

## APPENDIX B Comments about the Conference

This section of the report presents the written comments collected from the conference evaluation forms that were provided to each participant. A total of 69 conference evaluation forms were submitted. Similar observations have been combined and paraphrased. Comments submitted by a single respondent were not paraphrased and are presented verbatim.

For some questions, participants were asked to respond by selecting from the following choices:

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

When applicable, a pie chart illustrates the percentage of responses.

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How NARPM training has helped to improve job performance.....	B-2
Strengthening the knowledge and skills that are essential to successful job performance .....	B-3
Recommending that others attend this training conference next year .....	B-3
Current topics of interest related to cleaning up sites .....	B-3
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Things to be done differently when returning to the job.....	B-6
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Policy or guidance workshops to be added.....	B-10
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Plenary session topics to be added.....	B-12
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Improving the format of the luncheon .....	B-13
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Type of exhibits to be added during future meetings.....	B-15
Suggestions for improving the NARPM Directory.....	B-15
Suggestions for improving future training conferences.....	B-15

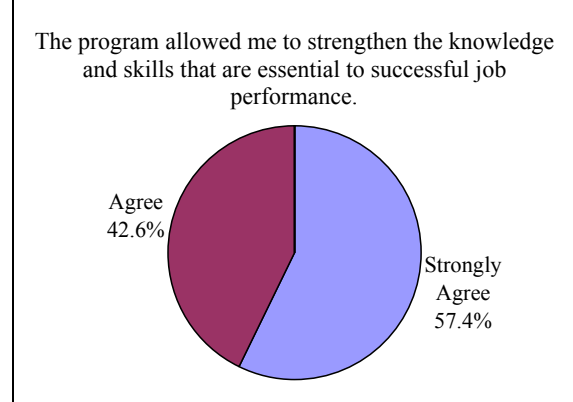
### **Comments on how NARPM training has helped to improve job performance**

- Improved technology awareness (*Four responses*). Development of RPM network (*Thirteen responses*) and other technical resources.
- Learned about application of many monitoring techniques.
- Learned about ideas and what worked.
- First NARPM; too new to really provide an opinion. This NARPM has been the most beneficial. Tuesday courses outstanding. So far the best NARPM.
- All are useful in certain aspects.
- I have gained knowledge from other RPMs with similar issues at their sites, which has allowed me to avoid reinventing the wheel and implement cleanup actions more quickly and efficiently. I have also received training and information that has allowed me to better evaluate the myriad of technical and sampling issues that are involved in site cleanups.
- Made me aware of ways other Regions handle problems and gave me ideas about new approaches I could take. Provided me with some pieces of information that I would not have learned otherwise.
- Provide good references and contacts. Socialize with others at EPA (and related) to better understand EPA group dynamics.
- Technology transfers for problem solving.
- Provided new and updated information and provided an opportunity to exchange technical information.
- Yes (*Four responses*). The opportunity to talk with RPMs who manage similar sites is extremely valuable.
- The training is good (*Two responses*) and information distribution is priceless.
- The specific training courses and units of technical and policy information are immediately useful.
- NARPM has helped me with being more knowledgeable about the latest policy and guidance. (*Four responses*)
- The information and contacts that I get from the conferences helps my job performance.
- Often the courses “piloted” at NARPM become CEC or other formal courses. We also have the formally recognized or sponsored courses and instructors.
- The NARPM conference held in 2004 was an excellent conference. This conference was also excellent and I look forward to attending future conferences. No improvement needed.
- Training on subjects needed in my job. (*Five responses*)
- Provided new tools and perspectives about site management issues that I have been able to apply. Notable past courses include RCRA 101, mining forum, field-based ground water and DNAPL tools, and ecological restoration.
- Technical, management, and historical training; improved communication and understanding with/of EPA and Federal facilities.
- The classes taught by HQ on the pipeline process and activities are very informative.
- Greatly.
- New skills, information updates, latest trends; networking, technical, and professional contacts.
- New perspectives on various topics.
- At the time I was in technical support and attended mostly technical sessions.
- Case studies.

- I have only attended two NARPM conferences, but many TSP sessions of the Engineering Forum.

