

Statement of Interest in Position:

For over 23 years, ITRC has left its distinctive mark by fostering positive change. ITRC's demonstrated success to produce consensus-based guidance and training has provided the tools and solutions to many of the challenges faced by the environmental community during this time. For ITRC to remain an industry leader and the recognized go-to provider of innovative environmental solutions the organization must be nimble and adaptive to change. By continuing to focus on emerging challenges for our remediation customer base while expanding the organizations reach into remediation plus sectors ITRC will ensure a solid foundation for continued growth in the future.

If elected as ITRC Co-Chair I would champion the organization's efforts to expand and diversify our funding base while also prioritizing the replenishment of ITRC's financial reserves. This action will better position our operational budget for the years to come. In order to remain an industry leader in producing high quality information and training resources ITRC will need to consider investing in our own infrastructure by examining and adapting existing processes to meet the needs of our customer base. The use of improved technologies such as interactive communication platforms along with more sophisticated online capabilities may complement our existing tools, better streamline our work, and enhance our outreach efforts into areas beyond remediation.

ITRC's investment into remediation plus is positioned to grow and expand which I believe is critical to our future success. As Co-Chair I would work with the ITRC Director and Board of Advisors to expand our marketability within the remediation plus sectors. With this broadening of our membership I also believe it's important to self-evaluate and identify any lessons learned from our existing remediation plus projects in an effort to streamline future projects in topic areas beyond remediation.

As the ITRC Training Program Coordinator and current Board of Advisors member, I've been privileged to witness the outcome of ITRC's efforts first-hand in my home state and by working with the talented membership that makes ITRC what it is today. I'm proud of the work ITRC has achieved and look forward to readying the organization for the future opportunities and successes yet to come.

Thomas M. Higgins, M.S.

Work phone: 651-757-2436 email:

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Work Experience:

State Program Administrative Coordinator – Minnesota Pollution Control Agency - 1/23/16 to present day

- Coordinate the administration and provide strategic direction for the MPCA Hazardous Substances Remediation State Programs: Superfund, Brownfields, RCRA Corrective Action, Site Assessment, Dry Cleaner Fund, Hazardous Substances Compensation Fund, and Site Assessment Program
- Federal grants, Contract Manager, and budget coordinator for the MPCA Hazardous Remediation State Programs.
- Oversee and design the development of program guidelines, policy, procedures, content, measures, and evaluation standards for the MPCA Hazardous Remediation State Programs.

Training Program Coordinator - Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council – 7/1/12 to present day

- State environmental agency employee responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the ITRC Training Program.
- Ensures timely communication and information exchange of Training Program materials between the ITRC Training Program staff, the ITRC Board of Advisors, ITRC Team Leaders, and ITRC State Points of Contact.
- Responsible for developing and managing the ITRC Training Program annual budget.
- Responsible for managing ITRC Training Program contractors and staff.

Hydrogeologist 3 - Minnesota Pollution Control Agency - 12/1/2004 to 1/23/16

- Provide professional hydrogeological services in the form of technical consultation and report reviews for the MPCA Petroleum Remediation and Petroleum Brownfield Programs (PRP and PBP).
- MPCA vapor intrusion and biofuels policy co-coordinator.

Education:

University of Minnesota School of Public Health, Minneapolis MN – May 2006

Master of Science, Environmental Chemistry.

Minors: Public Health Policy and Water Resource Sciences

Minnesota State University, Mankato MN – May 2002

Bachelor of Science, Environmental Sciences

Minor: Environmental Geology

Leadership Skills and Training:

MPCA Leadership Academy, LEAN 101, Process Mapping, Six Sigma, Risk Communication, Public Communication, Results-Based Accountability (RBA), EPA Grant Management

ITRC Experience: Vapor Intrusion, Petroleum Vapor Intrusion, and Biofuels team member, ITRC Board of Advisors member, ITRC Training Program Coordinator.