

Update on ITRC's Guidance for TPH Risk Evaluation at Petroleum Contaminated Sites

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Background. Total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) is made up of thousands of chemical compounds, most of which are not well understood from a human or ecological risk perspective. Many state guidance utilizes the more volatile BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene) aromatic fraction of TPH as a means to derive cleanup standards. There is evidence to suggest that risk evaluations based solely on BTEX may not accurately identify the total risk associated with TPH. In addition, the existence of TPH metabolites may lead to unquantified risk.

Approach/Activities. In 2016 an Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC) project team began its work of compiling and reviewing information for developing new internet-based TPH risk guidance to help inform practitioners of the current state of knowledge, methods and procedures for evaluating TPH risk at petroleum contaminated sites. This new guidance document will highlight both human and ecological risk, and provide a TPH risk evaluation reference tool. Other sections planned include: regulatory framework; physical and chemical properties; TPH conceptual site model; special considerations; risk calculators, and stakeholders' perspective.

This poster will: 1) give an update on the ITRC team's work; 2) provide a "sneak peek" of the guidance; and 3) indicate timing for publication.