# SURF SUSTAINABLE REMEDIATION FORUM

**SURF Break | August 2024**

## Global SURF Roundup

Wondering what the different SuRF organizations around the world are doing? Well, buckle up for a global SuRF roundup – otherwise known as a run-on paragraph chock full of information with forced segues. Watch out for whiplash!

As you may have heard on SURF's last webinar (click here for recording), SuRF-UK (United Kingdom) is updating A *Framework for Assessing the Sustainability of Soil and Groundwater Remediation* to ensure that it includes the most up-to-date guidance and tools. SuRF-ANZ (Australia/New Zealand) is planning a similar effort with its framework, which is based on the one developed by SuRF-UK. In addition, SuRF-ANZ is engaging with representatives from the different states within Australia to try and standardize

surplus soil reuse guidelines. **Did someone say guidelines?** SuRF-Italy, in collaboration with a working group of Assoreca (the association of the largest environmental engineering companies in Italy), has updated its 2015 white paper. The update, *Proposal for an Operational Guideline for Sustainable Remediation*, bridges the gap between talk and action to encourage practitioners to implement sustainable remediation. **Another way to bridge that gap?** Case studies and training! SuRF-France is working to gather case studies to help French companies learn how to embed sustainable principles in their work. In March, the Network for Industrially Contaminated Land in Africa (NICOLA) collaborated with the Interstate Technology Regulatory Council (ITRC) to host training about risk-based and sustainable light, nonaqueous phase liquid (LAPL) management. **Great resources for learning...now what are people *thinking*?** In France, people are interested in biodiversity and natural capital and how these elements are linked to sustainable remediation. In Japan, there is growing debate about nature-positive activities and the revaluing of abandoned contaminated land and former mines to forests. **What about on the government side of things?** SuRF-Japan is awaiting upcoming policy changes from the Ministry of Environment and, when published, will discuss how to incorporate sustainability principles into remediation work. Similarly, new policies are expected in Taiwan. SuRF-Taiwan reports that sustainability and resiliency concepts will likely be part of site remediation projects, and all remediation designs will need to consider climate change impacts. **And before you can fall off that mechanical bull, that's the end of the roundup!**

## Dive In! Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Remediation Case Studies

The Spring 2024 meeting of the Federal Remediation Technologies Roundtable (FRTR) included presentations on how artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) are being leveraged in remediation projects. Case studies were presented showing how AI and/or ML enhanced the basis of remedial decisions, improved the efficiency of implementing remedies and long-term monitoring, and reduced the need for extensive sampling. The meeting also included presentations on three tools: one that predicts potential future environmental violations, one that assesses the feasibility of transitioning from active remedies to monitored natural attenuation, and another that tracks groundwater restoration across many sites. Click here to view the presentations.

## Did You Know? Estimating Local Economic Effects Magnifies Contaminated Site Redevelopment Benefits

About 23 million people live within one mile of a Superfund site – that's around 7% of the U.S. population. The estimate jumps to 78 million people (or about 23% of the U.S. population) when the distance is increased to three miles. (Click here for more population info). Cleaning up and thoughtfully reusing these sites can result in the economic revitalization of the surrounding community. The Superfund Redevelopment Program has developed a repository of 93 case studies (to date) that focus on the beneficial economic effects of site reuse. The case studies delve into detail, providing information about the economic benefits for every company present on the site and specific uses (e.g., alternative energy). Each case study includes an appendix with an overview of the approaches, assumptions, and methodologies used to obtain estimates on local beneficial effects. Click here to access.

# Upcoming Events

## SURF Events

### *SURF Webinar: Sustainable Remediation in Washington State – Combining Climate Change Resiliency and Green Remediation*

October 1, 2024
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. EDT
Presenter: Chance Asher (Washington State Department of Ecology)
**Registration link coming soon!**

### *SURF Meeting @ AEHS East Coast Conference (open to all)*

Tuesday, October 22, 2024
3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. EDT
Join us for this working meeting to discuss and advance timely strategies for and initiatives of sustainable remediation. SURF meetings are always open to members and non-members attending the conference. SURF welcomes and appreciates your input.
**Click here to register for the conference.**

## ther Webinars and Conferences

### *International Cleanup Conference*

September 15-19, 2024
Adelaide, Australia
**Click here for more information or to register.**

### *California Land Recycling Conference (CALRC) 2024: From the Ground Up*

September 17-19, 2024
Carson, California
**Click here for more information or to register.**

### *AEHS East Coast Conference: 40th Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments, Water, and Energy*

October 21-24, 2024
Amherst, MA
**Click here for more information and to register.**