



2017 ITRC Board of Advisors

Cherri Baysinger (MO) – Co-Chair

Cherri Baysinger has been involved with ITRC since 2005, co-leading ITRC's Mining Waste Team and the Biochemical Reactors Team. Cherri is currently the Administrator for the Section of Epidemiology for Public Health Practices with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. She has worked for the state of Missouri since 1991, dividing her time between the Departments of Health and Senior Services and Natural Resources. Cherri has spent much of her career working on hazardous waste sites, including Missouri's current and historic lead mining sites. She has overseen environmental health activities throughout the state, worked on the Superfund project management side, and prepared risk assessments for mining sites and other hazardous waste sites. Cherri is a regular guest lecturer in undergraduate and graduate level environmental health courses, covering topics such as risk assessment, hazardous waste, air and water quality. She was appointed to the ITRC Board of Advisors as Team Leader Liaison in 2015. Cherri has a bachelor's degree in Biology and a master's degree in Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife, both from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Tom Higgins (MN) – Co-Chair

Tom Higgins is a hydrologist with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in Saint Paul, MN. Tom has been with MPCA since 2003, working on site investigation and cleanup projects in the Petroleum Remediation and Petroleum Brownfield Programs. Tom has had an active role in developing program guidance for several emerging topics of interest to MPCA programs, such as vapor intrusion and biofuel releases. Prior to being appointed to ITRC Board of Advisors in 2010, originally as the State At-Large Representative and currently as the Training Program Coordinator, Tom served as the Minnesota Point of Contact and participated in ITRC's State Engagement Program. He has also been a contributing member of the ITRC Vapor Intrusion and Biofuels Teams. Tom has a B.S. degree in Biology and Environmental Science from Minnesota State University, Mankato and an M.S. degree in Environmental Health Sciences from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis/St. Paul.

Richard Spiese (VT) - Team Leader Liaison

Richard Spiese received a Bachelor's of Science Degree from The Pennsylvania State University in Geological Sciences. Richard has worked for the State of Vermont, Department of Environmental Conservation, Waste Management Division (WMD) as a Project Manager of hazardous waste sites since 1987. Richard has worked on over 400 hazardous waste sites, included petroleum sites, chlorinated solvent sites, PCB sites, metal sites, PAH sites, coal tar sites, and most recently a perfluorinated site. Program areas include leaking underground storage tank sites, state lead sites, Brownfield sites, Federal Facility sites, and a Superfund site. He has been a member of the WMD Spill Program since 1989, responding to many hundreds of spills ranging from fuel oil to acid spills. These spills have impacted surface waters, drinking water wells, and indoor air. Richard is also a member of the Vermont Hazardous Materials Response Team and is Technician Qualified as a hazardous materials responder. Richard also works with New England Waste Management Officials Association on workshops and conferences as a planner and a speaker, on the National Tanks Conference with EPA, and on the LUST Task Force for the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Managers Association. Richard was the Task Force Chair from 1997 through 2009.

Doug Bacon– State Engagement Coordinator

Douglas Bacon has worked for the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) since 1997. Doug began with the Division of Water Quality gaining a vast knowledge of where to go to get away from it all. In 1999 he moved into the Division of Environmental Response & Remediation and assumed the project management role and day to day oversight of response actions at the Kennecott North and South Zones, Superfund Site. Doug is also the Utah Natural Resource Damage Trustee's representative overseeing the response actions by Kennecott and a local water service district to address two groundwater plumes underlying approximately 13,000 acres in the Southwest Salt Lake Valley. The NRD project represents one of the largest (based on production volumes) applications of reverse osmosis to treat mining influenced water and provision of treated water to the public in the Western US. In 2008 Doug joined ITRC becoming a member of the Mine Waste Treatment Technology Team and thereafter the Biochemical Reactors for Treating Mining Influenced Water Team. He actively participates in the implementation of and training on the use of these guidance documents. In 2014 Doug was appointed as Utah's Point of Contact. In 2016 he was appointed to the Board of Advisors as the newly selected State Engagement Coordinator. Doug has a B.S. degree in Environmental Biology from Plymouth State College, Plymouth, NH, and he holds "Certified Public Manager" credentials from Utah's Certified Public Managers Program.

