

A flexible, data-rich decision-support tool addressing the complex, multifaceted problem of decontamination technology selection for a specific facility contaminated with *Bacillus anthracis*

SCENARIO:

- Wide-area aerosol release of weaponized *Bacillus anthracis* spores in an urban area (civilian and military targets)
- Resulting contaminated area includes a large, diverse environment with hundreds of facilities requiring decontamination
- Decontamination resources (technologies, equipment and operators) are limited



TOOL OBJECTIVE:

The DeconST summarizes the pertinent information, automating the process of decontamination technology comparison and providing the capability to perform trade-off, cost-benefit analyses

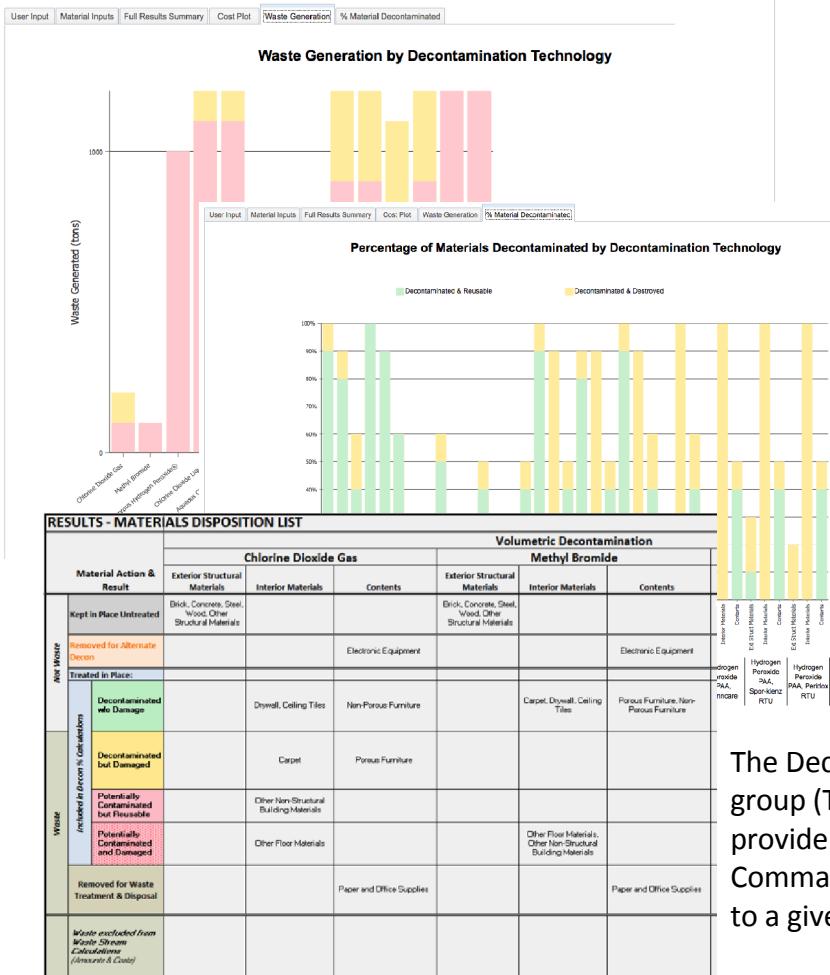
DeconST presents options that provide justification for recommendations, with color-coded estimates of likelihood of success of decontamination, cost implications, and waste estimates.

Baseline materials quantities are derived from EPA's waste estimator tool

The decontamination strategy and technology selection tool (DeconST) supports decision-making to select decontamination options for specific contaminated buildings following a biological contamination incident.

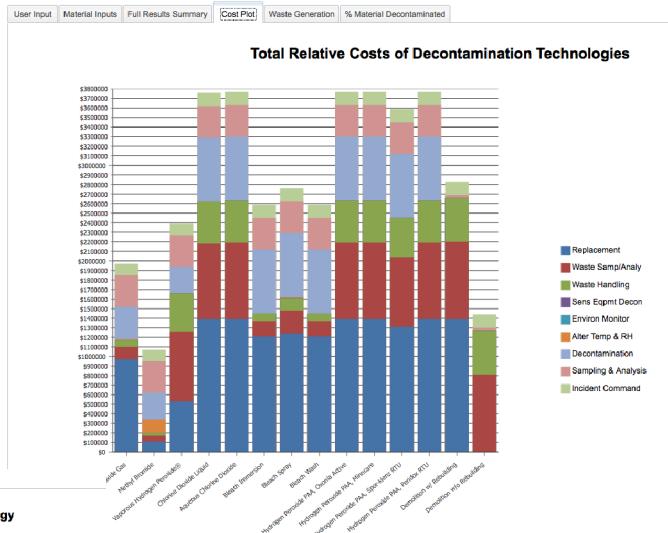
The technologies in the DeconST include currently available biological-agent decontamination technologies with published efficacy data. Building demolition is also included for comparison purposes.

The cost comparison includes the costs of the decontamination process itself (including incident command, characterization and clearance sampling and analysis, decontamination, and long-term monitoring).



The DeconST takes user input of building type, size, sampling frequency, and information regarding ambient weather conditions, and provides relevant information on facility-specific decontamination methods and associated waste implications.

The DeconST provides a comparison of the relative costs, efficacy and associated destructiveness and waste generated by each of the candidate decontamination technologies.



The cost comparison also includes the costs associated with managing the waste generated by the technologies on the structural and interior materials and contents of the facility (including the costs for removing, decontaminating, disposing of, and replacing all materials and contents damaged and/or not decontaminated by the technology).

The DeconST is intended to be used by a technical working group (TWG) functioning under a Unified Command (UC) to provide and justify recommendations to the Incident Command (IC) on decontamination technologies appropriate to a given building.

The DeconST addresses contamination of a building with *Bacillus anthracis* spores, but is expandable to address other agents. The Tool runs both as a web application and as an MS Excel 2010 spreadsheet.