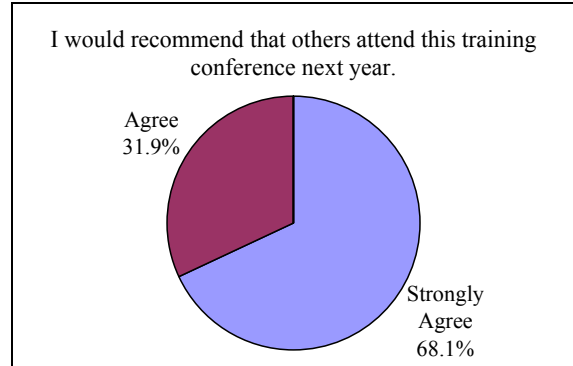
**Comments on strengthening the knowledge and skills that are essential to successful job performance**

- All of the courses were useful to me for my job. I found having a variety of courses (i.e., technical, career development, etc.) to be extremely valuable.
- I regularly use the resources and contacts to address questions about my sites.
- Soil Vapor Intrusion Assessment was my favorite.
- Classes with lectures.
- Although not all courses were valuable, some were very helpful and others were invaluable.
- The topics and trainings were spot-on and what I needed as a new-to-EPA RPM.
- I found most sessions that I attended to be highly informational and applicable to my position. I would recommend that some sessions could include more info on dealing with Fed Facilities.
- Especially good for networking with other RPMs and state people.
- In particular the Arsenic MCL and the course on TI waivers.
- Ground water optimization and real estate.



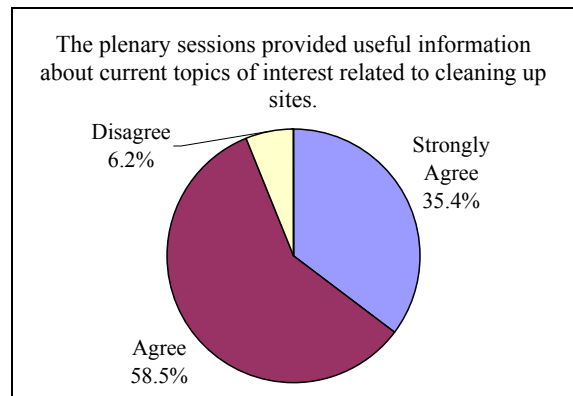
**Comments on recommending that others attend this training conference next year**

- NARPM is the only mechanism that project managers have to network and exchange information to help RPMs perform highly. (*Two responses*)
- Very well planned and overall interesting conference.
- Especially new RPMs. (*Two responses*)
- Conference was well organized and enjoyed the planned evening activities.
- We work so independently that these opportunities are important.



**Comments on current topics of interest related to cleaning up sites**

- This should be shorter sections.
- The plenary sessions are not that useful (*Two responses*). Sometimes they are entertaining, but not always directly job related.
- Some were too general and did not answer questions.
- Separate some of the talks to tech meetings so RPMs can attend “financial” or “contract.”

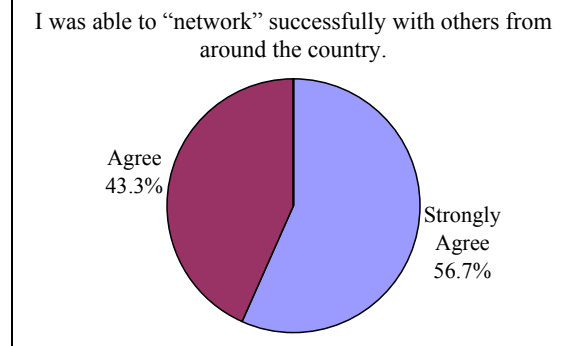


### Comments on current topics of interest related to cleaning up sites (continued)

- I liked the female speaker who covered the EPA budget (and topic).
- Mike Cook gave a great motivational speech. I suggest every conference include a motivational speaker.
- I really found all of the plenary speakers to be very informative in getting the latest information on HQ's policy and guidance that I would not normally hear in the region.
- Good updates on program information and the opportunity to hear the current status on the "State of EPA" from the decision-makers.
- Some courses were more valuable than others (*Four responses*), but all were well prepared.
- I spoke at the Thursday plenary and was happy with the response.
- Most information presented related to funding and policies.
- HSTL/ORD session probably shouldn't have been a plenary session.
- And free prizes!
- I would like to cut the Monday one in half (*Two responses*) and use the time for more training sessions or to lengthen some training sessions.
- Mike's and Susan's presentations were the highlights.
- Found the information to be very helpful with my current job.

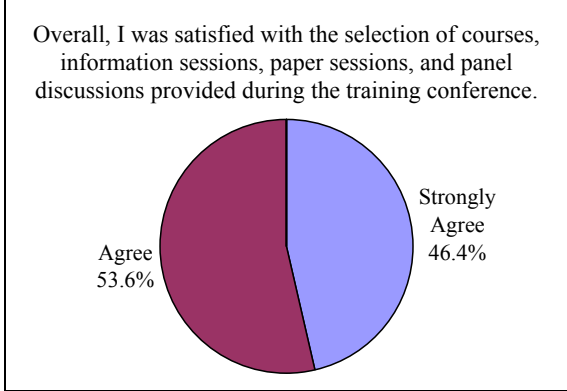
### Comments on networking successfully with others from around the country

- The activities after hours were great. Also, the coordinated breaks.
- Great opportunity, especially in the paper sessions and social activities.
- Beneficial meeting people who had similar sites with similar problems and how they handled them.
- I think this comes more with the outings!
- More "free" time during day would be appreciated.
- NARPM is a great mechanism for RPMs to use in exchanging technical and management information.
- Suggestion – include round table discussions on hot topics.
- Keep TSP business sessions in the schedule.
- I was able to visit with old colleagues from other Regions as well as making new acquaintances from around the U.S. Sessions and activities were scheduled to allow for much networking.
- This was an excellent chance to discuss site problems with other RPMs and get new ideas on how to handle them.



