CONCURRENT SESSION 7 – HAZARD RESPONSE

Questions and Answers

- **Anonymous:** Question for Erin: Are there any plans to share your maps modeling marsh migration in EPA's geoplatform or other platforms?
    - **Erin Burman, U.S. EPA:** Yes. Our collaborator who put together those maps, Mike Bradley, is at University of Rhode Island and he is just finishing up and finalizing those maps, and those will eventually be posted on RIGIs – which is an online platform by University of Rhode Island. They will be available within the next few months as far as I remember.
- **Anonymous:** Question for Melinda: What efforts did the city of Newark use to get information out to residents during the water crisis? Was message mapping used?
    - **Melinda Gonzalez, Rutgers University:** Actually, I am not sure if they used message mapping – this is a new project that I have just started doing work with over the past few months – but one thing they definitely used was newsletters out to communities so residents received information. There were some robo-calls as well as media using local public broadcasting. My work specifically focuses on the work that activists are doing in the community.
- **U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission:** Question for Ryan: Have you considered how stabilizing contaminants could hamper future decontamination efforts to remove the contaminants? A technology that does not allow for easy removal could be a significant setback for removal of long-lived radionuclides.
    - **Ryan James, Battelle Memorial Institute:** That is a great question and it is always a balance when discussing decreasing the spread of contamination – which of course will ultimately decrease the number of decontamination locations – which is a huge benefit. That is a part of our thinking as we went through this project in examining the behavior of these possible tools for stabilization. Some of the things we observed, that go into the mix and the mind-frame of how we would deal with a situation or a scenario where we did want to increase stabilization, but we also want to leave the option open of decontamination, are aspects like 'what was the physical result of the various stabilization?' For instance, when we used the MVPFX on asphalt, and we applied it over the particle application, there was some chemical/physical interaction that took place that made a thick coating on top of that. That was the only surface that we really saw that. That would be an example of a piece of information we could take to the field in that situation where, if you have an asphalt parking lot or road, for instance, and have a thin coating of particles and you drove through and sprayed this MVPFX, you have to make sure you have a way to get most of that off – if you want to get it off; if you want to just stabilize it, it is a great tool for sure. However, if you do have hopes of getting rid of it one day or one day soon, better make sure you are able to do that. It was not a part of the study, but it would make sense to do some work in that area. The other two products – they were applied much more like an aqueous spray. While, I think, in most instances both of them worked pretty well at times, when they dried, in most cases they were able to be removed much like the particles were before. Those are just observations – not things we really tested in this set of experiments, but more so practical takeaways and how they behaved and how one might be able to take advantage of that to throw it into the equation when figuring out what you want to use.

        - **Erin Silvestri, U.S. EPA:** As a follow on to that, for any particles that you cannot remove, is there any long-term environmental considerations for those staying in the environment?
        - **Ryan James, Battelle Memorial Institute:** Each of those products is considered non-toxic; and I tend to believe it, especially considering we have all seen those shots of huge cargo planes dumping that MVPFX over forest fires – that is its other role, as a fire suppressant – I presume they would not be able to get away with that if – though obviously forest fires are hugely damaging; if there was too much environmental toxicity there, they probably couldn't get away with that.
- **Anonymous:** Question for Timothy: Are there opportunities to beta test the tools you discussed today?
    - **Timothy Boe, U.S. EPA:** Definitely. Some of the tools we talked through today are live. So, if you would be interested in testing these applications, please send me an email (boe.timothy@epa.gov) and I will make sure we get connected and make these tools available to you. Some are still being developed and, like those that are published, we would be interested in beta testers for those as well. Using the same email address, please reach out to me. We are looking for beta testers, especially from those experienced in CBRN cleanup, and it would be good to get that feedback.