aquilogic

Responsible Party Identification

In many instances, contaminants impact a receptor such as a water supply well, groundwater resource, surface water body, or ecological habitat before the source of the contamination is known. In these instances, the environmental professional takes on the role of a detective trying to find the potentially responsible parties (PRPs). **Aquilogic** can assist in the identification and assessment of "source sites" and PRPs, and where necessary, the contribution of various releases to the overall contaminant plume.

The initial stage of a PRP assessment is similar to a Phase 1 Environmental Assessment, but for a large area and number of facilities. Possible source sites proximate to the impact are identified through regulatory records searches. The searches identify the permits obtained for each facility, and in some cases, whether a contaminant investigation and/or remediation program is actually being implemented.

The second stage involves the review of actual permits, environmental investigations, historical aerial photographs and other data to refine the number of "source sites". The second stage also involves the review of historical ownership and operations at the facilities to define the PRPs for each source site, over time. At this stage, a regional environmental Geographic Information System (GIS)-based database is often developed.

The third stage involves initial field data collection. This is often conducted in public right-of-way adjacent to the source sites and can include soil gas sampling, sewer and storm drain sampling, shallow groundwater sampling, etc. At this stage, fate and transport modeling is sometimes performed to evaluate the pathways from the various source sites to the receptors.

Subsequent stages would involve further field investigation in street right-of-way, on private property, and on the actual source sites. This may include detailed forensic data gathering, as well as site-specific fate and transport analysis and modeling, to define the location, volume, and timing of releases.