterilizing infectious waste. Although the technology has been used for 20 years, the size of the equipment and the cost have always prohibited on site use by hospitals. BIOSIRISTM is the first compact, self-contained E-beam treatment system that renders 100 percent of infectious waste non hazardous. **BioSterile Technology Inc.** *Circle 143 on card.*



in print Compiled by Marion Petty

Here's just a taste of the many catalogs, brochures, books and reports currently available to help you.

THE NEW 1996-1997 ULTRA Scientific Analytical and



Environmental Standards Catalog contains more than 5,000 inorganic and organic standards and more than 1,000 new products. New products include DRO/GRO fuel standards, international standards, explosive

ONE OF AMERICA'S LEADING PUBLISHERS OF safety and regulatory compliance products, J.J. Keller & Associates Inc. has introduced its HazMat Catalog for 1996.

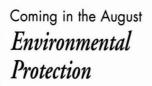
The 64-page, full-color catalog is a vast array of regulatory publications, placards, labels, forms, training materials and services. Some of the new products featured in the HazMat Compliance Catalog are the *Hazardous Compliance Manual*, the *Hazardous Materials Compliance Pocketbook*, the *Hazardous Materials Regulations Handbook* and the 1996 Emergency Response Guidebook.

Two new features contained in the catalog are bound in: Business Reply Cards for Keller's On-site Safety Consulting & Training Services and Keller's Customized Safety and Compliance Solutions. Both cards provide readers a fast and easy way to



find out more about the wide range of services offered, as well as Keller's customizing capabilities done for many of America's Fortune 500 companies.

Keller offers more than 2,000 products, such as regulatory guides, compliance manuals, employee handbooks, user-friendly software, newsletters and video-based training kits. The company also conducts seminars and workshops across America. J.J. Keller & Associates Inc. *Circle 201 on card.*



magazine...

How is the job market shaping up?

Writer Charlie Whelan takes a look at employment trends in the environmental profession.

Find out how your job measures up to others in the environmental profession with our annual salary survey.



in print

standards, state standards and new ULTRA DATAdisks[™]. ULTRA Scientific. *Circle 144 on card.*

WHESSOE HAS PUBLISHED THE first issue of a newsletter called "Instrumenting Solutions," which reviews advances in instrumentation technology with a particular focus on applications in the oil, gas and chemical process industries. Whessoe. *Circle 145 on card.*

A NEW FREE BROCHURE, "Water Solutions," features information on more than 30 water treatment products for both municipal and industrial applications. Smith & Loveless Inc. *Circle 146 on card.*

A SECOND EDITION OF A catalog of high purity gas



handling equipment and related accessories is available and has been expanded to 150 pages. It contains hundreds of items essential for safe and efficient handling of specialty gases. Advanced Specialty Gas Equipment. *Circle 147 on card.*

A new four-page brochure describes Hydro Group's environmental subsurface

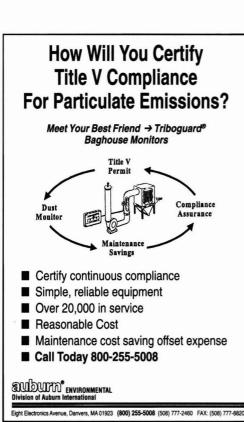


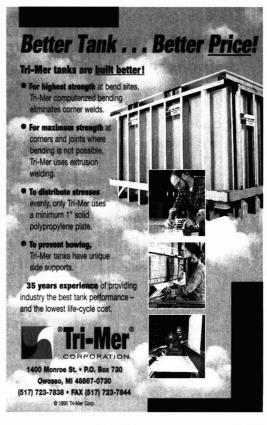
remediation services, technologies and its manufactured remediation equipment. Services include Phase I and Phase II site assessments, remedial investigation/feasibility and treatability studies and solid-waste services. **Hydro Group Inc.** *Circle 148 on card.*

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"Engineering and Specifications Manual" is recognized as the thermoplastic piping industry's most comprehensive technical reference. It contains updated product information on Eslon's full line of PVC and Corzan[™] CPVC thermoplastic piping products. **Eslon Thermoplastics**. *Circle 149 on card*

A CURRENT AWARENESS AND Guide to Understanding the United States Environmental Regulations" is a new guide designed for those not in the mainstream of environmental regulation awareness, who need a resource guide to determine whether they are in compliance, and if they have questions, where to go for help. DPNA International. *Circle 150 on card.*





EPA Issues New Audit Policy

The EPA hopes a new incentive program will promote industry's environmental compliance and encourage self-policing.

THE U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY has finally addressed the concerns of corporate America by issuing its final environmental auditing policy.

The purpose of the EPA's audit policy is to encourage voluntary self-policing and encourage voluntary compliance with federal environmental laws. A party making disclosures to the EPA must do so on a voluntary basis to become eligible for treatment under the new policy. If a party's disclosure is voluntary and meets other conditions, the EPA will seek reductions in penalties and will not refer the matter for criminal enforcement.

While providing some protection for environmental audits, the EPA continues to withhold evidentiary privilege for disclosure of voluntary environmental audit information. Evidentiary privilege is a two-part legal term. Evidentiary is the use of facts given by one party during a court proceeding to help prove that party's position. Privilege is a legal mechanism that allows a party to a lawsuit to protect information from disclosure to the court or the opposition.

Evidentiary privilege is based on the idea that society is best served by not forcing disclosure of certain information, because ensuring the information's confidentiality prompts the party to do the "right thing."

When environmental audit information is protected, it can be used to begin corrective measures to solve environmental problems. Several important definitions are set out in the EPA's audit policy. The definitions are critical because they set the boundaries for material covered by the policy and identify federal protections available to companies that complete environmental self-evaluations.

• Environmental audit is defined as a "systematic, documented, periodic and objective review" of practices related to meeting environmental requirements.

• Due diligence is defined as a company's efforts to prevent, detect and correct environmental violations.

• Gravity-based penalties are defined as that portion of a penalty levied above and beyond the recoupment of the benefits the company has gained by the violation.

An entity can become eligible for the benefits of voluntary disclosure after meeting certain conditions, including:

• The discovery of violations must come as part of a systematic program designed to identify and

correct environmental issues.

• The disclosure must be voluntary and not result from an agency-mandated monitoring program.

• Prompt disclosure to the EPA, and disclosure must not result from a federal or state investigation.

• Violations and any resulting harm must be corrected within 60 days, or longer if the EPA agrees.

• The violation cannot be part of a pattern of en-

vironmental violations of the same type.

• The entity must have measures in place to prevent the recurrence of the violation.

