Programs to facilitate exchange of risk assessment information among states: The State Hazard Evaluation Lending Program (StateHELP)

Kroner O*, Dourson M, Patterson J, Maier A, Wullenweber A

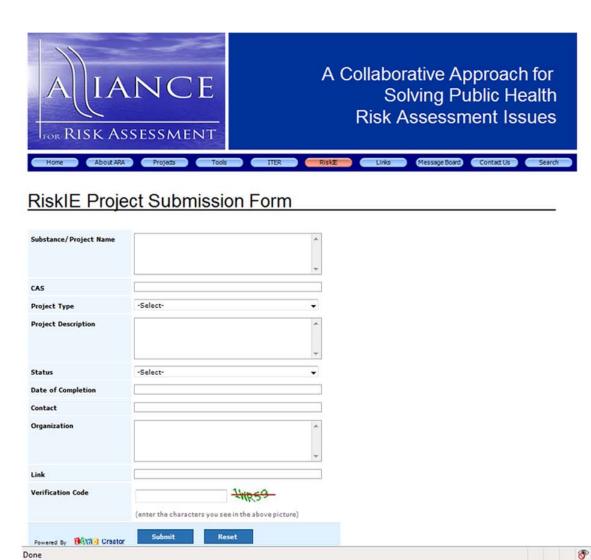
Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA)

State and local risk assessors are often faced with pressing public health issues, with limited access to the funding, special expertise, or time resources necessary to conduct a complex risk assessment or evaluate submitted risk assessments. Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA)'s StateHELP Program (State Hazard Evaluation Lending Program) offers U.S. state and local government agencies a limited amount of free technical support to assist with human health risk assessments. To demonstrate the need for such technical assistance programs, a sampling of the variety of challenging risk issues received and addressed by the StateHELP program is presented. Projects described include

- 1) California: Providing risk assessment input for the California Green Chemistry Initiative,
- 2) Ohio: Identifying potential risks posed by the application of biocides applied to a golf course located atop a local water supply,
- 3) Hawai'i & Texas: compiling literature regarding dietary exposure to arsenic in soil for public health agencies,
- 4) North Carolina: developing a cooperative agreement with the Army at Fort Bragg to purchase and preserve 13,000 acres of red cockaded woodpecker habitat
- 5) Illinois: Comparing the National Academy of Science's evaluation of the trichloroethylene (TCE) toxicity data to risk values used by state governemnts.

The need for State and local assistance is compounded by limited venues for formal communication among agencies, often resulting in overlapping assessments and unnecessary costs. StateHELP provides for enhanced transfer of risk assessment methods technology through links with multi-state risk groups. In addition, a recent tool the Risk Information Exchange (RiskIE) available for free at www.allianceforrisk.org/RisklE.htm, has been developed to further enhance such interstate information transfer. RiskIE is a resource of the Alliance for Risk Assessment (ARA) and provides another tool to discover opportunities for collaboration by identifying parallel assessment efforts by different agencies or groups.

ITWORKS HOW



TERA's StateHELP program is offered through the Alliance for Risk Assessment (ARA), StateHELP offers each state 10 free hours of expert assistance per year. To request help, a risk assessor should enter a brief description of the project using the form shown

Once received, the project is reviewed by the ARA Steering Committee. The Steering Committee, comprised of federal and state government, private sector, tribal, environmental, and academic representatives, alerts the group to any similar work being conducted in their respective sectors. Upon approval, the project's progress is publicly announced and tracked on the Risk Information Exchange (RiskIE) to keep other groups abreast of activity.

Illinois: Trichloroethylene (TCE) Risk Management Values of U.S. States

U.S. states have numerous regulatory values based on sometimes outdated dose response assessment information. Using the survey of State risk management values conducted by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Illinois has asked for StateHELP assistance reviewing and summarizing these values in light of recent reviews of TCE's toxicity.

epresents states which have used State Hazard Evaluation and Lending

Program (State HELP) assisstance in 2008, which is part of TERA's

contribution to the Alliance for Risk Assessment (ARA).

California: Green Chemistry Initiative: Scientific Advisory Panel for the California Department of Toxic Substance Control

California utilized StateHELP assistance by inviting a TERA scientist to participate as a member of the Green Chemistry Initiative Science Advisory Panel. The Panel has completed its report on advancing green chemistry in California. The report describes the development of green chemistry options, and presents 38 possible options for moving forward.



