

Welcome to the April 2004 SedWeb E-Mail Update, a monthly summary of recent developments about contaminated sediments remediation. This update is a service the Sediments Web Community (<http://www.sediments.org>), an online resource for researchers, regulatory officials, and environmental managers created by the U.S. EPA-sponsored Hazardous Substance Research Centers/South & Southwest (HSRC/SSW).

We invite your submissions for future updates. Contact Mark Hodges at mark.hodges@gtri.gatech.edu to make submissions or suggestions, or to add or remove your name from this list.

Previous SedWeb E-Mail Updates are archived at <http://www.sediments.org/email-update.html>.

Publication of news items in this report does not constitute an endorsement of their contents by either the HSRCs or EPA. We present them because of their potential relevance to sediments researchers and managers.

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Conferences/Meetings/Workshops

INTERNATIONAL SEDIMENT REMEDIATION CONFERENCE PLANNED IN JANUARY. The Third International Conference on Remediation of Contaminated Sediments will convene in New Orleans, Louisiana, January 24-27, 2005. Previously held in Venice, Italy, in 2001 and 2003, the 2005 Sediments Conference will take place at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel. Sponsored and organized by Battelle, the Conference will be organized around the theme "Finding Achievable Risk Reduction Solutions," and will address the significant challenges associated with contaminated sediment remediation and management.

Presentation topics will include ecological and human health risk assessment, sediment stability, risk-management decision-making, remedy effectiveness, defining remediation success, and port and harbor management. The conference is co-sponsored by ENVIRON Water Management Services, the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP), the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Center for Contaminated Sediments. The call for abstracts brochure is now available at <http://www.battelle.org/sedimentscon>. Abstracts to be considered for the program are due June 30. To request a printed copy of the brochure and subsequent program information or to inquire about co-sponsoring or exhibiting, contact The Conference Group (1580 Fishinger Road, Columbus, Ohio 43221 USA; tel: 800-783-6338 (USA and Canada) or 614-488-2030; fax: 614-488-5747; and e-mail: info@confgroupinc.com).

WORKSHOP TO PRESENT ANALYTICAL TOOLS FOR SEDIMENTS MANAGEMENT. The Center for Contaminated Sediments (CCS) of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center will present a decision analytic framework designed for contaminated sediments management at a June 22-24 workshop in Palm Beach, Florida. The event's sponsor is the Society for Risk Analysis, and current organizational sponsors are: CCS, ICF Consulting, the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology, NOAA, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Navy, and the Sediment Management Work Group. Co-chairs of the event are Dr. Todd S. Bridges, director of CCS, and Dr. Igor Linkov of ICF Consulting. The workshop will: 1) introduce the latest decision analytical methods; 2) review methods for developing optimal sediment management strategies; and 3) develop a strategy to advance comparative risk assessment and decision analysis as tools for project-level decision making in contaminated sediment management. Information on registration for the workshop is available at <http://www.risktrace.com/sediments/index.php> or from Dr. Todd Bridges at 601-634-3626 (e-mail: Todd.S.Bridges@erdc.usace.army.mil).

CALENDAR OF OTHER UPCOMING TECHNICAL CONFERENCES/MEETINGS:

April 14-15: Dredged Material Evaluation and Management Seminar at the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel-Gateway in Cleveland, Ohio. Event sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in association with

the Great Lakes Dredging Team. To register, send an e-mail to billie.h.skinner@usace.army.mil.

April 20-23: Symposium on Monitoring Lakes and Reservoirs, North American Lake Management Society, Chicago, Illinois. <http://www.nalms.org/symposia/symposia.htm>

May 4-7: Aquatic Weed Control Short Course, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.
<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/aw>

May 5-6: Great Lakes Sustainability Conference, Sheraton Cleveland City Centre Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio. Sponsors are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Great Lakes Commission.
<http://www.glc.org/announce/04/01sustain.html>

May 15-20: International Conference on River/Catchment Dynamics: Natural Processes and Human Impacts. Solsona, Catalonia, Spain. <http://www.ctfc.es/conference2004>

May 24-28: International Association for Great Lakes Research 2004 Conference, Waterloo, Ontario. Theme: Great Lakes Need Great Watersheds. <http://www.iaglr.org/conference/2004/>

July 11-14: Watersheds 2004. Sponsored by the Water Environment Federation in Dearborn, Michigan. For more information, e-mail watershed04@wef.org or call 703-684-2400, x 7010.

July 11-14: 44th Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Plant Management Society, Tampa, Florida.
<http://www.apms.org>

September 27- October 1: World Dredging Congress (WODCON) XVII in Hamburg, Germany, sponsored by the World Organisation of Dredging Organizations. Meeting theme: Dredging in a Sensitive Environment. For more information go to: <http://www.woda.org/WODCONXVII/index.html>.

September 12-15: Second National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration. Washington State Convention & Trade Center, Seattle, Washington. Sponsored by Restore America's Estuaries.
<http://ca.mycontent.org/General/RAEConference/>

September 19-24: 29th International Conference on Coastal Engineering. Lisbon, Portugal. Organized by the Portuguese National Civic Engineering Laboratory under the auspices of the Coastal Engineering Research Council of the American Society of Civil Engineers. <http://www.icce2004.org/>

October 18-21: 21st Annual Conference on Soils, Sediments and Water at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst on the theme "Expediting and Economizing Cleanups." For more information, contact Denise Leonard at 413/545-1239 or by e-mail at: info@UMassSoils.com. The conference web site, with links to past conference information, is: <http://www.umasssoils.com>.

