

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

JULY 2004

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NORTH CAROLINA ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE

In an effort to promote environmental responsibility, the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources has established an environmental stewardship initiative. The initiative has been in place approximately two years, and recognizes organizations that go beyond regulatory requirements or exceed environmental standards.

The 2004 Environmental Steward will be named later in the year. The 2002 and 2003 Environmental Stewards are Novozymes North America, Inc. and ASMO North Carolina Inc., respectively.

There are three levels of participation in the program: Environmental Partner, Rising Steward, and Environmental Steward. The Environmental Partner level is the beginning level for organizations that are interested in developing a systematic approach to improving their environmental performance.

The next level of participation is the Rising Steward. This level includes organizations that have already developed environmental management pro-

grams. Aggressive environmental performance goals are required for this level of participation.

The Environmental Steward level is for those organizations that have already displayed a commitment to exemplary environmental performance beyond what is required by law. Aggressive performance goals are required and include pollution prevention, a strong commitment to exceed compliance requirements, and annual improvements in performance.

Some of the organizations par-

ticipating in these programs include Baker Furniture, Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base, City of Gastonia, North Carolina Natural Gas Corporation, Smithfield Packing Company, Lexington Home Brands, Progress Energy, and Borden Chemical Inc.

If you would like more information regarding the programs or how to develop an environmental compliance program, please contact TerraQuest or visit the following website:

www.p2pays.org

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Be recognized for environmental compliance
- Is your house safe from Radon?
- UST program finally gets needed funding



WASTEWATER OPERATOR TRAINING REQUIRED

The North Carolina Division of Water Quality recently began issuing notices to facilities that have certain wastewater treatment systems. According to the Technical Assistance and Certification Unit, groundwater remediation systems that discharge water to surface water bodies or inject water into the subsurface will be required to have a certified wastewater operator.

Certified wastewater operators are required to complete an NC-certified training course and successfully pass an examination. Operators

must possess a Physical/Chemical Wastewater Operator Grade 1 license.

Once facilities have a designated operator in responsible charge, they will be required to make weekly visits to check system status and record various measurements. One positive aspect of this new requirement is that remediation system performance will likely be enhanced due to the additional onsite time.

Ryan Kerins, Nick Perry, and George Willard of TerraQuest recently completed the training course which was held in

Raleigh, NC. The exam will be conducted in September.

If you have any questions regarding this new requirement, please contact TerraQuest.



RADON IN NORTH CAROLINA

Radon is a naturally occurring, invisible, odorless gas that is derived from the breakdown of uranium in the subsurface. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the US behind smoking, and is estimated to cause about 15,000 deaths per year according to the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Radon can damage the lung cells and lead to lung cancer. The risk of cancer is affected by the concentration of radon and the duration of exposure. It is recommended that homes with indoor radon concentrations greater than

4 pCi/L be repaired to reduce the concentrations.

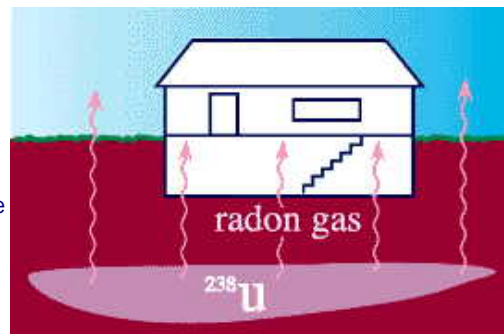
North Carolina is divided into three zones based upon indoor radon gas concentrations. Elevated concentrations have been found in all three zones due to local geology. Zone 3 is the largest and consists mostly of the Coastal Plain and Piedmont counties. This zone has the lowest concentration of indoor radon levels.

Zone 2 consists primarily of the western portion of NC where indoor radon levels are between 2 and 4 pCi/L. Wake, Vance, Warren, and Franklin counties are also

included in this zone.

Zone 1 consists of some counties in the western portion of NC and Rockingham county. This zone has the highest concentration of indoor radon.

Radon test kits are available at most home improvement stores.