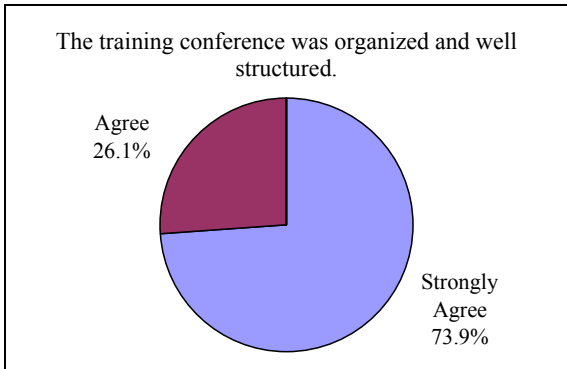
**Comments on selection of courses, information sessions, paper sessions, and panel discussions**

- The courses and panel sessions were very good this year and targeted to many areas that are changing; e.g., vapor intrusion, sediments remediation, and perchlorates.
- As always. Some of the courses I wanted to take were offered at the same time (*Two responses*). That's a problem.
- I would like to see more case studies in the class, paper, and panel session presentations.
- I would like to see more courses that will help RPMs meet their required hours of contracts management training.
- If two courses go together then registration should be required for both, otherwise you'll lose information if you don't go to both.
- The Friday field trip was a success and should be continued. Continue to seek input from RPMs on the topics that should be discussed and taught at future NARPMs.
- Please identify sessions as basic or advanced.
- I know it is easy to do PowerPoint presentations, however in some cases it was "death by PowerPoint."
- I learned in most sessions I attended.
- Please give a description about what to expect from paper and panel sessions. Panel session without attending paper discussion was difficult to follow.
- I would rather see more technical courses than career development courses.
- More Federal facility courses.
- Need to attempt to allow people to get as much training as possible.



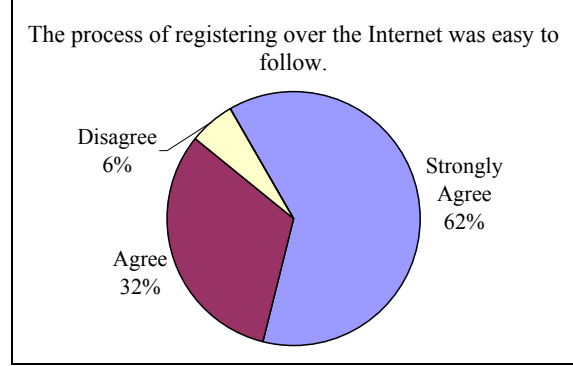
**Comments on organization of the training conference**

- Too many courses at a time which did not allow me to take all of the ones I wanted.
- It was clear that a lot of hard work went into this.
- The entire conference was remarkably well organized and addressed every aspect of participants needs. The conference booklet was a comprehensive guide to the conference. The after hours activities provided great opportunities for networking.
- The signage and maps, etc., were great.
- The NARPM co-chairs really did a great job in the planning of this conference.



**Comments on process for registering over the Internet**

- I think there needs to be a better way for RPMs who are also TSP members to register for both. *(Two responses)*
- More detail on the items online so an informed sign up at the time of registration.
- It should be clear that TSP members could register with RPMs.
- Excellent!
- Need to have a clearer ability for TSP members to sign up for business sessions as if they were courses (more visible and easier to find).
- TSP business meetings weren't on the registration.
- It can stand some improvement.
- Eliminate the "delay" for registration by engineering and ground water forum.
- Needs to allow instructors to be also participants. That was hard to do due to titles used. Need to allow system to be changed after sign-up.



