

# THE SOIL AND GROUNDWATER TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION

## SAGTA REPORT 18 - ECOLOGICAL RISK ASSESSMENT A JOINT SAGTA/INSTITUTE OF PETROLEUM WORKSHOP

### Background and Aims of Workshop

This report is an introductory summary of the second workshop which was held jointly between SAGTA and The Institute of Petroleum on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2002 at SecondSite Property (formerly Lattice Property), Loughborough. The focus of the meeting was to review the latest position within a wide range of interested organisations on understanding of Ecological Risk Assessment, and to focus on working through scenarios to aid thinking on the development ERA for contaminated sites.

At the tail end of 2001 the IP hosted a workshop with the Environment Agency for England and Wales, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, and a number of academic institutions, to look at the issue of Ecological Risk Assessment.

Assessing Contaminated Land based on the potential risk to human health or the water environment is well established in the UK regulatory scheme and supported by a good deal of data and scientific understanding. Attention has now focussed on assessing the risk to flora and fauna around a contaminated site – an ecological risk assessment. The science and data underpinning this approach is not as well established as that for human health risk assessment. Experience in North America has demonstrated that this is an area of risk assessment which, if applied improperly, can lead to excessive remediation costs with little or no improvement to the environment.

The aim of the workshop was to bring the many interested parties within the UK into a single forum, and to establish the state of current knowledge as well as the various views and positions of different parties. The key theme was on how to explore ways of developing simple and pragmatic protocols to enable ecological risk assessment to be undertaken and lead to sensible solutions. One key outcome of the original workshop was that a second workshop would be held in June 2002, at which a wider audience would be included to get a wider industrial perspective than just the oil industry.

### Key Recommendations

The key recommendations from the workshop were the:

- Production of a Road Map for legislation relevant to ERA which recognises the plethora of related legislation and the need for clarification. This could be produced through a joint industry /regulatory group.
- Production of a scenario booklet, building on discussion at the workshop and acting as a training tool/guide was also suggested as a next step. This would be produced initially through industry and regulators with a view to publishing perhaps as a training guide.
- Production of a best practice document highlighting management options and decision processes was also recommended.
- Collation and building of databases to help populate and validate ERA models. This was a repeat of the recommendation from the original workshop

## Workshop Report

A report of the Workshop is included on the SAGTA website at [Activities](#).

This:

- Collates the presentations given to the Workshop
- Summarises the discussions
- Provides proposals for the way forward, and
- Makes suggestions for future work on Ecological Risk Assessment

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