

Sustainable Remediation Forum (SURF) – Green and Sustainable Remediation Experiences

Michael Miller, CDM Smith & Brandt Butler, URS

The Sustainable Remediation Forum (SURF) promotes the use of sustainable practices throughout the lifecycle of site remediation to balance economic viability, conservation of natural resources and biodiversity, and the enhancement of the quality of life in surrounding communities. SURF facilitates discussions and sharing of "lessons learned," its members help shape green and sustainable remediation guidance and assessment tools. The SURF website, meetings, and communications provide a clearinghouse and source for the latest information about policy, case studies, best practices, and educational opportunities. This presentation of SURF member experience in the private sector provides an overview of lessons learned from implementation of sustainable remediation and three case studies.

- Gilbert and Mosley, Wichita, KS – Innovative groundwater remediation in support of brownfield development where sustainable remediation considerations began in the RI/FS phase. Pre-emptive voluntary cleanup and redevelopment plans included collaboration with regulators, public officials, and developers. Remedial measures were integrated with the redevelopment infrastructure.
- Oakland Army Base, Oakland, CA – From its earliest planning stages the social, economic, and environmental well-being of West Oakland residents was a primary consideration. The redevelopment themes were to attract appropriate industries from elsewhere in the city, support Port facilities, create a “destination” site, and develop for future growth. Remediation was initiated before and integrated with redevelopment
- Sustainable Return on Investment – Landfill Mining. Sustainable Return on Investment (sROI) is a full life-cycle cost accounting of the economic, social and environmental impacts. sROI was applied to a former manufacturing facility where landfilled waste was recycled and the site prepared for property transfer and parkland creation.

Overall, SURF promotes SR early and throughout the project lifecycle to achieve broad economic, social benefits and environmental benefits. In addition, social and environmental benefits have economic benefits that can significantly off-set project costs.