**Comments on things to be done differently when returning to the job**

- Five-year review. *(Three responses)*
- Encourage interaction among other RPMs.
- Ensure I get 40 hours of contracts training.
- Bookmark new Web sites.
- E-mail others their concerns.
- Gave confidence.
- Think more strongly about eco-restoration at Superfund and state sites.
- Close out.
- Liaise with OSWER or ORD staff regarding vapor intrusion.
- Know more about sediment pore water sampling.
- Try to incorporate Visual Sample Planning (VSP) *(Six responses)* into INL fieldwork.
- Know LNAPL does not follow pancake model.
- Approach community citizens with more empathy.
- Incorporate more levels of ICs in upcoming RODs.
- Evaluate current LTM programs and make them better with LTMO.
- Media training was a different take on ones I had had in the past and very good. I will look at interviews with new people a little differently. *(Two responses)*
- Look into who is my regional contact on Asbestos Subcommittee and implications for Brownfields or Superfund work on asbestos risk levels.
- Ground water optimization.
- Will work on updating the Idaho National Laboratory QAPP.
- Communication. *(Two responses)*
- IC.
- Organize e-mails.
- Work. *(Three responses)*

**Comments on things to be done differently when returning to the job (continued)**

- I will pursue the project management certification.
- Volunteered as co-chair of Ground Water Forum Committee.
- LTRA/O&M/LTMO.
- Begin earlier than I originally planned on the process for the closeout and FCOR at one of my NPL sites.
- Let USACE know how EPA feels about performance based contracts.
- Have, and ask, that USACE require regular contract training.
- Turn deserted sites to more ecologically viable sites.
- I am a bit more comfortable with the EPA people I am working with now that I have gotten to know them.
- Organize and plan for meetings better. (*Five responses*)
- Have a better understanding of the CERCLA process.
- Improve community relation interaction.
- Have greater interaction with HQ. (*Two responses*)
- Got some interesting ideas for ROD/reuse for one of my sites.
- Consider other types of remedies, such as bioremediation.
- I will look at more NARPM events and more EPA information.
- I have a better appreciation for the need and importance of the site-wide ready for re-use reporting requirements.
- Consult more with outside entities.
- More interaction with fellow RPMs to discuss issues. (*Two responses*)
- Insist on a copy of the ESF 10 SOW when responding to the next disaster to oversee contractors.
- Get more familiar with VSP software before I orient my counterparts.
- Brief regional RPMs on vapor intrusion.
- Have crucial conversations with people I have avoided.
- Look at vapor intrusion more carefully. (*Two responses*)
- Understand how commercial real estate transactions are brokered.
- Better crucial conversations.
- Give Triad a chance.
- Project management was helpful to understand the complexities of the job.
- Interact more with other regions.
- Follow up with creation of PCOR document.
- I now have contacts from Regions 1 and 3 to help follow developments in state regulations of perchlorate.
- Cost estimates.
- New technologies that can be applied.
- Consider lessons learned by other RPMs.
- Consider consulting ORD, and seek help on projects.
- With a better understanding of performance-based contracting, I will be able to evaluate situations where such a contract may be reasonable.
- LNAPLs class was particularly relevant to discussion now going on my site. I am taking several copies of materials back to my contractor, state counterparts and PRP for discussion.

**Comments on things to be done differently when returning to the job (continued)**

- Have a more educated approach to Brownfields and real estate transactions.
- I will be much more effective in selecting sediments remedies at Aberdeen Proving Ground on the Chesapeake Bay. One remedy might cost up to 30 million dollars if excavation were selected.
- I will have my contractor review long-term optimization proposals.
- I will be much better prepared to address vapor intrusion at my sites (*Two responses*). This is an issue at Aberdeen Proving Ground at multiple areas.
- Assist DOD on ICs implementation and oversight.
- Look at ground water and surface water interaction.
- Explore options with ERT for lead ground water problem.
- Find the mining forum.
- Look into the use of pre-screening tools that can help focus RI sampling (Casmalia Site in Region 9).
- Will try to arrange to get involved in next disaster response we are called to.
- Manage construction job more effectively.
- At the pre-SARA five-year review, I will recommend an ESD or ROD-amendment to justify adding an Institutional Control to protect from residual contamination left in place.
- Expedite the approval process for my projects.
- More thorough evaluation of project schedules.
- Additional emphasis on ecological restoration on sites.
- Stronger pursuit to NAPL remediation.
- Re-examine my Long-term Monitoring Optimization.
- Hard to say as I was not able to stay the week due to budget issues. I could not attend many sessions.
- Ask Navy about the PERF for BRAC bases.
- Look more closely when cost estimating the job.
- Have a better understanding of the cleanup process and able to discuss with contractor.
- Attempt to work more in teams.
- I made contacts with some USACE folks different from the site Project managers I normally work with that I think will be helpful
- Apply conflict management techniques to both my professional and personal life.
- I will consider a ground water monitoring optimization for one of my sites.
- Apply improved project management techniques.
- Evaluation of indoor air.
- Re-evaluate the options for DNAPL treatment at my site.
- Modify my community involvement strategy based on the risk communication course.
- Collaborate more with other RPMs facing similar issues.
- See if I can dredge one of my sites.
- Refer to training notes and materials whenever needed.
- Good networking; have new resources to go to.
- EPA farther along on soil vapor intrusion than I thought.
- Reinforced my soil vapor survey opinions (methodology, etc.).
- Collect more information regarding the problems and concerns.

