

Ground Engineering Contaminated Land News April 2001

Part IIA has been in place in England for a year and Local Authorities have less than 3 months to meet their deadline of 1 July for preparing their inspection strategy. Many are known to have completed draft strategies and are currently consulting on these drafts. Some have placed copies on their web sites. By and large the strategies recognise that their task is a long term one that will be limited both by the resources and information available to them. Prioritisation of sites for inspection is the largest remaining hurdle for many local authorities. A number of generic and authority specific approaches are being developed by Local Authorities and consultants.

A major step forward in the implementation of the Land Condition Record (LCR) appears to have been taken with the appointment of the Institute of Environmental Management and Auditing (IEMA) to administer the Specialist in Land Contamination (SILC) system. SILCs will be allowed to sign off LCRs and are required to have at least 10 years' experience. Most of the major professional bodies whose members are involved in contaminated land management supported the IEMA administration option.

CIRIA have published a training pack on 'Remedial treatment for contaminated land' (C540). The pack was prepared by Aspinwall's and includes tutor and delegate information, posters of remediation technology classification and an excellent short video of various remediation technologies being applied to UK sites.

The Scottish Executive has a consultation draft on Pollution Prevention Control (PPC) guidance prepared by SEPA for Site Reports at www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/environment. The Environment Agency have updated their guidance on Pollution Prevention and Control. They have also placed their updated guidance on Waste Management Licencing of remediation activities on their web site.

Bioremediation is at the forefront of many at the moment. CIRIA have published several reports documenting remediation trials, including the use of biopiles at the Grasmoor Lagoons in Derbyshire. A CIRIA project on the use of biological methods is halfway through its lifetime and a workshop held at the University of Nottingham at the end of March described details of 10 case studies that will illustrate the applicability of bioremediation and biological methods of risk characterisation. The Soil and Groundwater Treatment Association (www.sagta.org.uk) devoted its March workshop to bioremediation and heard presentations on several ex situ and in situ techniques being used in the UK.

The Remediation Technology Development Forum (RTDF) Bioremediation Consortium met for the first time outside the USA in February. The meeting was hosted by ICI, one of two UK members of the Consortium, at Runcorn. Delegates heard presentations on a series of bioremediation projects – mainly in the USA.

Permeable reactive barriers (PRB) involve the construction of impermeable barriers with 'gates' in them which allow contaminated water to flow through. The water is decontaminated and emerges on the other side of the barrier with a sufficiently high quality. The Permeable Reactive Barriers Network is holding a workshop on 26-27th of April, 2001 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The workshop has gathered the world's great and good on PRBs and will include a visit to a site where a PRB is being installed. Further details at <http://www.prb-net.org>

The EC Concerted Action Contaminated Land Rehabilitation Network (CLARINET) Conference “Towards Sustainable Management of Contaminated Land in Europe” will be held in Vienna in June and will present the conclusions and recommendations from CLARINET. The conference aims to stimulate integrated problem solving approaches to ensure the safe (re-)use of European water and soil resources. Keynote speakers from the European Commission, EU Accession Countries and other major international networks will present their views and concerns on the future of contaminated land management (www.clarinet.at).

All links mentioned above may be reached from www.lqm.co.uk