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Whitman Site Chosen as Focus of Research Grant to Study Remediation of Chlorinated Ethenes

Whitman Will Provide Hydrogeologic and Engineering Services to Assist Research Project

EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ -- Whitman, New Jersey's leading environmental, engineering and management firm, has announced that they will be collaborating with a world-renowned researcher and environmental biotechnology company to study new methods of bioremediation.

A Whitman site in Passaic, N.J., will be the focus of a peer-reviewed research project that was recently awarded an \$80,000 grant by the governing board of the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology. Whitman will assist Kerry Sublette of the University of Tulsa and Sublette Consulting Inc., who will serve as principal investigator, and Microbial Insights Inc. of Tennessee by providing hydrogeologic and engineering technical support on the project.

Soil and ground water at the Passaic site was contaminated with the chemical compound trichloroethene (TCE), which is in a class of contaminants known as chlorinated ethenes. This class of contaminants is among the most frequently detected groundwater contaminants in the world.

"The most effective method for treatment of chlorinated ethenes is the process of reductive dechlorination, which can result in the complete breakdown of TCE," said Edward Sullivan, director of hydrogeology for Whitman. "However, only one class of bacteria is currently known to carry out this process completely. By introducing bacteria at a contaminated site, we can potentially increase the rate of dechlorination and remediate the contamination."

The goal of the project is to evaluate the effectiveness of first capturing the class of bacteria and transferring it to areas of contamination where dechlorination activity is low or nonexistent. Chlorinated ethenes are among the most frequently detected groundwater contaminants worldwide. The development and application of bioreactors for remediation of groundwater would be a valuable step in improving the quality of water at numerous sites around the globe.

About Kerry L. Sublette

Kerry Sublette is director of the Center for Environmental Research and Technology and Sarkeys Professor of Environmental Engineering at the University of Tulsa. He also serves as the director of the Integrated Petroleum Environmental Consortium (IPEC). His research interests include anoxic biodegradation of petroleum hydrocarbons, microbial oxidation of hydrogen sulfide, microbial reduction of sulfur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, soil ecosystem restoration, and general biological waste treatment.

About Microbial Insights, Inc.

Microbial Insights is an environmental biotechnology company specializing in the development and application of cutting edge molecular biological tools (MBTs) to describe and quantify microbial communities. MI provides superior genetic and chemical diagnostic tools to aid in understanding and managing biological processes ranging from bioremediation of chlorinated hydrocarbons to biofilm formation in drinking water systems.

About Whitman

Whitman is New Jersey's leading full-service environmental, engineering and management firm, offering expertise in brownfield redevelopment, civil and geotechnical engineering, site assessment, remediation cost recovery, indoor air quality solutions and innovative remediation technologies. Since its founding in 1985, the East Brunswick, N.J.-based company has performed more than 2,500 site assessments, remedial investigations and remediation designs for all types of development and redevelopment projects, including commercial, retail and residential properties in more than 12 states. Whitman has secured more than \$30 million in state and federal reimbursements for environmental work for their clients. Whitman is one of the largest full-service firms in the state, providing expertise in all areas of environmental and engineering services. For more information on Whitman call 732-390-5858 or visit www.whitmanco.com.