After Conditions Are Met

Once an entity meets the conditions, the EPA will reduce its pursuit of enforcement sanctions. An entity will be eligible for a 75-percent reduction in gravity-based penalties if it meets all of the conditions, except for a systematic environmental auditing approach. The approach differs from the EPA's interim If a party's disclosure is voluntary and meets other conditions, the EPA will seek reduction in penalties and will not refer the matter for criminal enforcement.

policy that granted a 75-percent reduction in gravity-based penalties for simply meeting "most" of the conditions.

For entities that satisfy all of the requirements, the EPA will not seek gravity-based penalties or refer issues to the U.S. Department of Justice for criminal enforcement. The EPA will not routinely request environmental audit reports for the purpose of initiating enforcement action unless it has independent knowledge of environmental violations.

The EPA's audit policy places some strict requirements on entities that wish to receive protection through the use of self-evaluation. Although some companies believe environmental self-policing is burdensome, protections, including reductions in gravity-based fines and criminal enforcement, provide a strong incentive to participate. However, the EPA has not gone far enough, because the current policy does not provide any evidentiary privilege protection in court. Evidentiary privilege is needed to truly convince industry that the EPA supports self-auditing. Until this privilege is established, it is hard to predict the impact of the policy.

Daniel S. Schleck, P.E., CHMM, is an attorney in Minneapolis, Minn.

Handling Environmental Claims

Unless your company is prepared, you might be overwhelmed by the myriad of hoops to be jumped through to clean up a contaminated site.

AN ARTICLE LAST YEAR IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL broadcasted the story of \$15.2 million spent in attorney's fees and more than \$50 million spent in remedial expenses by Motorola Inc. for one of its facilities in Phoenix, Ariz. Eye-catching because of the dollars involved and perhaps surprising that it involved a major corporation expert at controlling costs, this dilemma is being faced by more corpora-

Unlike traditional contract or tort claims, environmental losses do not always involve clearly defined issues of liability and damages. tions every day. All companies, regardless of size, must be wary of the costs of environmental claims.

Unlike traditional contract or tort claims, environmental losses do not always involve clearly defined issues of liability and damages. As in the Motorola claim, there is a significant need for technical or scientific support in researching, evaluating and defending these claims. The nature and extent of the pollution conditions, the development and selection of short- and long-term remedial and disposal alternatives must be considered, regardless of

any third-party claimants. Once third-party claims begin to develop, new issues must be considered.

Choosing the Best Contractor

While prompt notice of a loss is important in any situation, it is of paramount concern for an environmental claim. Contamination from a spill only increases and costs escalate by delay.

Once notice is given, the loss must be assessed from the perspective of selecting the correct contractor. The environmental business has grown dramatically in the past 15 years, and as a consequence, the types of companies are diverse. Firms can be simply consultants offering investigative, design and oversight services, or contractors, who own and operate the equipment to implement the remedial plan, or a combination of both. All companies have limitations, whether geographic, technical or in equipment and labor. Many have particular areas of specialization, such as hydrogeology, bioremediation and mobile incineration.

Randall E. Hobbs, JD, is vice president of Environmental Claims Administrators Inc. (ECA) in Exton, Pa.

The first thing to determine is a contractors' qualifications. Have they performed this work before? Are they familiar with your company's business? Do they have the manpower and equipment to perform the work in a timely and efficient manner?

Next, what is the contractors' reputation? How long have they been in business and particulary, in this type of business? References should be obtained from both private clients as well as federal, state or local agencies.

Price lists for both hourly rates and equipment and materials should be compared.

Important Contractual Considerations

Once a contractor has been selected, a formal written contract should be executed. In an emergency, it may be impossible to sign a contract until after the work has begun. A contract, nonetheless, should clearly set forth parties' intentions, including the scope of work and associated cost estimates. As in any contract for services rendered, the terms should be clearly reviewed, and, in particular, the client should review the indemnification provisions, as well as the limitation of liability provisions.

The contract also should clearly spell out insurance coverage that the contractor will maintain. For environmental services, a contractor should not only have general liability, business auto and workers' compensation coverage, but also maintain professional liability and pollution legal liability coverage.

With a contractor selected and a contract in place, work can begin. Clients should ensure they have a contact person, as well as a backup. Depending on the size of the project, clients should receive daily verbal and weekly written status reports.

Remedial Methods

All appropriate federal, state and local agencies should be notified of the loss and should approve the remedial action plan. If a lead agency isn't determined from the beginning, the client may begin a remedial plan working with one agency only to finish the plan and find that another agency has authority over the incident and will not approve the previously agreed upon cleanup criteria.

The choice of an appropriate remedial method is key to managing environmental claims in which remedial action is necessary. In addition to traditional approaches used to determine the most cost-effective continued on page 39

Conducting a harmonious biosolids management program doesn't have to be difficult.

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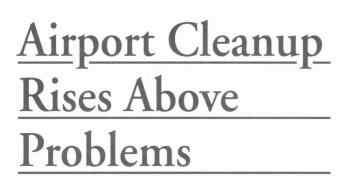
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Engineers used a treatment combination to improve the in-situ bioremediation system's efficiency in removing underground fuel leaks at JFK Airport.

By Nicholas Pressly, Barry Lucas, Bruce Frumer and Robert Roth ohn F. Kennedy International Airport is in New York City, on Jamaica Bay, about 15 miles from midtown Manhattan. JFK has an above-ground storage capacity of about 32 million gallons of jet fuel, which flows through about 50 miles of high-pressure underground pipe to the central terminal area. Each terminal's fuel hydrant system was the major source of subsurface contamination at the site.

The site is covered by 1 to 1.5 feet of reinforced concrete pavement. Liquid phase jet fuel (free product) was measured on the water table with true thickness ranging from less than 1 inch to 1 foot. After analysis of core samples, contamination was found adsorbed to the soil with maximum levels at the water table.

The system is designed to dewater the contaminated area and remove groundwater and free product under enhancement by a separate vacuum on the well head. Most of the free product lens is smeared across the dewatered soil to optimize the surface area for biodegradation and volatilization of hydrocarbons by the air movement caused by the applied vacuum to the well head. Air injection wells located between the extraction wells supply air for biodegradation as well as for traditional air sparging when the water table was allowed to return to nearstatic levels.

The groundwater extraction and treatment system included a centralized groundwater recovery system (CGRS) using a recirculation tank and ejector pumps, oil-water separation, oxidation of dissolved iron using diffused aeration, suspended solids removal using an inclined plate clarifier (IPC), air stripping to remove dissolved volatiles, and liquid phase granular activated carbon (LPGAC) for further dissolved hydrocarbon removal

before discharge to a storm sewer.

The vapor extraction system included a vacuum extraction blower, air/water separator, and vapor phase granular activated carbon (VPGAC).

The concentration of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) within extracted vapors ranged from 30 to 419 parts per million. The VOC mass removal rate was determined using the average flow rate and VOC concentration obtained from each new sampling and the previous one.

