

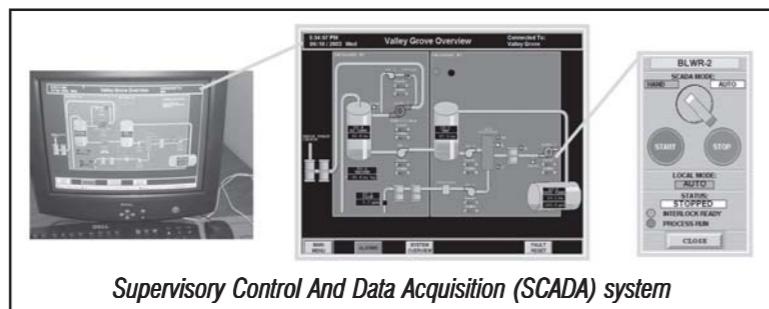
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REMOTE SYSTEM MAKES MONITORING AND OPERATING REMEDIATION SYSTEMS OF UST SITES EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE

K&H Energy Services and Hull/Delta have developed new tools to remotely monitor and operate remediation systems at underground storage tank (UST) sites. The team has developed a Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, which allows site managers to connect and view the current operational status, as well as control the site remediation system components, conveniently from the office. The SCADA system began monitoring its first site in October 2003. Ten more sites are scheduled to be on-line by the third quarter of 2004.



Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) system

SCADA works by modem to poll each remediation system to determine operational status, identify active alarms, and to collect process data. This information is then announced locally, emailed to the manager for that site, and archived for historical record. Until now, developing such a technologically advanced system was cost prohibitive.

Most remediation systems already have an industrial controller to control the pumps and monitor the status of the system. SCADA just requires the installation of a modem at the remediation site and adding the specific SCADA screens for that site on the host computer. The addition of SCADA allows the remediation effort to be better managed and maintained, reducing the system operation time and the overall lifecycle costs.

K&H Energy is a Hull affiliate company providing electrical engineering, energy management, and control system design services. Hull/Delta joined forces in 2002 to better serve a client portfolio of over 700 sites in Ohio, West Virginia, and Indiana. For more information, please contact Andy Holtom at 614-793-8777 or aholtom@hullinc.com.

SCADA Benefits

- System uptime is significantly increased, which increases operating efficiency and reduces the life cycle of the site allowing early closure.
- Troubleshooting and maintenance time is reduced; problems are diagnosed in the office eliminating repeat site visits and allowing proper replacement parts to be delivered efficiently.
- The system can be remotely re-started in the event of power outages or alarms.
- Data can be used in reporting the amount of water or air treated.
- Filter maintenance can be monitored allowing planned maintenance activities.
- Reduced environmental risks of releases or spills of untreated air or water.

NEW INDIANA CLEANUP STANDARDS

While change can be hard, change can also yield much needed improvements. Indiana's recently updated cleanup concentrations for soil and groundwater bring a more stringent standard, but also bring more consistency in-line with U.S. EPA and other state environmental programs.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) updated its Risk Integrated System of Closure (RISC) "Default Closure Tables" in July 2003 and completed a more comprehensive update in January 2004. The most recent update provides closure levels for 13 additional chemicals, and also revised one or more of the existing closure levels for 66 chemicals. Most of these changes are the result of newly available information about the toxicity or physical and chemical factors that describe each chemical's behavior in the body and in the environment.

RISC was first established in July 1994, and has since been revised and expanded in scope. Its framework is a series of policy documents for site assessment and remediation across several programs, including closure under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and Indiana's Voluntary Remediation Program. The updated Default Closure Tables represent the most recent evolution of the RISC process, and the closure levels contained therein represent soil and groundwater concentrations that

are, in the absence of a site-specific risk assessment, the remedial objectives at a contaminated site. In general, these are rather strict cleanup concentrations. Under actual site conditions, the concentrations in soil and groundwater that do not pose unacceptable risks or hazards to people are likely to be much higher.

