

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

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



USEPA Updates the Risk Assessment Standard Default Exposure Factors. In February 2014, the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) issued Directive 9200.1-120, which updates and supplements standard default exposure factors presented in the Risk Assessment Guidance for Superfund: Human Health Evaluation Manual, Part A through Part E. This update is based on recommendations by the USEPA's National Center for Environmental Assessment published in the Exposure Factors Handbook - 2011 Edition (EFH 2011), which provides recommended values for exposure factors based on the results of the most up-to-date and scientifically sound studies. Several standard default exposure factors have been updated to reflect changes in potential human exposure. As a result, USEPA Regions and various states are updating their health-based screening level tables to reflect these exposure factor changes. These screening level tables are often applied in judging the need for remediation at impacted sites, and the changed exposure factors may result in lessening or increasing the stringency of the calculated screening levels. <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/riskassessment/>

New Historical Mapping Application from the U.S. Geological Survey. Over 100 years of topographic mapping information has been collected by the USGS and made available in a free application known as the USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer. Maps dating from 1884 to 2006 can be overlaid on nearly any site location in the U.S. to investigate changes in topographic features and, to some extent, land use over time. <http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/>

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS, ENGINEERS & LIABILITY MANAGEMENT EXPERTS



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