**Comments on things to be done differently when returning to the job (continued)**

- I will contact other RPMs who are having the same issues and share information.
- Feel better about being an RPM.

**Comments on topics or courses which should be omitted**

- Partial deletions. Until instructors get a better handle on definitions and policy for contaminated parcel boundaries and IC implementation.
- Paper presentations and courses should be presented at plenary sessions as well as speakers' courses.
- Ground water optimization. Omit or retire for a while or shorten; the case study did nothing to add to this.
- The project management course was disappointing. Case study discussion was not effective in giving us advice on how to be better project managers, use time wisely, or have better organization skills.
- Offer and identify group of courses that would be useful for each phase of our job.
- Dealing with difficult people, value engineering, innovative technologies.
- Triad.

**Comments on technical workshops to be added**

- I did not get to attend the IC workshop so please offer it again.
- A contracting class or two or three.
- Lessons from remedy enhancements to pump and treat.
- Multi-increment sampling. For example, Chuck Ramsey's (envirostat course).
- Emerging contaminant sessions.
- Experience in cost estimates and procurement.
- A course for cost savings and optimization for construction and O&M.
- More bioremediation courses.
- Consider adding more case studies from different regions on vapor intrusion.
- Currently only Raymark is the benchmark and this site was discussed two years in a row.
- In situ chemical oxidation.
- RMP legal liabilities.
- RI/FS comparisons of past and present.
- Enforcement. Writing useful modifications and comments to PRP deliverables.
- Expand mining session.
- Natural Attenuation Workshop update, as technology is evolving.
- Continue including vapor intrusion.
- Review of ROD of the year and the short list.
- Highlights from latest five-year reviews from HQ perspective.
- Implementation of ICs. Including actual selection of the ICs, negotiating with state partners to the actual recordation process (what is required, what legal instruments should be used, etc.).
- I would like to suggest that having an attorney who specializes in title or property law on the panel would be helpful. (This may help improve consistency across the Regions.)
- Use of wetlands for remediation.

**Comments on technical workshops to be added (continued)**

- Hurricane response should be expanded from two hours to four hours to allow adequate time for each speaker and audience questions.
- RATS: computer-based tool for inputting field-based data.
- Phytoremediation.
- Environmental statistics including, “How many samples to take.”
- Federal facilities relationship building with EPA communication or management training (EPA, State, DOD partnering).
- RSE. Hydrogeologic case studies and data sources for optimization or “plume control” and clean up.
- Contracts with fewer hurricane examples.
- After attending the LNAPL course, would be interested in a similar DNAPL course.
- In-situ bioremediation.
- Geophysical methods for environmental sites.
- A more in depth Triad course should be added. (*Two responses*)
- “Dealing with Manufactured Gas Plants.”
- Managing uncertainty.
- MMRP/UXO training could be added for Federal facilities representatives.
- Emergency management advanced training.
- Base re-alignment workshop.
- UXO/MEC forum.
- “In situ” Monitoring; what to look for.
- Engineering the RD. What is the plume doing during the lag time?
- More Remedial Design/Remedial Action courses.
- RCRA facilities lead remediation training.
- There seems to be confusion at both management and staff levels on how remedy option affects future costs and requirements.
- Ensure overview of emergency response and how that transitions to RPMs. Like for example the Katrina response, how it evolved to how the RPMs got involved; could be a plenary session.
- Nanotechnologies.
- Tuesday’s LNAPL course and Geology/Hydrogeology Basics were excellent.
- Federal facility early transfer process.
- Landfills and their long term management.
- Expand the attorney/RPM panel to focus on legal issues that affect cleanups and RPMs.
- CERCLIS.
- Would like to see these and similar courses continued or expanded.
- Courses which deal with differences in techniques, policy, and legal issues of containment remedies as compared to remediation remedies.

**Comments on policy or guidance workshops to be added**

- Contracting (*Four responses*) workshop to help RPMs reach the required 40 hours of training.
- NCP guidance.
- MNA evaluations.

**Comments on policy or guidance workshops to be added (continued)**

- LTRA calculations.
- Construction completion.
- Redevelopment guidance with acceptable time frames.
- Site-wide ready for reuse.
- CERCLIS.
- Cost estimating.
- CERCLA guidance
- Federal facilities guidance on partial deletion definitions should be added to the Federal facility information session or make this topic a Federal facility workshop.
- Changes to RODs (nuts and bolts of what is a minor modification versus ESP versus amendments) with case studies.
- Reuse and non-NPL sites. (*Two responses*)
- Superfund reauthorization updates.
- More on institutional controls from practical perspective. Need case studies of good examples and bad ones.
- BRAC.
- Did not notice any H&S courses which could be added.
- No, these should be done at local level.
- Reuse.
- Panel on upcoming policy and guidance.
- Value engineering.
- Hands on workshop on tools available.
- ICs.