The Default Closure Levels are useful as screening concentrations for preliminary evaluations of many sites, particularly at sites with negligible amounts of contamination, or for chemicals that are not the main focus of the site investigation. However useful, IDEM still restricts their use at sites that have one or more distinct, although not unusual, site circumstances. For instance: sites with source areas larger than one-half acre, sites where bedrock lies 10 feet or less below the contaminated source area, sites with vapor intrusion pathways, sites that contain a potentially impacted ecologically significant area, and sites with "geologically susceptible" formations such as karst terrains, mined areas and fractured rock. Therefore, the use of the "nondefault approach to closure" under the RISC framework will still be an important, if not necessary, component of environmental assessments at many contaminated sites in Indiana.

For more information regarding Indiana's RISC, please contact Ed Pfau, at 614-793-8777 or epfau@hullinc.com.

VAP TAX ABATEMENT DECISION SUPPORTS BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT

The Ohio Supreme Court recently upheld a decision that further supports the appeal of brownfield development. The Court ruled that the Voluntary Action Program (VAP) 10-year tax abatement covers both improvements to the property *and* the increased value as a result of the cleanup. The decision was announced in Columbus City School District Board of Education v. Wilkins, et al. sustaining the entire tax exemption for the Adam's Mark hotel in Columbus, Ohio.

The abatement has been in dispute, with the Board of Education claiming that the tax abatement should only apply to the portion related to environmental improvements, and the Adam's Mark should pay taxes on the remainder of the improvements. However, this ruling could discourage remediation of sites with environmental problems, likely driving

developers to only lead new developments. The effect could leave dilapidated properties in communities that would otherwise have potential to be put to good use.

The Adam's Mark was purchased and underwent millions of dollars in renovations in 1996. The asbestos removal, though not itemized in records, was always assumed to be minimal. In late 1996, The Adam's Mark was issued the covenant not to sue under the VAP, and the Tax Commissioner issued a journal entry on December 30, 1996 exempting the hotel from real property tax for a 10-year period and any increases in value after January 1, 1996.

In early 2004, the state ruled for The Adam's Mark's abatement for both the improvements and the increased value due to the improvements.

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EMERGING GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION TECHNOLOGIES OFFER COST-EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVE FOR LANDFILL LEACHATE

For older low-impact, low-risk industrial and municipal landfills, passive remediation technologies could provide a viable and protective solution. The result — an enormous cost-savings for the owners and operators of these sites, many of which no longer generate the necessary revenue to pay for closure.

Landfills or dumps that were not originally designed and operated to meet today's environmental standards are often remediated by using active and somewhat intrusive approaches, such as pump and treat or soil removal. These activities are expensive, disruptive, and are often unnecessary, particularly at sites where only low levels of contamination exist. Passive remediation technologies can stand alone or can augment ongoing source control measures.

Two Passive Remediation Techniques Under Review

Contaminant Reducing Compounds — Currently under review in Ohio is the use of oxygen releasing and metal remediation compounds at an old landfill facility. Some areas around the landfill were found to have very low, trace levels of metals and a few volatile organic compounds. A pilot study showed that as much as 75 percent of the contaminants were reduced over a nine month period. The results are promising given the amount of reduction during a relatively short period of time. The cost of using passive remediation is significantly less than using active remediation approaches and is still protective of human health and the environment.

Phytoremediation and Natural Attenuation — Another effective alternative to reducing contaminants is through the combined use of phytoremediation and natural attenuation. Plants and trees can be used to clean up contaminated soil, referred to as phytoremediation, and is generally thought of as a natural passive cleanup technique that can be used along with, or in place of more invasive cleanup techniques. Natural attenuation focuses on monitoring natural subsurface processes such as dilution, volatilization, biodegradation, adsorption, and chemical reactions with subsur-



face materials to degrade contaminants. Hull is currently assisting the University of Toledo in the first year of a seven-year study to determine the effectiveness of this technology at an old Ohio landfill. The study will determine how this method can best be used to augment the current active leachate collection/treatment system. With the initial phase of site characterization complete, the university is now analyzing site-specific hydrogeologic and biologic conditions. This will help identify vegetation suitable to degrade and attenuate contaminants. The university and Hull plan to initiate pilot studies this spring, and will design a full-blown remediation strategy to use this passive technology.

These emerging techniques have been primarily used on a small-scale. Proving the effectiveness on specific sites may require an upfront commitment of time and resources to demonstrate their effectiveness over traditionally accepted technologies. Further field applications will hopefully make their use a common practice.

To discuss the benefits and appropriateness of passive remediation techniques, please contact Bill Petruzzi at 419-385-2018 or bpetruzzi@hullinc.com.