The cumulative hydrocarbon removal via the liquid phase was 27,740 pounds. This was determined by the amount of jet fuel separated by the oil/water separator, contaminated sludge collected by the clarifier, and dissolved hydrocarbons removed by the groundwater treatment system.

About 100,004 pounds of petroleum hydrocarbons were biologically oxidized from startup to October 1995. On Dec. 13, 1995, water samples were collected from six wells within Area 3 for VOC and semi-volatile organic compound (SVOC) analyses according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency method 8020 and 8270. The results for total benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene (BTEX) and SVOCs ranged from nondetectable to 10.5 ppb and from nondetectable to 49 ppb, respectively.

Microbial Conditions During System Operation

In November 1993, soil samples were collected from nine locations at depths ranging between 4 to 10 feet below grade within future remediation areas at Terminal 1. In August 1995, six soil samples were collected from two locations within Area 3.

November 1993 results indicated a total heterotrophic population in the pre-remediated area ranging from 105 to 106 colony forming units per gram (cfu/g) dry weight. PHC results from the same date indicated a petroleum hydrocarbon degrading population ranging between 104 to 106 cfu/g. In all the above samples, the heterotrophic plate count (HPC) counts were greater than the petroleum hydrocarbon (PHC) counts.

In contrast, HPC and PHC results were nearly identical midway though the Area 3 operation and ranged from 108 to 1,010 cfu/g. Simultaneously, with the growth of the microbial population, the dissolved oxygen (DO) level in the total groundwater extraction system influent was 8 mg/L at system startup (showing the efficiency of the air injection system). During subsequent months, the DO level within the influent declined and was at its lowest level (4.3 mg/L) during the August 1995 sampling.

Based on population increase, the mass of petroleum hydrocarbons biologically oxidized in the unsaturated and saturated zones was about 91,400 pounds and 5,000 pounds, respectively. Based on the amount of CO_2 generated above background levels during the same period, about 63,000 pounds of petroleum hydrocarbons were degraded.

Above-Ground Treatment Faced Challenges

The dual-phase remediation method employed at JFK used a series of separation processes to removed separate and dissolved phase jet fuel from groundwater. Shortly after system start-up, the separation processes became ineffective at removing separate phase fuel, which caused fouling of active adsorption sites and high consumption of liquid phase granular activated carbon (LPGAC) that treated the discharge water.

• Free Product Emulsification: Em-

ulsification occurred when the fuel and water mixture drawn from the well was jetted into the high-velocity flow of the venturi. Jetting liquid extracted from the well into the circulated water suspended and entrained microglobules of recovered fuel in the circulated water. Microglobules of jet fuel less than 10 microgram in diameter had insufficient buoyancy to coalesce but formed a floating layer during the two-hour residence time.

The formation of an effectively buoyant emulsion and a float cake that impeded removal of separate phase fuel in the oil/water separator caused suspended fuel and cake to foul downstream processes such as the air stripper, sand and bag filters, and LPGAC. Microglobules of product, bacterial cells and suspended ferric oxides, which passed the final filter, a 10 microgram bag filter, adsorbed onto the surface of the carbon, effectively blinding sorption sites that should have attracted dissolved phase fuel compounds. Excessive weekly carbon adsorber changes were necessary to prevent breakthrough of contaminant to the discharge waters.

A second factor believed to have contributed to the emulsification of free product were biosurfactants. Biosurfactants produced by petroleum-degrading microorganisms are typically glycolipids or phospholipids with properties resulting from polar and apolar groups on a single molecule.

• Presence of Biomass: The presence of floating and suspended sludge, identified primarily as biomass in combination with emulsified free product, reduced treatment system efficiency. The tendency to float could have resulted from entrained gas bubbles from the respiration of bacteria, adherence of bacteria to the low density oil globules, or fibrous material (fungi), which decreased the settling velocity of the material—resulting in the observed floating scum.

Initially, up to 6 inches of floating sludge was manually skimmed from the oil/water separator and the clarifier per day. The suspended particles, adsorbed with hydrocarbons, reduced the efficiency of the LPGAC by up to 75 percent by occupying and blocking most of the adsorption sites in a relatively short time period.

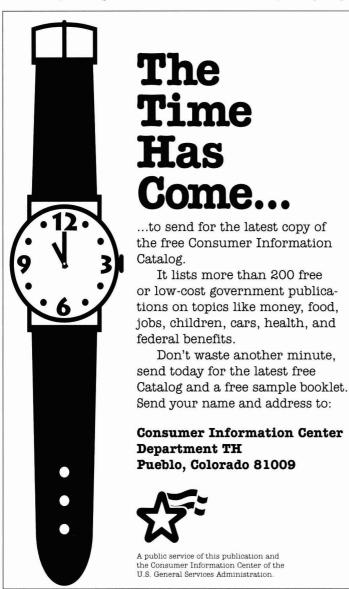
The adsorbed hydrocarbon component of the suspended biomass was detected by the analysis of filtered and nonfiltered samples. Nonfiltered water samples had up to a 100 times greater hydrocarbon concentration.

Evaluation of Enhancements

• Dissolved Air Flotation: Since the clarifier solids were suspended and not settling effectively, dissolved air flotation (DAF) was considered as a solution. The objective of DAF is to remove buoyant suspended solids by causing them to first agglomerate with the aid of coagulants and then flocculate into larger particles in a slow-mix tank. The floc floats to the tank surface by adsorbing to air bubbles.

The additional costs in changing the existing system to DAF, along with the coagulant costs, did not make the conversion feasible.

• Coagulation and Flocculation: Coagulation involves solidifying or destabilizing finely divided suspended particles. Coagulation can be either adsorptive coagulation or sweep coagulation, depending on the relative level of turbidity and coagulant dosage. Adsorptive coagulation occurs at high turbidity and low coagulant dosage; whereas sweep coagulation occurs at low turbidity and high coagu-



lant dosage. Flocculation occurs at slow mixing rates to form aggregates or flocs from finely divided particles to increase the removal rate of suspended solids. The flocculation process is a function of time.

Jar tests were conducted using ferric chloride, polymer, and other coagulants and flocculants. A variety of coagulants and flocculants were jar tested to find a solution to the sedimentation problems in the remediation system.

• Retention Time Adjustments: As a result of the free product emulsification and biomass problems, the bacteria, silt, and jet fuel froth at the surface of the oil/water separator, iron oxidation tank, inclined plate clarifier, and CGRS tank did not settle in solution without large dosages of polymers and other additives.

To reduce the pass through of hydrocarbons and suspended solids to the LPGAC units, a 20,000-gallon holding tank was installed before air stripping and the LPGAC units. The 20,000-gallon portable tank with level controls afforded a one-day cycle per discharge event. The froth and fuel was collected from the tank only when significant accumulation was present.

