



# Outreach News

of the Midwest Hazardous Substance Research Center

## January 2005

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The Midwest Hazardous Substance Research Center (MHSRC) outreach programs consist of Technical Outreach Services to Communities (TOSC), Technical Outreach Services to Brownfields Communities (TAB), and Technical Outreach Services to Native American Communities (TOSNAC). These programs provide free, independent assistance to communities and tribes affected by hazardous waste sites or brownfield redevelopment issues. TOSC and TAB serve communities in EPA regions V and VII, and TOSNAC serves tribes nationwide. The MHSRC is funded by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. For more information, visit our web site at [www.mhsrc.org](http://www.mhsrc.org).

### TOSC, Region V

#### *Pall/Gelman 1,4-Dioxane Groundwater Contamination, Ann Arbor, MI*

During January, the MSU TOSC Program continued correspondence with MDEQ and Ann Arbor area residents about the Gelman contamination issue. TOSC representatives Dr. Larry Lemke (Wayne State University) and Kirk Riley planned TOSC's attendance at the February 1 meeting of the Michigan DEQ Technical Work Group. TOSC is working with Scio Residents for Safe Water and the City of Ann Arbor to determine areas of outreach that TOSC may still provide. MSU-TOSC has provided on its website video files of the public meetings, held in March and August 2004, on the Pall-Gelman issue. The files are provided in differing sizes for dialup or high-speed Internet connections and can be viewed or downloaded at <http://www.egr.msu.edu/tosc/gelman/gelmanmeetings.shtml> (click on respective meeting date).

#### *Mancelona (Michigan) Wickes TCE Plume*

During January, at the request of Antrim United Through Ecology, MSU TOSC continued to develop informational materials on the current, active phase of investigation of the Wickes plume. TOSC's materials focus on three areas: the status of the investigation of the plume, particularly a new "lobe" of the plume recently discovered; a new round of residential water sampling (for TCE) that is planned by M-DEQ and the Antrim (MI) County Health Department; and innovative and conventional approaches to remediating the contaminated aquifer, including the possible use of nanoscale metallic iron and bioremediation. TOSC also participated in conference calls with Antrim County United Through Ecology (ACUTE) and Michigan DEQ about activities to address the newly discovered TCE-contaminated areas. TOSC staff for the Mancelona project include Dr. Tom Voice, Associate Director of the Midwest HSRC, Kirk Riley, TOSC Program Manager, and Scott McQuiston, TOSC Project Specialist.

#### *Indiana Harbor and Canal Dredging Project, East Chicago, IN*

During January, TOSC faculty and staff (Dr. Jeff Grabill, Dr. Stuart Blythe, Dr. Susan Buchanan and Kirk Riley) discussed held extensive discussions with East Chicago stakeholder groups concerning the change in Executive Director and the Board of the East Chicago Waterway Management District. Planned TOSC activities include presenting the University of Illinois at Chicago's scope of work for public health outreach; attending and presenting at a workgroup meeting of the East Chicago Waterway Management District (planned for March); and attending the February meeting of the ECWMD.

### *Envirosafe Services of Ohio (ESOI) RCRA Corrective Action, Oregon, Ohio*

During January, TOSC personnel Saradhi Balla and Dr. Shuguang Li wrote additional comments on TOSC's report from the Interactive Ground Water (IGW) visualization of the ESOI RCRA Phase 1 Investigation. TOSC provided a final report to the community and other interested parties during January 2005. During February, TOSC will hold conference calls with stakeholder groups, as needed, to discuss the report. Residents have asked for additional TOSC assistance, which is under consideration.

### *Public Issues Forum*

During January, Kirk Riley, TOSC Program Manager, and Dr. Jo Ann Beckwith, Department of Community, Agriculture and Recreation Resources continued developing a "How-To" guide book on the use of public issue forums for environmental decision making. The guidebook will be provided to U.S. EPA as one "product" of the research grant from the agency. The research team focused on the Tittabawassee dioxin issue for the study.

### *Nominated Project: Kennecott Minerals Proposed Mine, Baraga County, MI*

During January, Kirk Riley held discussions with representatives of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and with TOSC Director Karl Burgher, along with Brenda Brandon, National Program Manager for the Technical Outreach To Native American Communities (TOSNAC) Program. The project would address concerns over a proposed sulfide mine in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. TOSNAC has proposed to conduct a needs assessment during February.

