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1 April 2005

**To: All Chief Environmental Health Officers /
Directors of Environmental Health,
English, Welsh and N Ireland local authorities.**

Dear Colleagues

**FUTURE TRAINING / TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITH
CONTAMINATED LAND**

As you will know, the CIEH has been the leading training body for regulators in the contaminated land field since Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act came into force in England in April 2000. In the intervening period, and through our close relationship with Defra and the Environment Agency, we have provided hundreds of places on our programme of courses covering topics ranging from site characterisation to remediation. They have been consistently well supported and received.

The regime is a very demanding one technically; the consequences of “getting it wrong” can be serious and it has taken an unusually long time to devise and deliver training on its main features. We nevertheless anticipate that they will have been covered, whether by the CIEH or by the Agency, by about this time next year, subject to progress in particular with government guidance on the revised approach to controlled waters and with legislation on radioactively contaminated land. Thereafter, though there will still be more to learn, the outstanding topics become more esoteric and, having taken the majority of those currently working in the field through our programme, numbers requiring more basic training will decline.

Anticipating these changes has now led the CIEH to develop a more appropriate vehicle for future training and technical assistance in this area. Familiar to the majority of you already, that vehicle will be an addition to the successful “EMAQ” family, run in association with AEA Technology and which has been providing two similar modules for professionals working on Emissions Monitoring and other Air Quality matters for a number of years. The new module will be available from today.

Designed to enable wider access to the materials generated from the initial training programme, and initially running side-by-side with that, the module will add to those over time, providing further, practical guidance where appropriate. As with the existing EMAQ modules, it will be complemented by occasional seminars which, together with the on-line materials will build into a stand-alone resource, providing a good working coverage of the subject, useful both as a refresher for those who have already received some training and as an introduction for others coming to this area of work for the first time.

Like both our contaminated land training programme to date and the current EMAQ modules, this one will be overseen by a steering group including practitioners and representatives of Defra and the Agency and be run on a not-for-profit basis. It has to meet its costs somehow, however, and subscription information can be found at: <http://emaq.aeat.com> Subscribing authorities will receive not only unrestricted access to the on-line materials but also two free places at each seminar. Though, as now, spare places will be offered at a fee to non-subscribers you might bear in mind the typical charge for such events and it should take only a quick calculation to confirm how cost-effective becoming a subscriber will be for you.

In the meantime, please take time to view the demonstration tutorial (on dealing with hydrocarbon contamination) which has been available for some time at: http://www.emaq.aeat.com/open/conland/contaminated_land.php That will be maintained for a while longer.

Yours faithfully

Howard Price
Principal Policy Officer