Conclusions

The data suggest that the mechanism with the greatest potential for remediating the soil and groundwater appeared to be biodegradation. The bioactivity was supported by the concentration of CO_2 above background levels, decreased DO in the groundwater treatment system influent, and increased microbial population in the saturated and unsaturated zones. The decrease in bioactivity in October 1995 may be the result of:

• The hydrocarbons used by the subsurface microorganisms as a substrate might be limiting.

• The moisture content in the soil might have been reduced by the groundwater/soil vapor extraction to levels that are inhibitory to microbial growth.

• Available inorganic nutrients, especially phosphorous, could have been depleted.

Nicholas Pressly is an environmental engineer, Barry Lucas is a staff services engineer. and Bruce Frumer is a construction engineer with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, New York, N.Y. Robert Roth, PE, Ph.D., is the operations manager of the Mid-Atlantic office of Terravac Inc., Trenton, N.J.

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Circle 121 on card.

<u>Mixing Up a</u> Microbial Cocktail

Using cultures of microbes isolated from a Siberian oil spill, an Oregon company has sped up the time it takes to bioremediate hydrocarbon-contaminated sites.

By William Weinstein

TEC, based in Troutdale, Ore., recently completed tests on a Superfund site to prove that applied remediation could clean sites contaminated with creosote and other polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). The tests were conducted for the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 at the McCormick and Baxter Creosoting Site. The EPA placed the site on the Superfund National Priorities List May 31, 1994.

McCormick & Baxter operated a wood-treatment plant at the site from 1944 until 1991. Wood-treatment processes used at the site included creosote in oil and pentachlorophenol (PCP). For years, waste oil containing creosote was reportedly applied to site soil.

In August 1995, ETEC received some of the impacted soil from the McCormick & Baxter site. Initial concentration of PAH compounds (by EPA 8310 analysis) was 1,862 parts per million. Sixteen different PAH constituents were analyzed. The stated cleanup goal is 100 ppm total for these contaminants.

Due to the high concentration of toxic compounds, one of ETEC's bioremedial products—a biosurfactant compound was applied first. The application's main goal was to reduce the total system toxicity and make possible a further application of the main bioremedial product a multi-enzyme complex. Due to the specific chemical structure of PAH compounds, PAH constituents will affect the three-dimensional structure of enzyme molecules as well as simply killing bacteria through toxic shock.

Bioremediation

Bioremediation can break down 95 percent of two-, three- or four-ring polyaro-

> Acknowledged as one of the most difficult compounds to bioremediate, benzo(a)Pyrene dropped nearly 90 percent in only 16 days.

matic hydrocarbons, but only 60 percent of five- and six-ring compounds. And it takes at least two to three years to attain these degradation levels. During 72 days of treatment using the biosurfactant and multi-enzyme complex products, PAHs were reduced 55.8 percent. Although these results are somewhat impressive, most of the degradation occurred in the two- through four-ring PAHs.

The bacterial cultures are the product of a search that sent the company's founders to the former Soviet Union, where they discovered Russian scientists with extensive backgrounds in microbiology and biochemistry. Their research included isolating and culturing natural microbes for use in bioremediation. Among the organisms was a bacteria strain isolated from an old Siberian oil spill.

Co-metabolism

At the time, the company's researchers completed development of a new product that uses a process referred to as "cometabolism." The product includes four separate strains of bacteria. Two strains work together to begin the process of breaking down the ring structure. The third and fourth step are added to complete the breakdown.

Alone, this would achieve the desired results. However, the combination of strains seems to have a synergistic or catalytic effect, so that the sum of the breakdown process is greater than its parts.

In processes involving bioremediation using biological components, the first step in the breakdown of hydrocarbons involves molecular oxygen (O_2) as a reactant in which one of the oxygen atoms is incorporated into the oxidized hydrocarbon. The reaction is carried out by enzymes called oxygenesses, which activate oxygen and convert it to a form in which the oxygen atom can be incorporated directly into a biochemical compound. This process, repeated, quickly breaks down the hydrocarbon to the corresponding alcohol, aldehyde and finally to the monobasic fatty acids.

Metabolism of both aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons have the same important and difficult fatty-acid-formation stage. The critical step of oxidation requires specific enzymes, which are produced by a few microorganisms known as hydrocarbon oxidizers. As the hydrocarbons are transformed after contacting the fatty acid stage, they become "easy" hydrocarbons and can readily be assimilated by the indigenous bacterial population.

The enzyme process accounts for about 90 percent of remedial breakdown.

During the 16 days following application of the new product, dramatic degradation occurred. Total PAH levels dropped from 823 to 146. Most dramatic was the drop in the five- and six-ring compounds. Acknowledged as one of the most difficult compounds to bioremediate, benzo(a)Pyrene dropped nearly 90 percent in only 16 days. The remaining is PAH constituents degraded to between 90 percent and 100 percent. Subsequent to this treatability study, two additional strains of bacteria have been isolated, cultured and added to the "cocktail," making it more efficient.

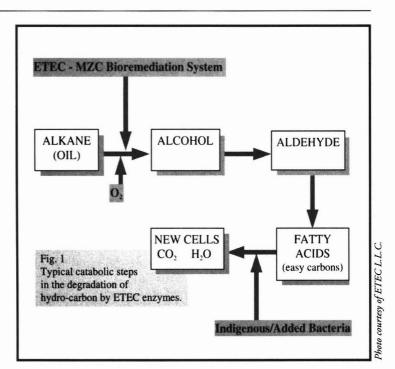
Using co-metabolism at the beginning of the process would produce similar results in a fraction of the time.

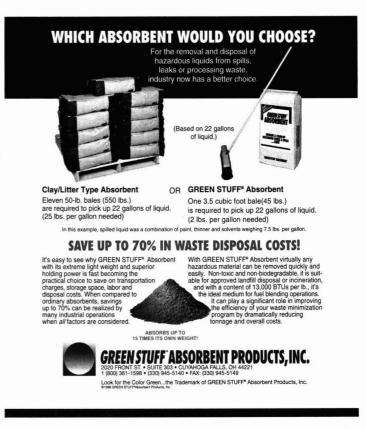
ETEC has completed the next step of its research and development program, which separates the enzymatic compounds from the bacterial strains, as the firm currently does for its hydrocarbon degrading products.

William Weinstein is co-founder and a principal in ETEC L.L.C., Troutdale, Ore.

For more information on ETEC, circle 151 on card.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at angela@texnet.net.





Too Close To Call

EP survey respondents said they plan to buy several sludge drying and disposal products, but no product stood out as a clear winner.

f *Environmental Protection* magazine's recent buying intention survey on sludge drying and disposal products were a car race, it would be too close to call. No product or service was a clear winner, and most fell in the middle of a tight pack.