### *Additional MSU TOSC activities during January included:*

TOSC Program Manager Kirk Riley has been asked to present to and facilitate the orientation meeting of new Michigan State faculty who are taking part in MSU's "Meet Michigan." Mr. Riley will facilitate the visit to the St. Louis, MI, Superfund Site, in March 2005.

Kirk Riley received a request for answers to questions about a former TOSC Project, in Philadelphia, Penn. Mr. Riley referred the request to the University of Maryland office of the Center for Hazardous Substances in Urban Environments.

## **TAB, Region V**

### *Brownfield Program Outreach, Evansville, Indiana*

TAB was invited to speak at the Evansville Chamber of Commerce Environmental Committee on February 19, 2005. The committee is interested in additional information on Brownfield clean-up funding associated with coal-scarred lands and has arranged another meeting with TAB and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources on February 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the EPA Brownfield Program and Southwest Indiana issues.

### *Brownfield Program Outreach, Muncie, In*

Muncie has requested that TAB provide an "All Appropriate Inquiry" checklist or a similar guidance approach for ensuring that their consultant's reports comply with the interim rule.

### **TOSC, Region VII**

#### *Former Amoco Refinery — Sugar Creek, MO*

A refinery in the eastern Kansas City metropolitan area was closed and dismantled in the late 1980s, with portions of the 300-acre site still in use as a pipeline storage/distribution facility and wood treatment chemical distributor. Cleanup of the site is being done under RCRA, with the state of Missouri providing oversight. TOSC has been providing assistance to this community since 1998 by attending stakeholder meetings, reviewing documents and providing educational materials and presentations. Additional assistance in reviewing documents is given to a local community group called, CLEANUP. At present, members of TOSC are waiting to hear from Janet Elliot, president of CLEANUP, regarding assistance for CLEANUP. The public comment period for three areas associated with the former refinery is anticipated early in 2005.

#### *Chemical Commodities, Inc. Superfund Site — Olathe, KS*

This site consists of an approximate 1.5 acre parcel of land owned by Chemical Commodities, Inc. (CCI). TCE and other groundwater contaminants have migrated underneath neighborhoods located west and north of the site. Homes found with high levels of TCE in indoor air are having ventilation systems installed to keep contaminants from building up in the indoor air. TOSC has met with the CAG numerous times and provided assistance in reviewing documents, made presentations at meetings, and assisted the community in understanding the issues associated with this site. Most recently, TOSC is developing a community survey designed to help determine what the local community thinks about future use of the site. The CAG held a public meeting on January 10, 2005. TOSC presented the draft survey questions and took suggestions for its improvement. Attendees filled out the survey, as a trial run. The CAG intends to distribute the survey once it is complete and a distribution plan is in place. Further activities to develop community consensus on the future use of the site are anticipated.

#### *Planning future TOSC activities*

TOSC staff anticipate having resources available to assist another Superfund site in EPA Region 7 or to engage in other activities that will promote education and provide assistance to communities with hazardous waste issues. Input from EPA 7 staff and others is being sought.

### **TAB, Region VII**

#### *Stella, MO*

MDNR recently conducted a limited Phase I assessment to ascertain what potentially hazardous materials are present at the site of an old hospital building, and in what quantities. Results of this assessment indicate the presence of asbestos and lead based paints. It is still not clear from the data collected thus far what quantities of asbestos (friable and non-friable) is present within the building, therefore no estimate of the dollar amount necessary for cleanup is available. A group of citizens is interested in purchasing the building with the intent of having it torn down and possibly replacing it with a park. Negotiations with the current property owner are on-going. TAB spoke with Christine O'Keefe, MDNR, on January 20<sup>th</sup> and it appears MDNR is still in the process of evaluating next steps for this site.

### *Springfield, MO*

Since 2001, The City of Springfield has received U.S. EPA brownfields grants for projects within the city's designated brownfields area in Jordan Valley Park. The concentration of industrial activity in this area has caused both real and perceived environmental problems. TAB has provided information and assistance to the brownfields program manager and is maintaining contact with him. Further assistance will be provided on an 'as needed' basis.

