

Climate Change as Related to Site Remediation and Remedy Resilience

Rick Wice (wice@battelle.com) and Wendy Condit (Battelle, Columbus, OH)

Background/Objectives. Contaminated site cleanup remedies (especially long-term) should be designed, implemented, and monitored to withstand fires, floods, storms, rising sea levels, long-term stress on water availability, and dynamic groundwater levels. In other words, cleanup should be planned with climate change in mind. Climate change and extreme weather events have already impacted hazardous waste sites and remediation activities. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and United States Department of Defense (DoD) are starting to incorporate climate change and resiliency into several of their programs including site remediation. The Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) recently published guidance on sustainable resilient remediation.

Approach/Activities. In this presentation, an overview of USEPA and DoD guidance and policy on climate change as it relates to site remediation will be presented. USEPA Climate Change Adaption Technical Fact Sheets and highlights from the ITRC guidance will also be presented.

Results/Lessons Learned. The presentation will summarize the state of the practice in recognizing climate change impacts to hazardous waste site remediation and resiliency measures.