

Selected Newly Added Documents for August 2007 on EUGRIS: platform for European contaminated soil and water information:

44 resources, projects and news items were added to EUGRIS 1 –24 August 2007. These can be viewed at:

<http://www.eugris.info/whatsnew.asp?StartYear=2007&Date=Aug>

European resources added include this selection:

Andreas Kortenkamp

Low-Level Exposure to Multiple Chemicals - Reason for Human Health Concerns? The widely held view that mixtures of dissimilarly acting chemicals are “safe” at levels below NOAELs is not supported by empirical evidence. This paper argues that this view is also based on the erroneous assumption that NOAELs can be equated with zero effect levels. Thus, on the basis of published evidence, it is difficult to rule out the possibility of mixture effects from low dose multiple exposures.

European Commission

INSPIRE Home Page - Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community

Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2007 establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE) was published in the official Journal on the 25th April 2007. The INSPIRE Directive entered into force on the 15th May 2007. INSPIRE is ambitious. The initiative intends to trigger the creation of a European spatial information infrastructure that delivers to the users integrated spatial information services. These services should allow the users to identify and access spatial or geographical information from a wide range of sources, from the local level to the global level, in an inter-operable way for a variety of uses. The target users of INSPIRE include policy-makers, planners and managers at European, national and local level and the citizens and their organisations. Possible services are the visualisation of information layers, overlay of information from different sources, spatial and temporal analysis, etc.

Noble, P., Croft, R., French, C., Forster, S.

Ex Situ Soil Vapour Extraction to Remediate Chlorinated Hydrocarbons: CL:AIRE Technology Demonstration Project 16 (TDP16)

This report describes an assessment of the performance of ex situ Soil Vapour Extraction (SVE) in above ground treatment beds. It describes the health and safety risks of excavation and treatment of chlorinated hydrocarbon (mainly carbon tetrachloride and chloroform) contaminated soils and provides a discussion on air monitoring. The project assesses the feasibility and uncertainties of a mass balance on volatilisation losses during excavation and treatment, and demonstrates the difficulties associated with carrying out such an exercise. The project was completed in 6 months and achieved its contracted targets.

REMEDE: Resource Equivalency Methods for Assessing Environmental Damage in the EU

The goal of the REMEDE project is to develop, test and disseminate methods for determining the scale of the remedial measures necessary to adequately offset environmental damage. The project draws from both US experience, in terms of methodological developments and implementation issues encountered, and experience of the EU Member States. It aims to apply and develop these in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Liability Directive and the Environmental

Impact Assessment, Habitats and Wild Birds Directives, in order that a standard Toolkit can be applied to all damage cases in the EU. The project brings together ecologists, economists and legal experts from the USA and Europe to review experience in the application of resource equivalency methods, draft a Toolkit document for the EU, test the Toolkit through application to case studies in different Member States, and disseminate the Toolkit to relevant stakeholders.

Model human digestive system for the determination of bioaccessibility of environmental pollutants

This project will use a robust laboratory based model of the gastrointestinal tract to determine the bioaccessibility (ability of a pollutant to be absorbed within the gut and interact with human cells) of environmental pollutants in the human gut. This will provide a major advance in accuracy of the risk assessment process undertaken by regulatory authorities to determine the toxicology of pollutants and their effects when ingested by humans. When accurate determinations of this parameter can be made, the soil guideline values (SGVs) provided by the Environment Agency in the regulatory guidance and for the assessment of contaminated land, will be significantly enhanced. Currently, no such repeatable determination protocol exists and guidance values are based upon intake, i.e. the amount of substance to which an individual is exposed rather than uptake, the amount of contaminant which enters the body and is taken up by the bloodstream. This proposal brings together two established gut models. The BGS model which mirrors behaviour in the stomach and small intestine and the University of Reading model which simulates the colon. The acidic conditions of the upper gut are believed to be the primary site of release of metals from the soil matrix, whereas the profuse microbial action of the colon may have more of an effect on organic pollutants. Both pollutant classes will be tested in the proposal. Unification of the two models will bring about the ability to mirror the whole human digestive tract. The proposal is supported by the Health Protection Agency who provide toxicological support to the Environment Agency when deriving SGVs. The HPA will support and advise on toxicological analyses conducted throughout this project.