### *Newburg, MO*

In December, the community redevelopment corporation acquired a purchase agreement and access rights to the railroad property. Missouri Department of Natural Resources will be conducting Phase I and II assessments once the access agreement for the property has been signed and TAB will review the resulting reports. Karl Burgher with the Rocky Mountain HSRC is actively working with the railroad to get the access agreement signed.

### *Oak Grove Neighborhood Association/John Garland Park – Kansas City, KS*

John Garland Park is a former landfill. Citizens are concerned about the condition of the landfill due to potential leakage, seepage, and methane gas migration. They have questions about potential health risks to residents living near the landfill and wonder if it is safe to allow the site to be put to productive use. Many people have expressed the desire to see the John Garland Park made into an attraction for the community, and there has been community effort to make this happen. Since 2001, both TOSC and TAB resources have been used to provide environmental education and facilitate communication with KDHE, EPA, and city representatives. Currently, TAB is maintaining contact with the community group. Further assistance will be provided if requested.

### *Atchison, KS*

The city of Atchison received a brownfields assessment grant in 2003. In May 2004, the brownfields program manager requested TAB assistance. TAB assistance has been provided by sending examples of requests for proposals (RFP) for consulting services; attending meetings with the city, KDHE, and EPA; reviewing and commenting on the RFP prepared by city staff; and reviewing proposals. Further assistance with community outreach or document reviews will be provided, as needed.

### *Heartland Foundation – St. Joseph, MO*

Heartland Foundation received a brownfields assessment grant in 2004 and requested TAB assistance with the project. TAB assistance has been provided by sending examples of requests for proposals (RFP) for consulting services, attending meetings, and preparing a draft RFP for Heartland staff to edit for their purpose. TAB staff are in close communication with the Director of Heartland Foundation and plan to continue helping by reviewing proposals, and assisting with future community outreach or document reviews, as needed.

### *Rural Brownfields Workshops*

Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is planning four rural Brownfield workshops in July. Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) is planning six workshops in May. TAB will provide evaluation of the workshops, which is of value to both, presenters and communities. It determines how useful the workshop materials were to the audience and includes follow-up with the communities afterwards to assess the impact of the workshops in helping start brownfields projects. TAB will also assist with the introduction of Site Management Approaches and Redevelopment Tools (SMARTe). SMARTe is being developed by the EPA as a decision support tool intended to be used by brownfield revitalization stakeholders. The tool is out for beta testing and the goal of including it in the workshop agenda is to obtain feedback from potential users as to the ease of use and general contents.

### **TOSNAC, National**

#### *Spokane Tribe, WA*

The TOSNAC Coordinator is working with Spokane Tribal community to assure that community outreach needs related to release of RI/FS are kept within scope of HSRC parameters. Brenda Brandon is also in communication with EPA Region 10 Site Manager and Community Involvement Coordinator about progress of documentation for Midnite Mine Superfund Site.

#### *Susanville Tribe, CA*

The TOSNAC Coordinator is working with Tribal EPA Director to address needs related to review of Susanville Indian Rancheria Trust Lands, Sierra Army Depot, Herlong, California SAAP, designed to assess potential impact of perchlorate and metals contaminants in groundwater.

#### *Elem Tribe, Sulphur Bank Mercury Mine Superfund Site, CA*

TOSNAC is communicating with Elem Tribal Council and Administration about renewing plans to provide community outreach efforts related to Sulphur Bank Mercury Mine Superfund process. TOSNAC Coordinator will hold follow-up calls with Elem Tribal Council and EPA Region 10 to help coordinate outreach efforts related to cleanup.

#### *Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Wisconsin- Heavy Metals*

Keweenaw Bay Indian Community contacted Brenda Brandon in request of TOSNAC assistance related to potential metal sulfides mining concerns impacting tribal water and land in Wisconsin. TOSNAC Coordinator is working to plan a site visit and conduct a TOSNAC needs assessment.

#### ***Who to contact for more information...***

*Region V, TOSC: Kirk Riley, Michigan State University, (517) 355-7493*

*Region V, TAB: Beth Grigsby, Purdue University, (765) 494-9938*

*Region VII, TOSC: Blase Leven, Kansas State University, (785) 532-0780*

*Region VII, TAB: Terrie Boguski, (913) 780-3328*

*TOSNAC: Brenda Brandon, (785) 749-8498*

*Other center related questions: Jordan Radin, Purdue University, (765) 496-2436*