

LUNCHEON SPEAKER

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

12:00pm – 1:30pm, *Cabrillo*

Building Trust via Technical Outreach at a Complex Project: PG&E's Chromium-6 Groundwater Remediation Program at Hinkley, CA

Dr. Ian A. Webster, Project Navigator, Ltd., Brea, CA

More than 15 years ago, PG&E's chromium-6 (Cr-6) groundwater impacts in the small southern California desert town of Hinkley, to the west of Barstow, garnered national attention as a result of a large financial settlement between PG&E and Community members. The year-2000 movie Erin Brockovich followed, and further raised the profile of the situation and the remediation project. Today, Cr-6 plume work is more active than ever. A groundwater Cr-6 plume, up to 1 to 2 miles wide and perhaps as long as 7 miles long, has emanated from the former cooling water tower disposal ponds at PG&E's gas compressor station. The exact distribution of PG&E's Cr-6 release is highly debated, since the aquifer contains naturally occurring (background) Cr-6. An extensive (interim) plume containment and Cr-6 treatment remediation program is ongoing, while PG&E and the Water Board define the final solution and clean up targets. In 2011, PG&E and the Water Board, together with key Hinkley residents, realized that a mechanism was required to provide independent technical advice to the Community. The stakeholders retained Dr. Ian A. Webster of Project Navigator, Ltd. to serve in the role of Independent Review Program (IRP) Manager. The IRP Manager works for the Community and is funded by PG&E. This talk will describe how the IRP Manager has approached the combined challenges of technical outreach, mediation, communications and building trust.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Dr. Ian A. Webster is the founder and president of Project Navigator, Ltd. Since founding PNL in 1997, Dr. Webster has worked to establish the firm as a respected team of problem solvers who focus on large, complex, regulatory impacted, remediation projects. He has created a company culture that strongly relies on the use of visual techniques to promote site conditions understanding, options development, and project problem solving.

With degrees from Strathclyde University, Cornell University, and MIT, Dr. Webster has an extensive understanding of oil driven (tank farm, refinery, oil field and pipeline) remediation projects and remedial approaches. He has worked and is currently working on remediation planning and implementation for complex projects such as PG&E's Cr6 Hinkley Groundwater Remediation Program, Honolulu Harbor Superfund Site, MAR Services Site (Lafayette, LA), and Operating Industries Inc. Superfund Site (Monterey Park, CA).