**Comments on professional or managerial workshops to be added**

- More advanced workshops on mining issues.
- How to effectively deal with politics when they greatly impact your site.
- More on workshops working with attorneys.
- Presentation skills. (*Two responses*)
- Inter-personal skills.
- NCP overview (especially for newer RPMs and as a refresher for older RPMs).
- IC workshop.
- Communicating CERCLA to the public skills.
- Certified project management overview (two hours).
- Leading productive teams (building successful teams).
- Decision-making under uncertainties.
- Hands-on project management skills from experienced RPMs.
- Time management and organizational skills improvement.
- Maybe some additional contract training to give RPMs the opportunity to obtain credit toward the 40 hour COR requirement.
- More advanced workshops on ground water remediation.
- Contracts management.

**Comments on professional or managerial workshops to be added (continued)**

- Media relations skills.
- Mediating between State and PRPs and or Federal facilities.
- Engineering.
- Geological.
- More advanced workshops on sediment remediation.

**Comments on plenary session topics to be added**

- A local organization, or person (not governmental), that can discuss how they or their organization has improved the environment or have achieved success. A good example was Bill Toon of the San Diego Wild Animal Park during NARPM 2001. Bill gave a great lecture on the Wild Animal Park, his career, and his passion for his work. More of us should be as enthusiastic and dedicated to a fulfilling life.
- More high level HQ policy issues; e.g., how budget cuts are changing the agency's ability to meet our goals, how HQs is dealing with new edicts from OMB, etc. (I am sorry if this was covered, but I missed the first day.)
- Local speakers (*Two responses*) like the ACOE on closing plenary and LDEQ opening plenary.
- More UXO/MEC.
- Implementing ICS; vapor intrusion, impact of five-year reviews. How to handle new MCLs during five-year reviews.
- Trends nationally on Superfund program.
- Continue having a local environmental leader speak on opening day. Try to get new material for the speakers who give a plenary talk each year.
- Area specific presentations.
- Overviews of programs and emerging policies should continue. Sessions should also continue to present the support programs and tools available to RPMs.
- Announcements of last years ROD of the year and other specific Superfund national awards such as team awards, RPMs of the year (do the Oscar thing without the fashion show and acceptance speeches).
- I think we need to hear from HQ to determine the future of Superfund.

**Comments on plenary session topics to be omitted**

- Reduce the number of and time devoted to EPA headquarters speakers.
- Was not impressed by the speech in which the speaker mainly tried to stroke the egos of RPMs and emphasize how important their work is. She seemed much unprepared.

**Comments on improving the format of the plenary sessions**

- Really rushed pace during conference info portion. It was hard for everyone to absorb all day and after hour's information.
- Continue having policy makers and agency leaders provide their input.
- Presentations were informative, but not thought-provoking.
- Contract courses should be early.
- Shorter morning (*Three responses*) and closing sessions with the closing on Thursday afternoon.
- Keep the door prizes. They do motivate people to stay.

**Comments on improving the format of the plenary sessions(continued)**

- It is unfortunate that the conference started on Monday morning. For some of us, travel on Sunday was not possible, so we missed this first session. Please try to start on Tuesday morning in the future.
- Fewer speakers on opening day.
- Format is fine. Need speakers from a greater cross-section, such as from industry, municipalities, and public.

**Comments on improving the format of the luncheon**

- It was fine as planned.
- No suggestions; it was very well organized and presented.
- Good food. Continue to provide good assortment of vegetarian selections. Good to hear information from EPA contacts to Congress because it let us know and gave us insight into our contacts' difficulties.
- No improvement needed!
- Let people know who are getting awards so that they can be present and honored. If not, a replacement should accept the award. The award ceremony can be more formal.
- Great format! (*Six responses*)
- Movie and or video presentation. Maybe emergency management.
- Food for vegetarians!! Please put more thought into vegetarian options by including entrees with protein, etc.
- Betsy Sutherland was great! (*Four responses*)
- I felt like Betsy Sutherland was telling the truth.

**Comments on time allowed and information provided to respond to the call for papers**

- Hard to avoid conflicts with work schedule.
- More time.
- Some of the panels got off and rambled.
- Too new to Superfund program to prepare a paper so I was not following the call for papers. (*Two responses*)
- Not always. Speakers sometimes went over.
- Plenty of time was allowed.
- I wouldn't have submitted a paper.
- Excellent!

