

THE GEI MGP Reporter

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MGP 2006 – Viewed as a Success

By Jared Lewis, GEI Consultants, Inc.

For three days last month (April 4 – 6), United States MGP professionals gathered with European colleagues in the historic abbey town of Reading, England. Utility site managers, environmental consultants, and regulators from the US and the UK came together at the International Symposium and Exhibition on the Redevelopment of Manufactured Gas Plant Sites (or MGP 2006). The conference was organized by GEI and Florida State University's Institute for International Cooperative Environmental Research (IICER). Delegates from 11 countries exchanged ideas ranging from the grand (large portfolio management) to the minute (molecular interactions). But in the end, it all focused on a common goal: improving investigation and remediation of MGP sites around the world.

Remedial technologies such as chemical oxidation, bioremediation, and funnel and gate systems, to name only a few, were highlighted in a number of talks and poster presentations. As these methods are improved, the number of remedial tools are increased. However, for

successful application of these tools, we need a proper understanding of site geology and hydrology, conceptual models, numerical modeling and pilot testing.

Monitored Natural Attenuation was also a highlighted topic, and the German KORA program (Natural Attenuation at Tar Oil Contaminated Sites – Results from the German Funding Priority KORA; Hüsers, et al) is producing interesting results through the cooperative work of industry with universities. The miracle remediation technology has yet to be developed, but with careful selection of tools, dramatic improvements are possible.

Communications skills and tools were directly addressed in a number of presentations, and were frequently prominent in some case studies. A perfect remedial plan can be hindered or halted by a poor relationship with the local community. MGP professionals must remember that a simple or logical remedial plan may not be so simple to the community at large. A proper public relations strategy may be the difference

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Editorial

Jobs not PPM

By Dennis Unites, Principal, GEI Consultants, Inc.

One of the themes that emerged from MGP 2006 is one that we have heard for several years. That is, the more successful you are at casting a site clean up as "development" not remediation, the more likely you are to ease the pains of the remediation process. Case studies of projects ranging from small residential developments to large municipal stadiums were brought to closure much more efficiently and with more political support when they were carried out to the end with a publicly desirable redevelopment. To paraphrase the late Dave Daddario (a consultant with North American Realty who was involved in pulling together the Gas Light Point project in Racine, Wisc.), it's a lot easier to get buy-in from public officials when you're discussing the number of jobs a project will bring to a community and not the ppm level of the clean up.

Can every project be done this way? Most likely not, but an effort to identify clear benefits and a desirable end-use for a site at the beginning of a project will enhance the chances of a successful completion.

MGP Reporter

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Conference Highlights

Several GEI staff attended the conference and were asked the following questions about their experiences in the UK. See their candid responses below:

Best Pub

Allied Arms

Best Beer

Tangle Foot

Too many brands of beer to remember a name

Best Restaurant

Bel And Dragon

Sweeney & Todd for the meat pies and beer

Best Meal

Not glamorous, but the traditional English pie

Favorite Tourist Spot

Abbey Ruins

War room

Churchill Museum



Clichy Gas Works, Paris, 1887, By Paul Signac
Courtesy of A. Hathaway

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between failure and success.

Several case studies offered interesting insight into land redevelopment projects of a broad range of size, scope, and status. Each site offered distinct technical difficulties to overcome, but a number of commonalities were apparent in leading to each of their successful redevelopments: clearly defined goals

presented to benefit the public at large; an open discourse between industrial, regulatory, and public parties; and the collective, focused efforts of everyone involved. These may seem painfully obvious, but it is all too easy to miss the forest for the trees.

Symposia such as MGP 2006 are great forums to learn about new tech-

nologies and approaches, engage in discussions with experts, and find new ways to expand your business. By all accounts, MGP 2006 succeeded in providing the big picture. It's now up to us to take advantage of it. When MGP 2008 comes around, what successes will you be prepared to present?

Survey Results

Best Paper – And the Winner Is . . .

