

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

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Presented by:

EXCALIBUR GROUP, LLC

Environmental Consultants, Engineers & Liability Management Experts



This latest **EXCALIBUR** bulletin presents several emerging developments and in-progress initiatives potentially significant to environmental projects regionally and nationally.

Changes in Environmental Insurance



Wells Fargo analysts project the environmental insurance industry will grow 30%+ in 2015 while the number of insurers will remain steady with a highly competitive marketplace of ~40 insurers. Claim frequency and severity is expected to continue to rise, in part, due to the increased number of policies.

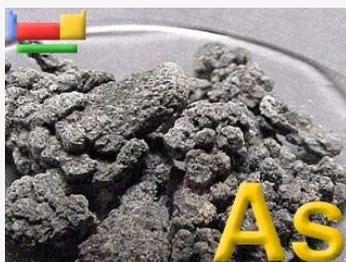
Dry cleaner and UST spills will continue to be most frequent source of spill claims but it is anticipated that some carriers may experience increasing claims from biological exposures in real estate and hospitality to chemical releases in manufacturing and cold storage. There is an increasing trend to limit policy terms to one or two years for tougher classes of business for operational risk, such as petrochemical, power, energy and utility risk. [Link to Wells Fargo Report](#)

US Industrial Toxic Waste Decline Continues

According to the USEPA's annual Toxics Release Inventory Report, most of the toxic chemical waste generated at industrial facilities in the U.S. was not released to the environment in 2013. Instead, 84 percent of the approximately 26 billion pounds of toxic chemical waste was managed through the use of preferred practices such as recycling and combustion for energy recovery. This was an increase of 4 percent in comparison to 2012. Over the past 10 years, total disposal or other releases into the environment have decreased by 7 percent. [EPA Report Link](#)



Petroleum Natural Attenuation Mobilized Arsenic



A U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Virginia Tech study has found that geochemistry changes tied to the natural attenuation of petroleum hydrocarbons in the subsurface can mobilize naturally-occurring arsenic into groundwater and can result in potentially significant arsenic groundwater contamination. Over the past 32 years, government, academic, and industry-supported scientists have studied the natural attenuation of a 1979 petroleum spill in the shallow, glacial aquifer at the National Crude Oil Spill Fate and Natural Attenuation Research Site (Bemidji, MN). This study focused on whether naturally-occurring arsenic found in this area might be

mobilized in the presence of hydrocarbons because of chemical interactions involving iron hydroxides, which also occur naturally. Based on measurements of the arsenic concentrations in groundwater and in sediment up-gradient, within, and down-gradient from the hydrocarbon plume at this site, arsenic concentrations in the hydrocarbon plume reached 23 times the current drinking water standard whereas arsenic concentrations were below the standard both up-gradient and down-gradient from the plume. The study attributes the

elevated arsenic within the hydrocarbon plume to a series of interrelated geochemical and biochemical processes involving arsenic and iron oxides and metabolization of the carbon-rich petroleum by microbes under low oxygen conditions. [Link to article..](#)

PA Strengthens Clean Fill Requirements

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) has published its proposed substantive revisions to the Management of Fill Policy, 258-2182-773. These proposed changes are expected to affect, among others, real estate developers, land owners, railroads, port operators, and excavation contractors. This policy provides procedures for determining whether material is clean fill or regulated fill, as regulated fill may not be used unless a permit is secured by the individual or entity using the regulated fill. Some of the most important changes involve revisions to the numeric standards defining "clean fill" to align with the current and future residential cleanup standards for soils established under the Pennsylvania Land Recycling and Environmental Remediation Standards Act. More stringent numeric standards will apply for many of the regulated substances; for example, proposed revisions will result in significant reductions in clean fill limits for many semi-volatile organic compounds, which tend to be fairly ubiquitous in urban environments. [PA DEP Document Link](#)



US Supply Chains Seen Vulnerable to Climate Risks



A report by CDP and Accenture claims a lack of preparation for dealing with climate change risks leaves supply chains more vulnerable in Brazil, China, India, and the U.S. in comparison to supply chains in Europe and Japan. The findings are based on data collected from 3,396 companies looking at supplier's climate change mitigation strategies, carbon emissions reporting, target setting, emissions reduction initiatives, climate risk procedures, use of low-carbon energy, and water risk assessment efforts. [Report link..](#)

EXCALIBUR manages and mitigates environmental risks and liabilities with clients' business objectives in mind to develop better solutions more compatible with our customers' operations and budgets. Clients hire EXCALIBUR again and again because it is loyal, innovative, resourceful, and results-oriented. In our business, best ideas lead to client advocacy wins. For more information on EXCALIBUR, visit www.excaliburgrp.com or [email us](#).