**Comments on organization of the panel sessions and paper discussions**

- The timing was good, in that one could move from one session to another without walking in on a half-way completed session.
- Some of them where some need a time keeper. (*Four responses*)
- For the most part many were a little to technical. More applications would be helpful.
- Yes and No. Some were very well organized and others were not. (*Five responses*)
- Excellent!
- Most of the panel sessions were well-organized in their entirety (subjects covered, experts selected, presentation quality), but one or two could have been managed to allow for more discussion time.

### **Comments on organization of the panel sessions and paper discussions (continued)**

- One panel session on Design and Construction was done only by one person. If it is a panel session would like the entire panel to speak and present so we know whom to ask questions.
- Those I saw were good.
- Some ran out of time before actual discussion could take place.
- Can a contractor or someone make copies of speakers' presentations and hand them out during presentation for those whose handouts aren't ready beforehand? (Probably speakers' fault, but hurts the attendees.)
- Speakers often went too long to ask more than one or two questions.
- Some of the sessions revealed a lack of adequate planning (i.e., ground water paper session).
- There were a lot of good questions from the audience and two of the presentations were cut off prior to completion. A panel session is better when panelists just give some background verbally and answer questions.

### **Comments on panel session and paper discussion topics to be added**

- I got more from informational sessions.
- RSE, hydrological considerations.
- Ordnance location, remediation, and destruction. A session on chemical weapons would be interesting and good background for RPMs that might have to respond to a terrorist event. A session on what might happen if a dirty bomb were set off could also be part of that session and could cover the basics of radiation and radiation response.
- Tips for being organized by RPMs and for RPMs.
- Panel of all managers and higher ups so they can hear from RPMs directly.
- UXO/MEC specific.

### **Comments on panel session and paper discussion topics to be omitted**

- Ecological reuse (creative ideas).

### **Comments on advertisement of after hour activities**

- Earlier information on the details. (*Four responses*)
- Have information available on the bulletin board and any updates. Hospitality suite was not well advertised. Found out by word of mouth.
- Kudos to those that organized after hours activities. They were fun and well done.
- The ability to sign up or cancel out at the last minute (or almost) was very nice.
- Picnic should be close enough to get to without a car. (*Two responses*)
- Well advertised and well run. I appreciate the community service and think you should consider doing that everywhere.
- Lower cost alternatives. (*Three responses*)
- They were great (*Two responses*). It was good to have several options.
- Some RPMs that went home on Friday that would have stayed for the field trip or work project.
- Registration for activities at time of conference registration didn't necessarily result in being "on the list" by the time of the conference; timing of "second e-mail" to confirm registration didn't work for me as I was out of the office during period before date of that e-mail to after date for response (my response after due date but prior to conference was apparently ignored). All this likely impacted the transportation difficulties and other confusion. Other than this, the History Tour and volleyball/picnic were well done.

**Comments on advertisement of after hour activities (continued)**

- More “volleyball time” at picnic.
- Better coordinate transportation for off-site events.
- The city tour was great. Should be offered at all meetings.
- No improvement needed.
- Loved the history tour. It was a great, cheap idea.
- Keep it simple. Work out logistics way in advance.
- The advertising was very close to the conference and the prices weren’t completely set until the conference started. The tour was excellent, though.
- Coordinate local attendance on “guide” tours.

**Comments on type of exhibits to be added during future meetings**

- FEMA emergency management.
- Maybe some additional information.
- I liked the addition of the SERDP but there was no one to talk to just the table.
- Keep ERT internet cafe! (*Two responses*)
- I really liked that you had extra copies of handouts available, so that even if you could not attend a particular session, you could have the notes.
- Reminders and additional time to visit the resource area.
- I enjoyed the Superfund photos (*Two responses*). Maybe next year do some Hurricane Katrina photos.
- There is very little free time between sessions!

**Comments on suggestions for improving the NARPM Directory**

- Excellent job.
- Thank you!
- Add expertise.
- Add the ground water forum reps; add the RSE regional representatives.
- No improvement needed.
- Have not used yet. (*Two responses*)
- Include e-mail addresses and format the directory so an accurate list of all RPMs can be maintained, and updated regularly by NARPM.
- List specialties of the RPMs (i.e., sites). List all of FFRRO (*Two responses*) and the staff assignments.
- Please continue to update.

**Comments on suggestions for improving future training conferences**

- Thanks for giving me a chance to participate.
- Invite OSCs and managers to conference. The course catalog was not very easy to follow especially when you are looking for course descriptions.
- Thursday’s Plenary and TIFSD’s top Web sites should be place on NARPM PM Web site!
- I prefer locations where hotel is near pedestrian-oriented areas of the town and services (restaurants, shops, etc.), as opposed to isolated “destination” locations where cars are needed for everything.

