

Groundwater Central[®] Demonstration
Ground-Water Remediation Technologies Analysis Center (GWRTAC)

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Abstract: The Ground-Water Remediation Technologies Analysis Center (GWRTAC), operated by CTC and the University of Pittsburgh, has provided innovative ground-water and soil remediation technology information to interested stakeholders through a variety of avenues since 1995: its web site (www.gwrtac.org), conferences, exhibits, and on-line training sessions. More than 230,000 customers (from federal/state governments, private companies, and academia) have accessed the web site, downloading over 225,000 copies of GWRTAC reports.

GWRTAC has recently begun a new initiative, *Groundwater Central[®]*, which will be demonstrated at the meeting. *Groundwater Central[®]* is a centralized portal where links to existing web-based information are organized into a user-friendly, searchable framework. Information such as on-line publications, technology performance and cost information, scientific data, and case studies of site problems and solutions, announcements for conferences and workshops, requests for proposals, etc. are included. This unique effort to link these resources *at the sub-page or downloadable file level* at a single, searchable web-site location will be a valuable, time-saving resource for environmental management and technical personnel. The on-line debut of *Groundwater Central[®]* is scheduled for fall 2001, with ongoing enhancements planned for the future.

Information types to be organized via links from *Groundwater Central[®]* include:

Publications / Bibliographies

- On-line Publication or Report
- On-line Abstract, Bibliography, Book or Journal Reference
- Conference/Symposium Proceedings
- Archived Meeting Minutes
- Archived Newsletter

Vendor & Market Information

- Market Information
- Venture Capital Information
- Consultant (Full-Service) Information
- Specialty Vendor Information
- Patent Information

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Case Studies

- Case Study (Government Owned or Sponsored Site)
- Case Study (Private Site)

Science & Technology Solutions

- Technology or Project Description
- R&D Effort Description
- Success Story
- Lessons Learned

Information Databases or Data Repositories

- Case Study Database Link
- Soil Quality Data Link
- Groundwater Level Data Link
- Groundwater Quality Data Link
- Vendor Database Link
- Publications Database Link
- Water Usage Database Link

Agencies, Associations, & Partnerships

- Grant or Program Link
- Federal Agency Link or Public/Private Partnership Link
- Professional Association Link
- Academic / R&D Institution Link
- State Regulatory Agency Link

Networking, Education & Training

- Workshop Announcement
- Educational Course Announcement
- Open House, Field Trip, Site Demonstration Announcement
- Newsgroup Links
- Point of Contact Information
- Web Board / Chat Room Links

Events, News, & Opportunities

- Meeting Announcement
- Conference, Seminar, or Symposium Announcement
- Call for Abstract, Paper, or Poster
- Press Release / News Item
- Request for Proposal Announcement

GWRTAC has created *Groundwater Central*[®] using SQL Server 7.0 software to provide a very robust database compatible with the desired level of web-enablement. GWRTAC staff will modify the database as needed, as well as maintain the database; all data input and some administration functions occur via a password-protected Internet location. *Groundwater Central*[®] is link-based, so that the information contained within the database is that needed to define each record (record titles, record description, dates and locations, points of contact, and active hyperlinks) and aid in record searching. Multiple dates, points of contact, and hyperlinks can be input for any given record. The customer must follow the hyperlinks to gain access to the detailed information. Each record will also be cataloged by selections in relevant categories (such as information type, source, and topic, vendor services, vadose-zone science, specific characterization or remediation technologies, and specific contaminants or contaminant classes). All of these categories are input and queried by checkbox, so that as many choices as are applicable to a given record (or query) can be selected by data input personnel and by the customer. The hyperlinks are to the specific web location where further detailed information is already available, where on-line

documents can be downloaded, or where an existing database can be searched to obtain the specific information desired.

Queries of two types (check boxes corresponding to the cataloging categories or keyword searches) are available at the user interface to ensure GWRTAC customers can retrieve the information they need. The category data will be input and queried by checkbox rather than pull-down menus to minimize the need for the customer to perform multiple searches. However, if the customer desires to have separate results for refined searches, this option is open, by simply constructing separate searches. Keyword searches of all text fields are also in place, so that the customer is not constrained by the checkboxes. Thus, the record description and all other text fields can be searched by keyword.

The *Groundwater Central*[®] customer will have a choice of report format for records returned after a database query. One type of report is presented in a tabular format, so that the record title and hyperlinks are displayed compactly, and the remaining information available for the record (record description, point of contact information, etc.) is a click away. The second report option includes the content of all relevant data input fields so that additional linking to view all of the available information is not necessary. Both types of reports are formatted in a printer-friendly manner.

GWRTAC will announce the debut of *Groundwater Central*[®] to promote its active use, to encourage both private and government entities with relevant information to submit data or web links to GWRTAC for inclusion in the database, and to solicit comments and feedback as part of a continuous improvement process. GWRTAC hopes to achieve recognition for *Groundwater Central*[®] as the first place to look for www-based information. GWRTAC will collect statistical information on customer usage of *Groundwater Central*[®] to determine patterns and to assist in targeting outreach efforts. Please forward any feedback regarding design, functionality, or content to us at gwrnac@gwrnac.org.