The poll, conducted in the April *EP*, asked readers about their buying intentions for sludge drying and disposal products for the coming year. Those voting circled the appropriate categories on the magazine's readers service card. Unlike some of the past buyers' surveys where there were clear trends, this survey yielded none.

When asked which sludge disposal and drying services or products they intended to buy within the next 12 months, 16 percent of participants said they would buy screw presses. On the other end of the spectrum, 3 percent of survey participants said they intended to purchase land-application vehicles, fluidbed incinerators or wet-air oxidation systems. The remaining products fell between the two points.

Less than \$5,000

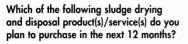
The lack of a trend also was evident when participants were asked why they were purchasing the services or products. Replacement and maintenance was the main reason, receiving 41 percent of the votes. But plant upgrade, with 31 percent, and new construction, with 28 percent, weren't far behind.

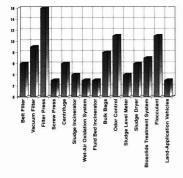
Respondents planned to spend varying amounts of money on the products or services, ranging from 24 percent who said less than \$5,000 to 19 percent who said more than \$200,000.

More than half the participants said they planned to purchase the services or products within the next six months.

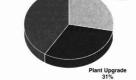
If you would like to participate in the July buying intentions survey, simply answer the appropriate questions on the reader service card and mail it to *Environmental Protection*. Watch for the results in future issues.

More than \$200,000





Products/services? 55,000-510,000 What is your reason for purchasing the selected product? Replacement/Maintenance 10,001-550,000 S10,001-550,000 S10,001-550,000 New Construction Rev Construction The selected product?



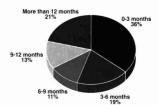
What is your projected

budget for the selected

How immediate is your need for the selected products/services?

\$100,001-\$200,000

50,001-\$100,000



<u>Handling the Media During</u> <u>a HazMat Emergency</u>

Advance preparation is critical to successfully dealing with reporters when an incident occurs involving hazardous materials.

By Janet Boulter

ou are prepared to respond to an emergency involving a dangerous chemical release at your facility, but are you ready to communicate to the media and the public during the event?

The only way to be prepared is to have a communication plan that outlines employee responsibilities. An emergency is not the time to develop new media communication strategies.

The following is a list of suggestions for effectively dealing with the media and the public:

Always plan as if an emergency could happen. Your company should have pre-prepared information to distribute to the media. The company spokesperson should be the only person who talks with the media as a representative of the company.

In an emergency, the most senior person on-site should brief the media until your spokesperson arrives. Once your spokesperson arrives and gathers the necessary information, set a time when the media can expect a response. Always have your legal counsel review the pre-prepared information that will be released.

Remember, the media has a job to do—report on your emergency. The public is concerned about the potential impact the emergency may have on the community. Try to understand and address their perspective and concerns. Always cooperate—provide as much information as possible. Provide fact sheets, including maps and charts, on the project and the company. The information should be current and in an easy to understand format.

3 Speak slowly and always repeat important information. If time allows, fax or e-mail quotes, names and titles, acronyms, etc. The written

At a minimum, you should provide information outlining your company's role on the project, company history and your environmental policies. word is less likely to be misquoted.

Educate your employees on your company's policies. Only trained staff should speak as representatives of the company. You cannot prevent your employees from expressing their opinion, but it is important that both your employees and the media understand the employees are not speaking as representatives of the company.

5 Respond immediately—reporters are on a deadline and will use their own information if yours is not provided in a timely manner. At a minimum, you should provide information outlining your company's role on the project, company history and your environmental policies.

Both your company spokesperson and representatives from management should be at your press conference to answer questions. Resist the temptation to have your legal counsel present, unless absolutely necessary.

Gather your composure. Before being interviewed or photographed, always remove your hardhat, sunglasses or safety glasses. Since the media will only be allowed in a safe area, consider removing any protective clothing as your appearance could create additional concerns with the public.

Handling the Media

Provide names and phone numbers (including after-hour numbers) of people to be contacted for more information after the initial media briefing.

Obtain a list of media contact names and fax numbers so you can forward regular project updates, as the situation unfolds.

8 Never use "no comment." If you are not prepared to present your side of the story, say so. When you say "no comment," it implies guilt or some level of wrongdoing. Do not say anything "off the record." If you say it, expect it to become part of the news story.

Do not provide information on a subject of which you are not knowledgeable. Either defer to someone more familiar with the project or offer to provide more information at a later date —and then do it.

10 Avoid using acronyms not familiar to the public. If you have to, explain what they

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mean as you use them.

Do not use contractions. Example: use "do not" instead of "don't." You are less likely to be misquoted.

12 Never discuss the situation with other employees, assuming no one is listening. What you say could end up in print.

13 Do not waiver—always stand your ground and repeat your company's position as often as necessary. Be prepared, so you will not succumb to the pressure of intense questioning.

14 Never ignore the media and the public. They will find the information they need, along with information you may not want included in the story.

15 An emergency is not the time to learn how to deal with the media and the public. In order to have your company represented as accurately as possible, it takes planning and practice.

Consult your local professional directories for lists of consultants who provide the necessary communications training.

16 In addition to providing formal media training for your company spokesperson(s), take time to talk to your employees about your company's communications plan and policies.

Planning ahead and being prepared will make communicating with both the media and the public a positive and successful experience.

Janet Boulter is a principal and founder of Glacial Communications, Denver, Colo.

For more information on Glacial Communications, circle 152 on card.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at angela@texnet.net.

What Do You Think?

Please indicate your level of interest in this article by circling the appropriate number on the Reader Service Card.

High 153 Medium 154 Low 155

<u>The Autobahn of</u> Environmental Databases

When you're racing against time to prepare environmental reports, a new on-line database gets the checkered flag.

egardless of the cause, the need to tap into environmental regulatory records information during nonbusiness hours is an obstacle most environmental professionals have encountered.

A major consumer food manufacturer contacted Rockville, Md.-based Apex Environmental Inc. with an urgent request. Apex is a full-service environmental consulting firm that conducts both environmental investigations and remediations.

The manufacturer was interested in purchasing 52 properties across the nation to use for additional production, storage and distribution facilities. After reviewing the seller's property disclosure statements, the manufacturer called Apex and requested a customized regulatory government records report verifying the registration or presence of underground storage tanks (USTs) on the sites.

The buyer also requested Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act Information System (CERCLIS) and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Information System (RECRIS) reports on two sites. Apex's only problem was the buyer requested the information at 5:45 p.m. and needed it by 8 a.m. the next day.

"We normally expect a job of this size and nature to take at least two to three days before getting information back from a database service provider," said Apex project hydrogeologist Kelly Kinkaid. "I knew ERIIS (Environmental Risk Information and Imaging Services) was the only company that could possibly help us."