FULL STREAM BIOMONITORING SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE



Kristin Yanko, invertebrate taxonomist, recovering macroinvertebrate samplers from the Rocky River in Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Hull's biologists are now fully certified with Ohio EPA to perform stream biomonitoring and aquatic life use attainment studies. While Hull has offered certified fish community studies for several years, we have added benthic macroinvertebrate community studies to our growing suite of ecological, biological and wetland service offerings. With this key service, Hull is supporting project work in ecological risk assessment and NPDES permit revisions.

For more information about how Hull's stream biologists can help your project, please contact Hugh Crowell, Practice Leader, Wetland and Ecological Services at 614-793-8777 or hughcrowell@hullinc.com.

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HULL'S ASSOCIATES PROGRAM CONTINUES GROWTH

Hull named Adam Altman, Mike Coonfare, Leonard Powell, and Scott Smith new Associates in December 2003. These professionals join the existing pool of individuals recognized for their contribution to the firm.

Hull's Associates Program has been in place to recognize outstanding employees for several years. As the company has grown, requirements for becoming an Associate have become more formal. "We recognize certain educational, professional and community service metrics and experience as necessary to qualify for our Associates program," notes John Hull, President.

The assistance and participation of this core group of especially dedicated employees has become an important component of our company structure. The Associates at Hull excel in leadership, management, technical skills, and professional aptitude. They are a key internal team that helps communicate and promote the company's vision and objectives, inspire employees to contribute toward company performance, and mentor and assist employees with their professional development, achievement and performance.

Hull's Vice President and CEO, Craig Kasper, adds "Adam, Mike, Leonard, and Scott have consistently provided quality services to our clients and have demonstrated leadership and commitment to the Hull team; we welcome them and look forward to their continued professional and personal growth at Hull."



Mr. Adam Altman, Project Manager

Focus: ASTM and Ohio VAP environmental assessments, asbestos surveys and O&M plans, asbestos abatement specifications
Registrations: Registered Environmental Manager, Ohio Department of Health-certified Asbestos Hazard Evaluation Specialist and Abatement Specialist

Affiliations: National Registry of Environmental Professionals, Building Environment Council of Ohio



Mr. Michael Coonfare, Project Manager

Focus: Environmental assessments, data evaluation, asbestos inspections, lead-based paint surveys

Registrations: Registered Environmental Manager, Certified Asbestos Specialist, Ohio Department of Health as a Lead Inspector and a Lead Risk Assessor

Affiliations: National Registry of Environmental Professions, Building Environment Council of Ohio



Mr. Leonard Powell, Project Manager

Focus: Assessment and remediation of underground storage tanks, computer modeling, CERCLA site evaluation, and foundation and hydrogeological analysis for dam siting

Registrations: Certified Professional Geologist

Affiliations: American Institute of Professional Geologists, The National Ground Water Association.



Mr. Scott Smith, Regulatory Compliance Practice Leader

Focus: environmental compliance audits, assessments, and permit and plan preparation.

Registrations: Registered Professional Engineer, BEAC Certified Professional Environmental Auditor

Affiliations: Air, Water and Waste Management Association, Northern Ohio Chapter

FEDERAL FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR MANURE MANAGEMENT & OTHER CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Get ready for the release of a new round of funding for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The EQIP cost-sharing grants are available to fund many structural and land management conservation practices on farms, including manure management systems, comprehensive nutrient management plans (CNMPs), grassed waterways, windbreaks, and critical area planting.

EQIP funding is available in all states, and the final passage of the federal 2004 budget will dictate the timeline. Each county will set its own deadline, typically with a 4-6 week signup period. Most counties hope to begin official signups late winter/early spring. NRCS expects to have established contracts with landowners and producers this summer.

State and local priority resource concerns determine which projects will receive higher project ranking. While the amount varies for different projects, landowners and producers are eligible for grants providing up to 75% cost share, with limited resource farmers and beginning farmers provided an additional 15% cost share. Each state and county have different priorities that will soon be available on the NRCS website. Priorities and project details are posted on-line to provide additional program information.

NRCS encourages producers to contact their county agents soon to let them know of their interest. For help in preparing an application, please contact Bill Petruzzi at 419-385-2018. For program information visit the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) website at www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/