Sara Pearson (MI) - Training Program Coordinator

Sara Pearson has been involved with ITRC since 2014 serving as the Michigan Point of Contact. Sara has worked in the environmental remediation and redevelopment field in Michigan for more than 25 years. She has worked as both a consultant managing contaminated sites for major petroleum companies and industry, and then as a senior geologist for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) reviewing the investigative and cleanup efforts. She currently serves as the supervisor of the Information Management Unit for the MDEQ's Remediation and Redevelopment Division. Sara's expertise spans the spectrum of activities related to remediation and redevelopment including extensive investigative, risk assessment and corrective action experience. Sara is a Certified Professional Geologist (CPG) and has been an active member of the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) since 1998 serving on the Michigan's Section Executive Committee twice. She is a founder and co-chair of the Michigan Section's Annual Environmental Risk Management Workshop that focuses on learning technical topics, and promoting collaboration and the building of partnerships among the regulators, consultants, and owners of contaminated property to find solutions to complex environmental problems. Sara holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Aquinas College in physical geography and environmental studies and a minor in political science. She earned a Master of Science degree in earth science with a focus in hydrogeology from Western Michigan University.

Naji Akladiss (ME) – State At-Large Representative

Naji Akladiss, P.E. is a Project Manager with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP), Bureau of Remediation in Augusta, Maine. He has worked for the Department since 1989 as an Analytical Chemist in MEDEP Laboratory, and as a Project Manager for federal facilities since 1991. He has experience in environmental technologies and Superfund remediation. Naji is the Project Manager for the clean-up of two Superfund sites in the state of Maine. Prior to joining MEDEP, Naji worked for Rockwell International in Rockwell's printed circuit board plant in Maine. He was the leader of the ITRC Integrated DNAPLs Site Strategy Team as well as the co-leader of the Characterization and Fractured Rock teams. He has also served as the ITRC state Point of Contact from Maine. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Maine and a certified Quality Engineer (CQE) by the American Society for Quality.

Ken Zarker (WA) – State Association Representative (ECOS)

Ken Zarker has been actively involved with hazardous waste, pollution prevention and toxics reduction programs for over twenty five years. He is currently with the Washington State Department of Ecology. Ken has been responsible for managing state environmental programs in Texas and Washington State on hazardous waste permitting, policy, toxics reduction, and sustainability. He has served in a leadership capacity at the national and international levels as Chairman of the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable. Ken serves on several boards and committees, including the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Cross Media Committee, Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse Board of Directors and the Green Chemistry in Commerce Council Advisory Committee. Ken has been working actively to support regional collaboration on green chemistry and chemicals policy development. Ken has a B.S. in Environmental Management from the University of Houston at Clear Lake City.

Katherine Owens (ID) – Public and Tribal Stakeholder Representative

Katherine Owens is the Controller for Eastern Idaho Community Action Partnership (EICAP), a non-profit community services agency. EICAP helps local at-risk individuals and families meet their basic needs and increase independence through support and education. Previously Katherine worked for the University of Idaho as the project manager of a U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) research grant that funded the investigation of subsurface contamination in fractured rock at the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). Katherine also worked at INL managing public, tribal, and regulatory involvement in U. S. DOE's mixed waste focus area. In 1996, while at INL, Katherine participated in the formation of ITRC from U. S. DOE's Demonstration of Innovative Technologies program. Katherine has served on five ITRC teams including In-Situ Bioremediation; Sampling, Characterization, and Monitoring; Risk Assessment Resources; Incremental Sampling Methodologies, and Risk Assessment. She was the first ITRC stakeholder to serve as an ITRC trainer. Katherine has received the ITRC Stakeholder of the Year award and other awards for outstanding contributions to ITRC. Katherine is a Certified Community Action Professional and has a B.S. degree in Corporate Training from Idaho State University and an M.S. degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Idaho.

David Tsao, Ph.D. (BP) – Industry Representative

Dr. David Tsao is the Americas Technology Manager for BP's Remediation Engineering & Technology group located in Naperville, IL. David is responsible for technical specialists coordinating, developing, and implementing the clean up and prevention strategies for a broad range of remediation sites. He has been involved in cleanup activities at a wide variety of sites administered through state and federal programs (or equivalent international programs). He has made numerous presentations at professional conferences and co-authored several peer-reviewed journal articles and textbooks. David has held many professional positions such as Chair of API's Soil and Groundwater Technical Task Force, Chair of the Science Advisory Committee for U.S. EPA's Midwest Hazardous Substance Research Center, Industrial Partner on the U.S. DOE's joint program with the Russian Academy of Sciences, senior editor for the International Journal of Phytoremediation, and is a founding board member of the International Phytotechnology Society. Since 1998, he has actively contributed to a dozen ITRC Teams such as Phytotechnologies, Wetlands, Ecological Land Reuse, MTBE, Biofuels, Mining, Biochemical Reactors, and Enhanced Molecular Diagnostics. Through his participation on various ITRC teams, he has received several Industry Recognition Awards. David has a Ph.D in Chemical Engineering from Purdue University