

Testing a Stakeholder Participation Framework for Fielding Bioremediation Technologies

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This research is investigating stakeholder attitudes about the use of bioremediation technologies with the objective of reducing conflict among stakeholders. The research protocol includes four closely related components. First, we are testing a framework for stakeholder participation that prescribes appropriate stakeholder involvement strategies based on stakeholders' trust of the other parties involved in technology deployment decision making. Second, we are assessing conflict among stakeholders regarding the acceptability of in situ bioremediation (i.e., immobilization) as a means to reduce risks posed by radionuclides and metals in the environment. Third, we are assessing the role that awareness of risk exposure plays in the willingness of stakeholders to engage in problem-solving and making risk tradeoffs. Fourth, we are assessing the potential of using the results of these first three components to forge consensus among stakeholders regarding the use and oversight of bioremediation technologies and stakeholder involvement in the decision process. This poster presentation describes the results of empirical tests of hypotheses related to the first three objectives. Data used in these tests are the result of more than 75 interviews and several hundred telephone surveys performed in the regions around Oak Ridge, TN; Los Alamos, NM; and Hanford, WA. After processing all data, we will be communicating our results to the interested and affected parties by holding workshops for DOE employees and contractors, and for community members in each of the three study areas.