October 26-28: Conference on Uncertainty and Risk Management at Sediment Sites. St. Louis, Missouri. Sponsored by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. EPA, the Hazardous Substances Research Center/South & Southwest, U.S. Navy, NOAA, and the Sediment Management Work Group. Register at <http://www.smwg.org>. More information is available from Dr. Todd Bridges at 601-634-3626 (e-mail: Todd.S.Bridges@erdc.usace.army.mil).

November 3-5, 2004: 24th International Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society, Victoria, British Columbia. <http://www.nalms.org/symposia/symposia.htm>

January 23-26, 2005: First International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology in New Orleans, Louisiana. Abstracts are due May 31. Go to <http://www.AASci.org/conference> for more information or send e-mail inquiries to: conference@AASci.org.

March 13-19, 2005: 9th International Conference on Energy & Environment, Cairo and Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. Contact Dr. Ralph H. Kummler at rkummler@chem1.eng.wayne.edu or 313-577-3775. For more information, go to <http://www.sediments.org/cairo-meeting.pdf>.

July 19-22, 2005: Watershed Management Conference, "Managing Watersheds for Human and Natural Impacts: Engineering, Ecological, and Economic Challenges." Sponsored by the Environmental and Water Resources Institute (EWRI) of the American Society of Civil Engineers. <http://www.asce.org/conferences/watershedmanagement2005/>

Remediation Programs

RECENT NEWS FROM THE HUDSON RIVER PCB CLEANUP PROJECT. Several news items have been released by U.S. EPA in the last month. More information on the following topics or the Hudson River cleanup project in general is available at <http://www.epa.gov/hudson/>:

- General Electric Company (GE) has prepared and EPA has approved the Treatability Studies Work Plan and the Supplemental Engineering Data Collection Work Plan (SEDC Work Plan) for the Hudson River PCBs cleanup site. Both work plans and the overall project design work plan (Remedial Design Work Plan), are available at http://www.epa.gov/hudson/work_plans.htm. The Treatability Studies Work Plan presents the approach for collecting additional data to support the design of the dredging project, as described in the Remedial Design Work Plan (RD Work Plan), and provides the framework for conducting treatability studies. The Supplemental Engineering Data Collection Work Plan (SEDC Work Plan) describes the technical approach for collecting additional engineering data to assist in the design of the dredging project.
- The final peer review report on performance standards for the Hudson River cleanup project has been issued. Its purpose is to determine whether the engineering performance standards are based on sound and credible science and are technically adequate, competently performed, properly documented, and satisfy established quality requirements.
- David H. King has been selected as the director of U.S. EPA's Hudson River Field Office in Ft. Edward, N.Y. He joins EPA from his position as the Executive Director of SUNY's Center for Brownfield Studies.

Reports and Publications

FACT SHEET HIGHLIGHTS RESEARCH ON DESORPTION RESISTANCE OF CONTAMINANTS. The Hazardous Substance Research Centers/South & Southwest (HSRC/SSW) has published a research brief on a currently funded study of the bioavailability of desorption-resistant contaminants in sediments. Bioavailability measures a contaminant's propensity to break free from sediment bonds and become absorbed into aquatic organisms. Existing environmental regulations are based on the assumption that all contaminants are completely available for uptake by aquatic organisms; however, scientists have observed that a fraction of many contaminants resists desorption under normal physico-chemical conditions in microbial assays. The HSRC/SSW study is measuring desorption resistance when sediment particles are ingested and metabolized by deposit-feeding benthic organisms. The project's ultimate aim is to develop a predictive model of biological availability that accounts for the desorption-resistant fraction in contaminants. Such a tool would allow sediments to be managed by their actual physico-chemical characteristics rather than treating all contaminants as if they are completely bioavailable. This research brief is available as a pdf file at <http://www.hsrb-ssw.org/rbriefs.html>. For more information about the HSRC/SSW, visit <http://www.hsrb-ssw.org> or call the HSRC's LSU office at 225/578-6770.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS NEWSLETTER FEATURES EDUCATION CENTER. The most recent edition of the Waterways Experiment Station's Dredging Research newsletter includes a lengthy feature article on the Corps of Engineers' education center, which was established in April 2002. To read about it, go to the following web site: <http://www.wes.army.mil/el/dots/drieb.html>.

Regulatory News

SUPERFUND SEDIMENT RESOURCE CENTER ESTABLISHED. EPA's Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation has established the Superfund Sediment Resource Center (SSRC) to assist EPA staff on technical issues related to the cleanup of contaminated sediment sites. The SSRC is working with existing EPA programs, federal agencies, and other organizations to make available experts within and outside the federal government to provide the following types of assistance: 1) review of documents and deliverables such as work plans; 2) general input on the results of engineering studies, modeling, statistical/sampling designs, and bioaccumulation studies; and 3) technology transfer activities such as preparation of fact sheets and workshop facilitation. At this time, site-specific requests will only be accepted from federal project managers working on Superfund sites. As time and resources permit, the SSRC will also project support to other federal cleanup programs. State project managers should work with their federal counterparts to determine if assistance is available through the center. Requests to the center should be sent to: sedimentsolutions@ttemi.com or 703/390-0698. More information is available at: <http://www.sediments.org/ssrc.pdf>.