As with most environmental conferences, attendees are asked to fill out a questionnaire that provides feedback on the quality and content of the conference. The MGP 2006 questionnaire was comprised of 18 questions. Thirteen of the questions addressed symposium logistics and requested recommendations for future conferences. Other questions requested feedback on technical sessions and the “best” paper.

Besides the plenary session, there were 16 technical sessions at the symposium. *Sediment Management and Ecological Risk*, *Emerging and Innovative Technologies I*, *Forensics*, *A US Model for Collaborative Research on MGP Sites* and *Public Stakeholder Involvement and Policy Issues* received the highest rankings for technical sessions from the attendees.

One of the questions asked for nominations for the “best” paper. Twenty-three papers were nominated by 20-percent of the 204 attendees. These papers were presented in 12 of the technical sessions at the symposium, indicating that the spectrum of topics had broad appeal to the MGP community. Four of the 23 papers received the greatest number of votes for best paper.

Remediation of the Former Gas Plant in Munich by Funnel-and-Gate (Weindl, et al) was one of the four highest-ranked papers. Considered the largest funnel and gate system in the world, PAH-contaminated groundwater is passively treated with activated carbon through a series of gates each having a dimension of 105 by 21 by 42 feet.

Determining the Source of PAHs in Sediment (Steve Emsbo-Mattingly, et al) was also highly ranked. The paper describes how to identify the source(s) of PAHs, their age, and whether the PAHs are MGP related. This is accomplished through second order techniques using graphical and selected PAH ratio techniques.

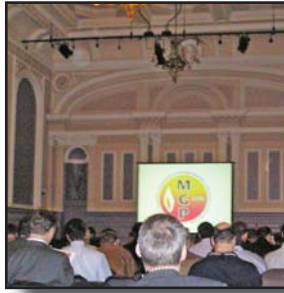
An Introduction to Indoor Air Contamination and the Soil Vapor Intrusion Pathway: A Developing Landscape (R. Rago and M. Leone) also received substantial attention. Vapor intrusion from contaminated sites into surrounding buildings continues to draw the attention of US regulators and, consequently, the consulting world. The paper provided an excellent history and background for new vapor intrusion regulations in the US. It also presented very interesting data from a number of background indoor air studies, including one conducted in 100 Massachusetts homes.

Case Study: Confirmation of TarGOST Laser-Induced Fluorescence DNAPL Delineation with Soil Boring Data (Okin, et al) received one of the highest number of votes for best paper. It described recently developed technology for rapid field characterization of tar zones within the subsurface. This technology can greatly speed site investigation and allow the investigators to focus on the critical areas.

As such there were four best papers based on audience response. The thought-provoking papers mentioned above are just a sampling of the many outstanding presentations at MGP 2006. If you are interested in learning more about these or other papers, proceedings are available for purchase at <http://www.epppublications.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/mgp06.htm>.

Exit survey results gathered by INSTEP and reported by John Ripp, GEI Consultants, Inc.

Conference Picture Gallery



Coal Tar History

Diesel Engines and Coal Tar

In March 2006, *The Kansas City Star* reported that the diesel engine was invented in 1893 in Augsburg, Germany by Rudolf (who else?) Diesel. He powered it with peanut oil. In 1912, Diesel was quoted as saying "The use of vegetable oils for engine fuels may seem insignificant today, but such oils may become... as important as... the **coal tar** products of the present time."

Saccharin and Coal Tar

According to a March 17, 2006 release from Copley News Services, saccharin was accidentally discovered in 1879 by Johns Hopkins University researchers trying to make chemical dyes from coal-tar derivatives. During a meal, one of the chemists noticed his fingers tasted sweet. About 300 to 500 times sweeter than sugar, saccharin consists mostly of carbon.

WebWatch

Website of Interest

Access PowerPoint presentations from MGP 2006.

Go to http://proceedings.instep.ws/2006_04_02_MGP2006/

Click 'Enter' and Select 'Agenda/Proceedings'. There is a hot link to each author's name.

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