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Contaminated Soils, Sediments and Water
How were you spending your time in the 1980’s? It was a long time ago, and Ronald Reagan was President, “ET: The Extraterrestrial” was released, the hole in the ozone layer was discovered, AIDS was identified and named, personal computers were introduced by IBM, the first Space Shuttle was launched, and the Challenger disaster grabbed us all. In mid-decade, the Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments, Water, and Energy also began its impressive run. Now an annual event at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, this conference represents one of the most significant and influential environmental conferences in the world. From its modest beginnings in the mid-1980’s as a meeting primarily to explore issues related to petroleum contaminated soils, this conference both expanded and matured as it has moved into its third decade. The most recent meeting of the International Conference on Soils, Sediments, Water and Energy in October of 2008 marked the 24th anniversary of the event that annually draws well over 800 participants. Over the quarter century that the Amherst conference has been conducted, approximately 15,000 participants have represented about 40 countries, and the United States has had participants from almost all of its 50 states.

Consider the breadth of coverage for papers in this year’s Proceedings, which cover subjects such as manufactured gas plants, ongoing questions of lead and arsenic assessment/remediation, enhanced solvent degradation, contaminated sediments, agricultural applications, and evaluation of indoor air related to subsurface contamination. The broad spectrum of technical specialties and the accumulated experience that comes to Amherst each year contributes a blend of unique and practical views of science, policy and available solutions, the combination of which always yields informative and spirited discussion. It has been my experience that many of the participants attend the conference regularly, and these individuals provide a sense of continuity and progressive views as their careers and experiences evolve. A principal benefit and attraction of a meeting like this is the opportunity to present, probe, discuss, and expand the subjects on which we have chosen to spend our careers working. Whether in the oral platform presentations, or more informal poster sessions, or even in discussions during breaks or over dinner, there are always new ideas and approaches to problems, as well as possible new avenues of research and study that we can consider and elect to pursue after the conference has ended. Each year, we see that opportunities often present themselves when they are least expected.
These Proceedings from the 2008 conference, representing Volume 14 of the long-running series, contain 28 technical papers that showcase the work that also is represented by over 235 platform and poster presentations. This volume is organized into the following sections: Analysis; Energy; Environmental Fate; Groundwater NRDA in the Modern Age; Heavy Metals; Radionuclides; Regulatory Issues; Remediation; Risk Assessment; Sediments; Site Assessment; and Vapor Intrusion. The scientists, regulatory personnel, military representatives, consultants, laboratory technicians, academicians, and representatives from the utility, transportation, and petrochemical industries who have prepared the manuscripts in this volume represent a broad array of interests and technical disciplines that are essential to responsible and effective environmental evaluation and management. It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to introduce this 14th volume in a prestigious series. The editors, sponsors, and conference staff have once again outdone themselves in shepherding this important scientific event to completion.

Christopher M. Teaf

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About the Editors

Paul T. Kostecki, Vice Provost for Research Affairs, University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Associate Director, Northeast Regional Environmental Public Health Center, School of Public Health, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, received his Ph.D. from the School of Natural Resources at the University of Michigan in 1980. He has been involved with human and ecological risk assessment and risk management research for the last 13 years. Dr. Kostecki has co-authored and co-edited over 50 articles and 16 books on environmental assessment and cleanup including: Remedial Technologies for Leaking Underground Storage Tanks; Soils Contaminated by Petroleum Products; Petroleum Contaminated Soils, Vols. 1, 2, and 3; Hydrocarbon Contaminated Soils and Groundwater, Vols. 1, 2, 3 and 4; Hydrocarbon Contaminated Soils, Vols. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5; Principles of Animal Extrapolation; Nutrition and Environmental Health, Vols. 1 and 2; Ecogenetic: Safe Drinking Water Act: Amendments, Regulations, and Standards; Soils Contaminated by Petroleum: Environmental and Public Health Effects; Petroleum Contaminated Soils, Vols. 1, 2 and 3; Ozone Risk Communication and Management; Hydrocarbon Contaminated Soils, Vols. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5; Hydrocarbon Contaminated Soils and Groundwater, Vols. 1, 2, 3, and 4; Multiple Chemical Interactions; Air Toxics and Risk Assessment; Alcohol Interactions with Drugs and Chemicals; Regulating Drinking Water Quality; Biological Effects of Low Level Exposures to Chemicals and Radiation; Contaminated Soils; Diesel Fuel Contamination; Risk Assessment and Environmental Fate Methodologies; Principles and Practices for Petroleum Contaminated Soils; Principles and Practices for Diesel Contaminated Soils, Vols. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5; SESOIL in Environmental Fate and Risk modeling; Contaminated Soils, Vol. 1; and Risk Assessment and Environmental Fate Methodologies. Dr. Kostecki also serves as Associate Editor for the Journal of Soil Contamination, Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board for Soil and Groundwater Cleanup Magazine, as well as an editorial board member for the journal Human and Ecological Risk Assessment.

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Dr. Dragun is a full Professor at the University of Massachusetts and at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. He has authored two college textbooks and co-authored/edited eight technical books. Also, Dr. Dragun has been the Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Soil and Sediment Contamination for over 15 years.