



STP1158

A Guide for Site and Soil Description in Hazardous Waste Site Characterization

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Abstract

A guide has been prepared to assist field personnel to identify, describe, sample, and interpret site and soil characteristics of hazardous waste sites where metal contamination is suspected or known. It is directed to on-scene coordinators, project managers, work teams, and others who may need to apply the basic principles of soil science without formal training. It meets the need of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for standard procedures, guidelines, or protocols that address soil and site contamination with metal and metalloid species. Thirty-five "knowledge frames" are provided for commonly encountered site and soil characteristics, each of which contains specific guidance for the description of a parameter. The format of the knowledge frames is compatible with the Environmental Sample Expert system (ESES) software under development by Lockheed Engineering & Sciences Company for EPA EMSL-LV. The guide is also designed for use with an accompanying field pocket guide, which provides methods for site and soil description and analysis.

Keywords:

Hazardous wastes, site characterization, soil parameters, metals, expert system, knowledge frames

Author Information:

Cameron, RE

Senior Staff Scientist, Lockheed Engineering & Sciences Company, Environmental Programs Office, Las Vegas, NV

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Where soils are not rocky, a thin-wall soil probe can be used to prepare a moderately detailed soil profile description in a sufficiently short time so that larger scale variations in soil characteristics can be identified. The Guide to Site and Soil Description for Hazardous Waste Site Characterization (Cameron, 1991) provides the basis for the site and soil components for metals in the ESES. Site and soil parameters (called Object/Attributes in the ESES), are assigned "values" which have significance for contaminant transport and fate. Form 3-1 (Soil Profile and

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