Millions of Records

With a database containing more than 7 million federal, state and county environmental records, Herndon, Virg.based ERIIS is the nation's largest publisher of environmental property reports.

The firm recently developed ERIISnet, the first nationwide online, interactive environmental information service. The service provides instant online access to the firm's full database of environmental records information for any U.S. commercial, industrial or residential property. Apex's Reading, Pa., office didn't have

The database revealed several UST sites not mentioned in the seller's original property disclosure statements. access to the new online service at the time. Instead of downloading 52 complete American Society of Testing and Materials reports, which weren't needed, the firm worked with Apex during the evening to tailor the request and specifically order only the UST, CERCLIS and RECRIS databases.

Apex gave the site locations, and the firm's representative entered each one into the on-line system using a laptop computer from home. Within minutes, the customized UST, CERCLIS and RECRIS information databases were geocoded and available.

Quick Turnaround

Although the consulting firm worked all night, the report was on the client's desk before the 8 a.m. deadline. The database revealed several UST sites not mentioned in the seller's original property disclosure statements. After reviewing the reports, the client requested additional Phase I environmental site assessments at several sites.

If Apex had the online database service in its office at the time, it could have simply entered each property's address into the network to get a complete environmental database report for the site. The firm could tailor the search to obtain all, some or any single environmental database needed, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Apex could select information about a specific property or information about all

The Autobahn of Environmental Databases

properties within defined radius ranges or zip codes. When used this way, the firm would save time and money by screening a list of sites for the presence of one or two critical hazards and separating those properties for further investigation.

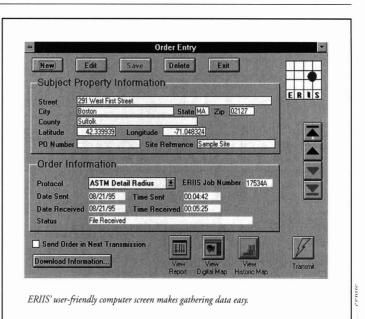
Environmental consultants often need quick turnaround of pre-Phase I government records to get the jump on competition. Sometimes, deadlines are pushed forward by clients to meet unforeseen budget constraints.

Until now, however, they could not be overcome since the database reports required some manual processing by the supplier companies.

That is no longer the case, as technology has caught up with demand for instant environmental regulatory records information, available now for the first time online.

For more information about ERIIS, circle 156 on card.

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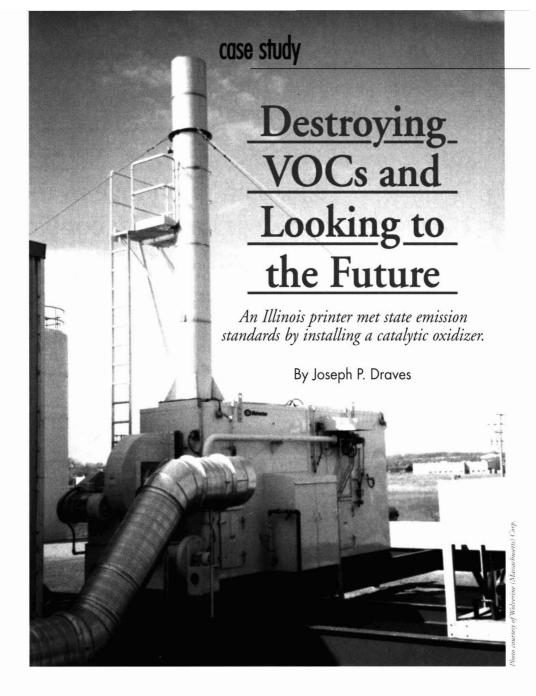
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n January, Multifilm Packaging Corp. of Elgin, Ill., completed the installation of an 8,000-standard-cubic feet-per-minute catalytic oxidizer. The oxidizer was installed to control volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from its flexographic printing presses. Installation of the oxidizer allowed Multifilm to meet the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency air-quality regulations in the Chicago, Ill., area and also provided the company additional capacity for future production expansion.

Reviewing the Problem

Before making the decision to purchase the catalytic oxidizer, the printer was planning to convert entirely to water-based inks to reduce VOC emissions. However, it recognized that with its expected growth, it would have to increase the production speed of its printing presses.

"After reviewing water-based inks, we didn't think they were as good now as solvent-based ink systems, and we didn't want to expend the time and money on the learning curve to get them up to the quality we needed." said Tom Jakubauskus, the printer's plant manager.

"Going with water-based inks would have cost us several customers who require the quick response Multifilm presently provides."

The printer's decision to install a Wolverine catalytic oxidizer was based on several factors. Foremost, catalytic oxidization is a highly proven and accepted VOC-control technology used in the flexographic printing industry.

Also important to Multifilm was consideration for its expected future growth. By choosing Wolverine's Model C-8000 oxidizer, the printer has the flexibility to expand future production. The firm expects to add a new printing press in the coming year.

Another important factor was the oxidizer manufacturer's ability to provide a complete turnkey system installation, offering the printer a single point of contact for the entire project. Wolverine's turnkey installation package included mounting the oxidizer above the roof on structural steel supports, installing the interlock and control wiring, and designing and installing all required collection ductwork from the printing presses to the catalytic oxidizer.

The oxidizer manufacturer also provided the engineering and installation of recirculation ductwork on all the press dryers. Recirculating the dryer exhaust provides the printer even greater capacity at the oxidizer, since it reduces the process exhaust volume being treated.

How It Works

The catalytic system operates on the oxidation principle. When the VOC emissions from the printing press exhaust stream are mixed with oxygen at elevated temperatures within the oxidizer, the VOCs chemically break down to form carbon dioxide and water. With the use of a precious metal catalyst, the reaction occurs at much lower temperatures than otherwise possible for a noncatalytic oxidizer (650 degrees Fahrenheit vs. a range of 1,400 degrees F to 1,500 degrees F).

To reduce operating costs, the oxidizer is equipped with a 70percent effective primary heat recovery unit. The integrated heat exchanger uses the higher temperature exhaust air to preheat the incoming process air before oxidation. Following the heat exchanger, a natural gas-fired burner and automated fuel control system regulates the temperature required to achieve the high level of VOC destruction.

Most important to the printer, the oxidizer offers a guaranteed 95-plus percent VOC destruction efficiency. Based on results of preliminary testing, the oxidizer is achieving 98.6-percent destruction efficiency. Within the next few months, the printer will complete a certified compliance test as required by the Illinois EPA.

Typically, installation of an oxidizer has no financial payback. Tom Jakubauskus looks at it differently. Comparing the printer's

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current operating capability with the reduced speed, lower production and loss of customers associated with conversion to water-based inks, the catalytic oxidizer has an estimated payback of 18 to 24 months.

