

Green and Sustainable Remediation: How ITRC Reduces Regulatory Barriers to the Use of Innovative Environmental Approaches

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The Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) is a public-private coalition working to eliminate barriers to the use of innovative environmental technologies and approaches, so that compliance costs are reduced and clean up efficacy is maximized. ITRC produces documents and training that broaden and deepen technical knowledge and expedite quality regulatory decision-making, while protecting human health and the environment. With private and public sector members from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, ITRC truly provides a national perspective.

ITRC achieves its mission through its technical teams, which are composed of state and federal environmental regulators, federal agency representatives, industry experts, community stakeholders, and academia. In 2009, ITRC is launching a Green and Sustainable Remediation (GSR) Team focusing on educating state environmental regulators and other environmental professionals on how to appropriately incorporate sustainability and green technologies into the cleanup process. Many state environmental agencies are beginning to assess and apply green and sustainable remediation in their regulatory programs. However, there is no nation-wide, practical decision framework on how to best incorporate sustainability and green remediation into a regulated cleanup process. Over three years, ITRC's GSR Team will produce an overview document, a technical /regulatory guidance document, as well as internet-based and possibly classroom training that will provide a consistent approach across the nation.

This project is aimed at answering the following questions:

1. What metrics for assessing sustainability are most useful and have the greatest impact?
2. What is a consistent and appropriate way of interpreting the metrics?
3. How can we minimize the overall risk to human health and the environment by applying sound GSR practices?
4. How can we reduce energy consumption or use alternative sources of energy that will be less harmful to overall environment?
5. How do we promote the use and development of GSR technologies?

The guidance and training that ITRC produces can accelerate the proper and practical use of green and sustainable remediation on a national scale, greatly reducing costs and energy input during all phases of the cleanup process.