### **Comments on suggestions for improving future training conferences (continued)**

- Bulletin board for ride-sharing to airports. Repeat the “Intro to Geology” because it had a great topic and speaker. Identify the “intro” and “advanced” courses better. Add an “advanced” eco-restoration course.
- The overall quality of the conference was exceptional, especially considering that it was pulled together by people who are extremely busy with their job responsibilities. Kudos to all who help pull this off. I was irritated by some of the nitpicking comments from some RPMs at the closing session, who probably did not lift a finger to help.
- Thanks for opening to state environmental workers. I am from Mass DEP and had an excellent experience at this conference.
- Well done conference. Thank you! Some of the presenters had slides that were hard to read. Create and or enforce PowerPoint standards.
- Thanks for a well organized and informative conference. I found it invaluable to meet people for HQ and discuss my site with fellow RPMs from different regions. Thanks.
- Coordinate with TSP earlier.
- Group courses for both advertising and schedule to allow people to take groups of courses without conflicts. For example, Hydrogeology and Ground Water/Surface Water courses were offered at same time (kept people from attending one of courses). Indicate what courses are for new RPMs and try to group those or track them.
- By Thursday I was “PowerPointed” out. I noticed a significant drop in attendance. Perhaps make the field trip on Wednesday to give us a break. End the day by 4:30 or 5 at the latest. Food and accommodations were great. Bob’s yoga class was an unexpected treat.
- Please make sure the handouts (slides) are legible before they are used as handouts. If the font size is less than 10, they are not easily readable and will be hard to use as a reference at our jobs.
- Reference to policy or guidance workshops to be added. EPA HQ is stating that non-NPL going to states, but reality is if the state, or other pressures make RPM part of it we still have to deal with them and they’re not going away! More Federal facility training for both NPL and non-NPL. I heard that the geology/hydrogeology class was great the demos with the water boxes and was great to help understanding from about six people.
- Please ask or require the hotel to put out bottled water at the breaks along with coffee, tea, and soda. You will find it will be quite popular (despite the fact that each room has pitchers of ice water).
- Since budgets are being cut, don’t count on people having cars. Thanks for the rescue from the park! It was great to be able to walk to shop and eat. I have been stuck in a hotel with nothing around before, and it was not a good experience. This was great. Thanks.
- Overall, for someone like myself who has just started working in the RPM field, I found that the courses were perfectly geared so that I understood the topic clearly. The courses I took were technical, but they were delivered well so that I could understand and also the people who have several years experience could benefit from.
- Overall, it was excellent.

**Comments on suggestions for improving future training conferences (continued)**

- I mentioned to someone while I was there about the doors to the conference rooms being locked. I know it is a logistical matter and that bringing it up now may not appear to make a great deal of sense. However, perhaps the general idea, making sure the rooms is accessible and things are set up to minimize the number of disturbances to the sessions, can be kept in mind for next year. The problem was that some of the doors, and for one session I attended, all of the doors were locked. This meant making unnecessary noise when trying to get into a room. In the case where all the doors were locked, people who trying to come in were continually rattling them as they went from one locked door to another. In general, I thought Tetra Tech and Gary Turner did a great job. Thanks!!
- Offer advanced level courses. Maps in the on-site guides could include restroom locations, especially if meeting rooms are on several floors. Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make this years conference a very successful event.
- I would recommend NARPM to all new RPMs as the sessions were for the most part highly informative!
- Conference guide was good. As a new RPM, I really liked the mix of some basic courses and more technical courses. I really liked being able to attend some basic classes.
- Thank you for making your program available to a non-EPA federal worker.
- The conference was well organized and effective. My only suggestions are to liven up the opening plenary with speakers from more diverse backgrounds, such as industry, municipalities, the public, and to use the evaluation forms to decide which training sessions to retain, modify, or discontinue.
- I saw one recycling receptacle one day. This is not acceptable. This is a meeting of environmental regulators, and, as such, it needs to be a model of environmental sustainability. Providing an opportunity for recycling, and use of recycled-content materials, would seem to be in keeping with our mission, wouldn't you think? On the plus side, this is an excellent conference; the HQ and Tetra Tech staff has done an overall excellent job. Just, please provide for recycling!
- Congratulations to organizers; they achieved results that were beneficial for all of us RPMs. Keep the good work. Thanks.
- Courses that have been offered in regional offices should be clearly marked during registration. I accidentally signed up for something I had recently taken at my office. I then had to find another open class. This could have been avoided.
- Great job! Great location! Access to lunch and dinner outside of the hotel kept me in class for all sessions!
- A great effort. Suggest the various groups (Forums, Branch Chiefs, etc.) continue to hook up with NARPM each year. In order to avoid Sunday travel, we may have to do more concurrent sessions, but I think this can work.
- I really liked that contractors were kept to a minimum, and that the focus was on the EPA and state perspective. This way, every topic did not come off as a sales pitch, as it is so often the case at other conferences. Great job! Suggestion: better advertise to State governments.