"Installing the Wolverine catalytic oxidizer assured us that we would reduce our printing press emissions to acceptable levels and maintain compliance with both state and federal clean air regulations," Jakubauskus said.

Joseph P. Draves is an applications engineer for Wolverine (Massachusetts) Corp.'s Pollution Control Division, De Pere, Wisc.

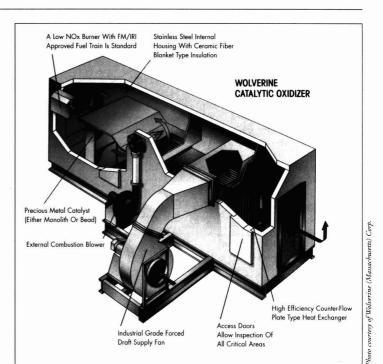
For more information on the Wolverine (Massachusetts) Corp. catalytic oxidizer, circle 157 on card.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at angela@texnet.net.

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legal watch

continued from page 22

method on owned sites, other elements are added when developing a remediation plan on a neighboring claimant's property.

Choosing a remedial technology involves identifying cost-effective technologies and evaluating them for their consistency with your internal objectives (and regulatory agency objectives) for the site. When performing this excercise on a neighboring site, the owner's objectives for the site must also be evaluated. The property owner can, in effect, act as an additional regulatory hurdle. The relationship with a neighboring property owner has the potential to be far more adversarial than with the regulatory agencies.

Issues, such as arrangements for site access and the claimant's current and intended uses of the property, may force the project manager to choose quicker, yet more capital-intensive, technologies such as excavation and disposal over more cost-effective technologies requiring a greater duration of site access.

For example, a neighboring property with petroleum-contaminated soils may be a prime site for in-situ bioremediation. However, site-access constraints set by the property owner, as well as the potential for litigation resulting from the interruption of the neighbor's use of the site, can make excavation and disposal advantageous to the responsible party.

In addition, the agreement upon remedial objectives for a site, and the verification of the results of remediation, can influence the choice of remedial technologies on a neighboring property owner's site. A property owner may have unreasonable expectations that the property can be returned to its pristine "nondetect" state that allegedly existed before the incident.

The cleanup requirements placed by a property owner can, at first, exceed those required by the state and federal governments. At this point, it may be useful to involve property owners in the discussions with the regulatory agencies to expose them to what the numbers actually represent in terms of risk.

Disposal of Site's Wastes

If disposal of hazardous or nonhazardous waste is required, an appropriate balance of long-term risk and overall cost must be evaluated. Though more expensive disposal options may offer greater freedom from long-term liabilities associated with the waste, these options can often amount to "overkill" in the management of many types of waste. Available disposal options are typically limited by regulations, but a full review of possible disposal options is important to ensure the most cost-effective methods are explored.

The other facets of an environmental claim no doubt distinguish it from other types of claims.

Outside of the remediation itself, regulatory issues, such as public utility commission hearings, fines and penalties for alleged storage violations, may exist.

Dealing With The Media

The incident may have the attention of the media. Multiple spokespersons providing limited or conflicting statements or even worse, the absence of any comments whatsoever, could lead to adverse publicity. A spokesperson should provide the press with an open, clear, concise and consistent description of the loss, the remedial steps and health risks. If there are citizens' groups or neighborhood associations in the area, open communication, as in the case of the press, should be established.

Seeking Legal Counsel

The likelihood of litigation arising out of an environmental claim is just as great, if not greater, than a normal loss situation. However, the attendant cost associated with litigating an environmental claim vs. a normal loss are far greater because of both the massive amount of documentation as well as technical experts required.

The same due diligence employed in investigating and retaining an environmental contractor should also be used in seeking counsel. Depending on the type of claim, counsel should be consulted well in advance of litigation. The same criteria used in choosing a remediation contractor should be used. Though it is impossible to predict the outcome of litigation and in preparing the scope of work for the remediation contractor, it is important to look at the overall litigation process from the beginning.

Is there liability for a loss, and if so, should the cases be settled quickly? If there is not liability for a loss, how much is the company prepared to litigate the claims, not only in terms of dollar amount but also in terms of actual time, potential adverse publicity and countless hours of in-house time? One may not be able to act as judge and jury with a complaint in hand; the impact that litigation can have on a company's balance sheet should be considered from the beginning.

As demonstrated in the Motorola case, a company need not be primarily involved in an environmental field to face the possibility of a massive environmental loss. Any company that stores or transports even small amounts of materials with the potential to pollute must be aware of its potential exposure.

For more information on Environmental Claims Administrators Inc., circle 161 on card.

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Learn how a radioactive waste storage site used robots to inventory barrels and reduce human exposure.

Super Sleuths:

Find out how scientists at a California Air Force Base convinced state regulators they weren't the source of dioxin in runoff

The ABCs of ERCs:

Air emission credits can be like money in the bank. Discover how you could benefit.

<u>Cooking up a</u> <u>Winning Recipe</u>

Faced with an odor problem, a Texas wastewater treatment plant found a way to solve the dilemma while creating a valuable sludge-based product.

By Vicky Boyd

nly Mother Nature can make soil, but a central Texas wastewater treatment facility is doing a pretty good imitation with a mixture of treated biosolids and quicklime. Not only does the artificial soil meet the Environmental Protection Agency's requirements for "exceptional quality" sludge, but it also has a myriad of uses, including capping a landfill.

Producing artificial soil wasn't the Trinity River Authority of Texas' original intent, however, said Wayne K. Hunter, assistant regional manager for the authority's northern region. Instead, the authority was looking for a way to control odors from stockpiled sludge. "It simply took off from an emergency," Hunter said.

The Authority

Originally established by the Texas Legislature to aid river navigation, the Trinity River Authority currently provides water and wastewater treatment among other services—to entities within an 18,000-square-mile region of northeastern Texas.

Of the six wastewater facilities the authority operates, the Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility is by far the largest, providing wastewater treatment under contract to 21 entities between Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas.

With a rated capacity of 135 million

gallons per day, the facility produces the equivalent of 100 dry tons of treated biosolids daily.

Urbanization Spells Growth

Urbanization and accompanying demand for wastewater treatment spurred the authority to expand the plant in the 1980s to handle 100 mgd and convert it from a two-stage trickling filter to a single-stage activated sludge plant. Before expansion, the plant, built in 1959, handled about 30 mgd.

The plant expansion included adding large plate and frame presses that produce biosolids cake with 35 percent to 40 percent solids. The authority quit using a sludge lagoon, converting it to a monofill for biosolids. As the authority removes soil, it replaces it with biosolids.

Wet Weather Woes

What the authority didn't count on was unusually wet weather during 1990 and 1991, which hampered equipment moving biosolids from the plant to the landfill. As the stockpiles of biosolids awaiting transport grew, nearby residents complained about the odors.