Hawai'i Department of Health & Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Years of pesticide use on sugar cane fields have produced elevated arsenic levels in Hawai'i's soils. Hawai'i Department of Health wanted to protect residents from __ chronic exposre, and requested StateHELP assistance to pull together relevant scientific literature. When the Alliance for Risk Assessment received the request, it was discovered that the state of Texas was also preparing a

The ARA contacted both groups, and identified areas where the projects may overlap. A single literature search was conducted. Duplication of effort was avoided.

Ohio Wellhead Protection

When plans for a golf course development called for the use of pesticides and fertilizers on the land atop the community wellhead, the concerned citizens of Athens, Ohio approached the SteatHELP program for assistance. Together, the groups are working to compare leaching potential of broadly used agricultural pesticides in Ohio to the leaching potential of the chemicals slated for use. The citizens are also promoting the commercial appeal of an organic golf course, which would reduce the risk of accidental spills or misuse.

North Carolina: Sandhills Area Land Trust (SALT)

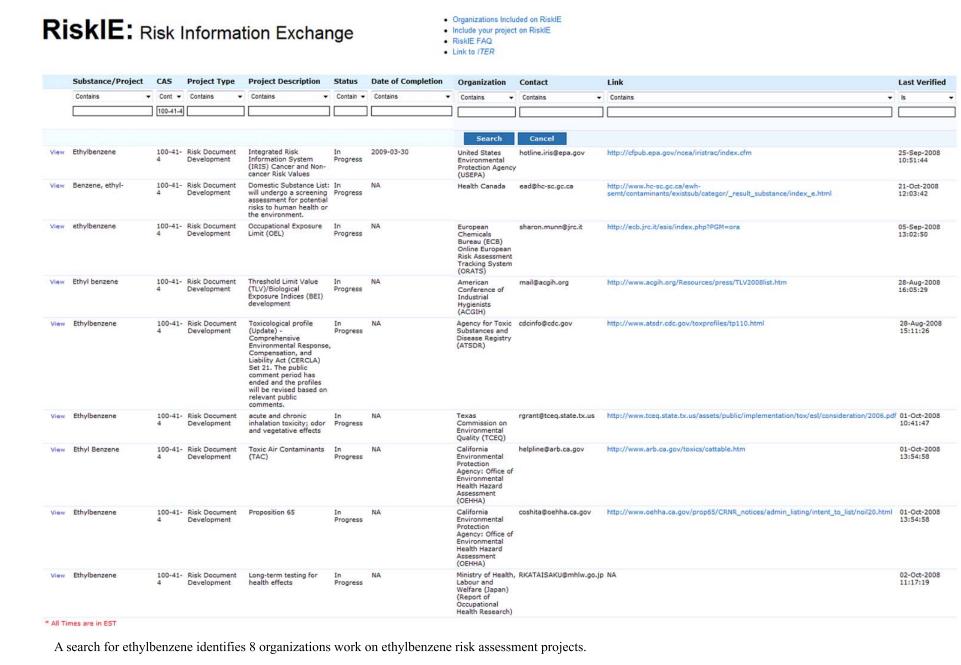
StateHELP helped write a cooperative agreement between the Army at Fort Bragg and the Sandhills Area Land Trust (SALT) to purchase and preserve 13,000 acres of red cockaded woodpecker habitat. SALT will do the work to acquire the property and manage it; the Army will pay for the land and get to use it to conduct their special forces survival training.

PATH FORWARD

In the absence of federal risk values, state risk assessors are sometimes left to fend for themselves. TERA's State Hazard Evaluation Lending Program (StateHELP) offers each state 10 hours of free expert assistance each year. To date this assistance has been utilized by many states for a variety of purposes as described here.

Given a limited supply of time, resources, and know-how, public health protection is an effort that requires cooperation, organization, and prioritization. TERA's StateHELP program is offered through the Alliance for Risk Assessment, a team of organizations that works to connect groups working on similar issues, to efficiently focus financial and technical resources, and ultimately increase the quality and quantity of risk information produced.

Central to this effort, is the improved communication between organizations. The Risk Information Exchange (RiskIE) is a free Internet database that contains notifications about more than 5,500 inprogress human health risk assessment projects being conducted by



around the world. By providing a centralized source of project information, RiskIE aims to help bridge com-

ic, and environmental stakeholders of the risk assessment community, promoting networking and collaboration. Together, StateHELP and RiskIE provide state risk

risk assessment of arsenic exposure from soil.

munication gaps among government, industry, academ-

asssesors tools and resources to collaborate, conduct risk assessments, and share the results.

Found online at http://allianceforrisk.org/ARA_RiskIE_Project_Submission_Form.htm