GROUNDWATER AND CONTAMINANT TRANSPORT MODELING

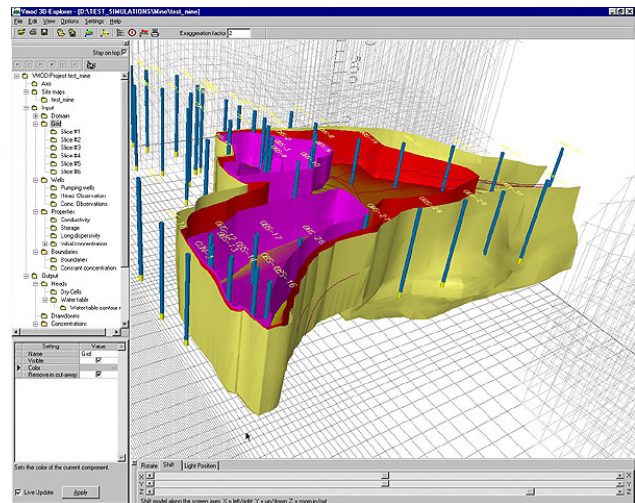
In late May, Michael Brown completed a training course on the use of Modflow sponsored by the National Groundwater Association. The course was held in Phoenix, Arizona and covered the theory and practical applications in natural attenuation, remediation design, and water resource management.

Modflow was originally developed by the United States Geological Survey and is cur-

rently offered in several versions by independent software developers.

Modflow is a sophisticated numerical model that incorporates site information to predict groundwater flow and contaminant transport.

Numerical models are generally more difficult to use than simpler analytical models because of the data required for input.



UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK FUNDING

In an effort to make the Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) fund financially solvent, the North Carolina House and Senate recently passed a budget bill that will enhance the funding to the LUST fund. Approximately \$19 million will be transferred to the fund in September. In addition to the transfer, the amount allocated to the fund from the 1.1 cent-per-gallon petroleum prod-

ucts tax will increase to 5/7 (commercial fund) and the noncommercial fund will receive 1/7. It is estimated that this will amount to an additional \$15 million per year in funding.

It is hoped that within the upcoming months, program participants will see faster turnaround from the fund.

Additional action taken includes prioritizing sites to

make the most of the available funds and looking into the privatization of the LUST fund. Additional information regarding privatization can be found at:

www.natlust.org

TerraQuest has made changes to expedite the completion of reimbursement claims and further modifications will be made to expedite field activities.

TERMINOLOGY

Have you received an NORR from the NCDWM-UST requesting an MMPE, LSA, CSA, or CAP once you complete a PAF? While some may know exactly what the state is requesting, we want to make sure everyone understands. Therefore, we will periodically cover the terms. As always, please contact us if you need

additional information or would like us to give you a presentation.

Some of the more commonly used acronyms are:

MMPE-Mobile Multi-phase Extraction. MMPE is used to recover product, water, and air using a high vacuum. This technology is generally used

for several days or weeks at a time.

AFVR-Aggressive Fluid Vapor Recovery. AFVR is similar to MMPE except it is generally performed for one day.

NORR-Notice of Regulatory Requirements. An NORR is a formal notice specifying required actions to be taken.



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TERRAQUEST NEWS

Many new and exciting things are happening at TerraQuest. We are currently looking for an office/warehouse for relocation. Our equipment and some records are currently stored offsite and it is hoped that by having everything in one place, we can improve efficiency and have room to grow.

Ryan Kerins, project manager, will be getting married in September. If we only had a job in the Caribbean, he could work on his honeymoon. Ryan will also be celebrating 5 years with us in

September.

Jill Ballentine will also be celebrating an anniversary soon; 10 years with us. Jill is responsible for billing, trust fund processing, and administrative support.

Michael and Jonathan are looking forward to new family additions. Michael's wife, Rolla, is expecting their first child in late August.

Jonathan's wife, Stephanie, is expecting their third child in September.

TerraQuest recently hired George Willard to assist with

various field activities including drilling, sampling, and remediation system maintenance. George has an extensive environmental background and most recently worked for Burlington Chemical.

TerraQuest Environmental Consultants, P.C. is a full service environmental consulting firm located in Carrboro, NC. We specialize in the assessment and remediation of various types of facilities.

If you have questions regarding our services, please feel free to contact us at (919) 932-1590 or visit our website at www.terraquestpc.com