CONTAMINATED SOILS
VOLUME 11

Environmental Fate
Heavy Metals
MTBE
Radionuclides
Remediation
Sediments
Site Assessment

Edited by
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Forward

The Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments and Water, held each year at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, is one of the longest running conferences of its type in the world. From its beginnings as a focused meeting on petroleum contaminated soils during the mid-1980’s, this conference has grown and broadened remarkably. The most recent iteration, conducted in October, 2005, marked the 21st annual meeting of this well-attended event that annually has drawn 800 to 9,000 participants. At least 40 states and 30 foreign countries have been represented during its history spanning more than two decades. To put this impressive longevity into perspective, recall that Back To The Future was at the movies in 1985, and it is sobering to recall that the first of these sessions followed close on the heels of the Bhopal tragedy in 1984.

One of the principal benefits and ongoing attractions attendant to a meeting such as this one is the opportunity to present, critique, debate and extend the work that we in the environmental field find so overwhelmingly important. Whether in the formal confines of the oral platform presentations, or the more informal dialogue held during the poster sessions, or even in those discussions conducted at dinner, we are reminded that there is always more to learn about how our colleagues and others view what we may take for granted every day. At these meetings, for example, engineers have the opportunity to speak freely to other engineers, to biologists, to geologists, to chemists, to agency representatives, and others in ways that frequently identify opportunities in the most unlikely of places.
Consider the breadth of coverage for the papers in this year’s volume, which range from assessment and remediation of arsenic, dioxins and perchlorate, to the evaluation and correction of indoor radionuclide risks, to the application of several beneficial reuse projects involving valuable industrial byproducts. The broad spectrum of technical specialties and the impressive experience that comes to Amherst with the participants ensures every year a unique and practical blend of science, policy and philosophical views which cannot help but continue to open our eyes to new areas. It is a telling observation that very few participants come to this conference for a single year. Rather, it is much more common to learn of those who have attended repeatedly for many years, often in different professional positions, and with different views as their careers have progressed.

These Proceedings from the 2005 international conference, representing Volume 11 of this series, contain 24 technical papers that showcase the work of 80 different authors. This volume is organized into the following sections: Part I - Environmental Fate; Part II - Heavy Metals; Part III - MTBE; Part IV - Radionuclides; Part V - Remediation; Part VI - Sediments; and, Part VII - Site Assessment. The scientists, regulatory agency personnel, consultants, academicians and others who have prepared the manuscripts in this volume represent a very broad array of interests and technical disciplines that all are essential to responsible and effective environmental evaluation and decision-making. It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to introduce this newest contribution to a long-standing series. The editors, sponsors, and conference staff should be commended for their enthusiastic support and for the consistent quality of this important scientific event.

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