February 21, 22 and 23, 2007, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
The University of British Columbia, Dept. of Civil Engineering, Vancouver, BC
Room CEME 1202, Civil/Mechanical Engineering Building, 2324 Main Mall

February 23, 2007: Current Practice and Ramifications of Revised Regulations to Implementing Risk-based Approaches at Contaminated Sites in BC.

Seminar Synopsis

This is one of three seminar/workshop days taking place in February 2007. The three days have been organized so that they can be taken as a group (for those who are relatively new to the practice in BC), or individually (for those who are already familiar with some of the topics).

Day 3 builds on the regulatory discussion of Day 2 by providing a comparison of the current risk assessment practice to the anticipated changes to the application of risk assessment at contaminated sites. Day 3 will be useful for site investigation/remediation practitioners, as well as risk assessors and approved professionals. Attendees should have familiarity with the general risk assessment framework (i.e., problem formulation, exposure assessment, effects/toxicity assessment, risk characterization). The speakers will share their forecasts for applying risk assessments under the new requirements and guidance.

Learning Objective

To become familiar with the approach and methods of the current "best" risk assessment practice for contaminated sites in BC, and understand how the revised regulatory regime may affect current practice.

Context

BCMOE has been directed to place increased focus on high-risk sites, and to provide environmental quality criteria and guidance for environmental professionals working with other sites. How will this affect the use of risk assessment at contaminated sites in BC? What are some of the difficult technical issues we are facing in risk assessment, and what is current practice? This seminar will focus on current and revised guidance, with presentations on specific topics within the general risk assessment framework. Issues will be covered by short lectures combined with class problems/examples and group discussion.

Proposed Agenda

8:00-8:30 Refreshments and Introductions

MORNING SESSION: Update and discussion of regulations, policies and selected topics.

8:30-10:00 Part 1 – Risk Assessment Framework and "Best Practice" – Illustrative examples
Part 2 – Human Health Risk Assessment: Implications of proposed changes and current trends: Soil Vapour, SRA, Interim Standards, sampling guidance, exposure assessment

10:00-10:15 Refreshment Break

10:15-12:00 Part 2 Continued: Toxicity Reference Values (TRV) hierarchy, Amortization, Soil ingestion rates, PF checklist, bioavailability
Part 3 – Ecological Risk Assessment:

- Exposure assessment – spatial aspects
- Effects assessment: Goals for protection; Measures of effect; Toxicity reference values

12:00-1:00 Lunch

AFTERNOON SESSION: New tools and protocols

1:00-2:15 Part 3 Continued: Risk characterization – use of weight-of-evidence

2:15-2:30 Refreshment Break

2:30-4:00 Part 4 – Discussion: Navigating the regulatory system

- Key issues raised at Feb 8th BCMOE workshop
- How do we solicit MOE input (practitioners, Approved Professionals, external reviewers)
- Navigating the system: "subdividing" into management units, planning the review process (avoiding roster system)
- Strategies for small sites or small issues

4:15-4:30 Wrap up