"The complaints caused us to pull together a group of odor-control experts, and the panel developed recommendations," Hunter said. After testing the recommendations on seven sludge piles, the authority decided to add 10 percent quicklime by weight to the biosolids.

The authority already adds ferric chloride and 440 pounds of lime per ton of dry solids to condition the sludge before it goes through the plate presses. The sludge's pH is 10.0 or higher.

The additional 10 percent lime raised the pile's pH to 12.0 or higher and caused pile temperatures to rise to more than 70 degrees Celsius for 30 minutes or longer in most cases. Even after the pile was stored for six months, odor levels never exceeded an acceptable level.

Comparing it to pasteurization, Hunter said holding the temperature at 70 degrees C for more than 30 minutes also met the EPA's criteria for a process to further reduce pathogens. The result was Class A sludge, which meets the EPA's 40 Code of Federal Regulations 503 requirements for pathogen control and vector attraction reduction.

But the pile tests were just the beginning. The authority contracted with the University of Texas, Arlington, to conduct extensive tests on the artificial product's soil characteristics. What the authority wanted to know in particular was the proper ratio of soil-fill material to artificial soil at the monofill and the product's compaction strength. The authority had been using 1 part sludge to 1 1/2 parts clay soil by volume.

UTA recommended that the authority use 1/2 part soil with 1 part amended sludge. The ratio change, which was approved by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, extended the life of the monofill to 27 years.

Hunter said the authority was leery of jumping into an alternate sludge disposal program before the EPA released its 40 CFR 503 regulations—which govern sludge use and disposal—in 1993. "Until then, it was our thinking there was some latent risk associated with such disposal methods and land applications without the benefits of the regulations," Hunter said. "When the regulations, came out, with the quicklime addition, our sludge met Class A. Without the quicklime, we met Class B effectively off of our present filter press operation."

Class A sludge must meet tougher pathogen-reduction requirements than Class B sludge. It also has fewer handling and application restrictions than Class B material.

Recipe For Soil

Based on the test results, the authority purchased clay working machinery in 1993 from J.C. Steele & Sons of North Carolina to pulverize the biosolids cakes. The company has been making equipment to handle clays for the brick and tile industry for 107 years. Rick Steele of J.C. Steele said Trinity's use of the machinery to handle sludge is pioneering. "It's used to handle clay filter cakes that are sticky as peanut butter and tough as belt leather," Steele said.

The equipment purchase coincided with plant expansion that increased capacity to 1.35 mgd. The secret behind getting even heat distribution within the piles is having good particle-to-particle contact between the biosolids and the lime, and the equipment provided it, Hunter said.

The biosolid cakes—some several square feet in area—come off the presses and drop into trucks waiting to haul them to a sludge hopper at a mixing pad. A chopper feeder breaks the cakes into pieces about 4 square inches.

The smaller blocks move via conveyor to a disintegrator designed to shred tough clays containing rocks. The product exiting the disintegrator is 1/2 inch or less and moves on another conveyor to a mixer, where lime is added. The material, which has been transformed from charcoal-gray slabs to fine-textured light gray artificial soil, is then piled on a cement pad.



Trinity River Authority maintenance engineer John Greer is an expert in sludge mixing and artifical soil production

Within minutes, the pile begins to cook, and temperatures increase to at least 70 degrees C. Probes placed at four corners of the pile document the temperature changes over time to ensure the material meets Class A requirements.

Landfill Cap

Although Hunter said alkaline stabilization helped address many of the treatment plant's problems, the authority decided nonetheless to draft a plan to look at land application of biosolids elsewhere. "We wanted to introduce to the contracting parties the value of making that 27 years forever by beginning to export biosolids," Hunter said, referring to the life of the monofill.

The plan calls for increasing the amount of biosolids exported by 20 percent annually. By the fifth year, the authority theoretically should be exporting all of its biosolids, Hunter said.

After meeting with three customer cities, only Arlington expressed interest in using biosolids to cap its municipal solid waste landfill. The authority ships 20 percent of its daily production about 20 dry tons of artificial soil— to the landfill. "The landfill has to import soil for use in meeting vector-control requirements," Hunter said.

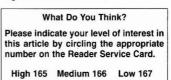
A handful of other treatment facilities in Texas also export biosolids for landfill capping, and all do so under conditional permits issued by TNRCC.

When the authority initially sought a permit, Hunter said TNRCC was not too receptive.

"TNRCC was initially reluctant (to issue a permit) partly because of the precedent it might establish," Hunter said. "They were concerned about the consistency and water content of the sludge. But we invited them to the plant and showed them."

Vicky Boyd is managing editor of Environmental Protection magazine.

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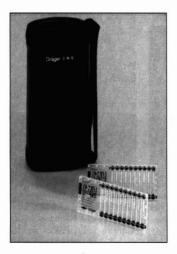
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new products



bit resolution. It has an onboard memory for 512K samples of data storage that can be transferred to the PC memory for post processing. **Omega Engineering**.

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Personal Single Gas Monitors

The Foxboro Co. announces its new FoxTox series of single gas monitors for personal monitoring. The series includes three models: oxygen,



toxic gases and a combustible gas monitor. The analyzers are designed for rugged use with simple calibration, large digital display and programmable alarms. The Foxboro Co.

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Water Intake Screens

Excerpts from the "Cook Book" on Intake Screen systems are available in an eightpage brochure that provides tables for gathering design information, sizing and selection, and sample specifications for the screens and air burst screen cleaning systems. Lee Cook Intake Screen Co.

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Breathing Air Systems

A new line of Grade "D" breathing air systems with capacities ranging from 25-1,000 cfm is available. All units are intrinsically safe, and monitor



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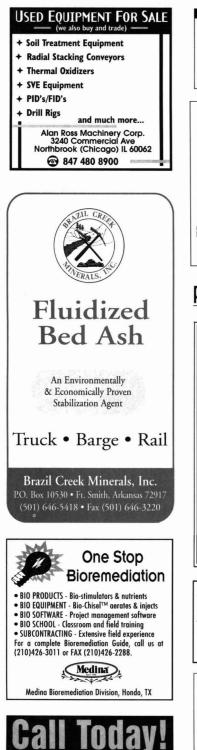
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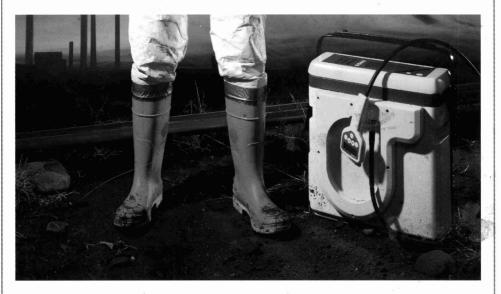


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