



2021 ITRC Board of Advisors

Keisha Long (SC) – Co-Chair (2019-2022)

Keisha Long is a Superfund Project Manager with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC). Keisha has been with SC DHEC since 1998, and her duties include evaluating plans, specifications, engineering reports and proposals for Superfund Sites; providing technical assistance to stakeholders; and presenting project updates to the public at community meetings. Prior to joining the ITRC Board of Advisors, Keisha served as the South Carolina Point of Contact; participated as a contributing member on several ITRC Teams including Green & Sustainable Remediation and Remediation Risk Management; and was a Team Leader for the Sampling, Characterization, and Monitoring team. Keisha has a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering from Clemson University.

Randy Chapman (VA) – Co-Chair (2020-2022)

Randy has over 25 years of experience as a petroleum remediation geologist with Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). As an Environmental Manager, he currently manages and coordinates all aspects of the Northern Regional Office (NRO) Remediation Program. His responsibilities include overseeing various programs, including the above-ground and underground storage tank programs, the groundwater remediation programs, and the state lead contract program. Before his time at Virginia DEQ, Randy worked as a Hydrologist at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Conservation in Columbia, SC. His involvement with ITRC began in 2012 as a member of the Petroleum Vapor Intrusion Team. In 2016 he became the Co-Team Leader for the LNAPL Update Team, where he continues to act as a classroom and on-line instructor for LNAPL guidance. Randy has a B.S. in Geology from Clemson University.

Naji Akladiss, P.E. (ME) – Special Projects Coordinator (2017-2022)

Naji Akladiss, P.E. is a Project Manager with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP), Bureau of Remediation in Augusta, Maine. He has worked for the Department since 1989 as an Analytical Chemist in MEDEP Laboratory, and as a Project Manager for federal facilities since 1991. He has experience in environmental technologies and Superfund remediation. Naji is the Project Manager for the clean-up of two Superfund sites in the state of Maine. Prior to joining ME DEP, Naji worked for Rockwell International in Rockwell's printed circuit board plant in Maine. He was the leader of the ITRC Integrated DNAPLs Site Strategy Team as well as the co-leader of the Characterization and Fractured Rock teams. He has also served as the ITRC state Point of Contact from Maine. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Maine and a certified Quality Engineer (CQE) by the American Society for Quality.

Doug Bacon (UT) – State Engagement Coordinator (2016-2021)

Douglas Bacon has worked for the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) since 1997. Doug began with the Division of Water Quality gaining a vast knowledge of where to go to get away from it all. In 1999 he moved into the Division of Environmental Response & Remediation and assumed the project management role and day to day oversight of response actions at the Kennecott North and South Zones, Superfund Site. Doug is also the Utah Natural Resource Damage Trustee's representative overseeing the response actions by Kennecott and a local water service district to address two groundwater plumes underlying approximately 13,000 acres in the Southwest Salt Lake Valley. The NRD project represents one of the largest (based on production volumes) applications of reverse osmosis to treat mining influenced water and provision of treated water to the public in the Western US. In 2008 Doug joined ITRC becoming a member of the Mine Waste Treatment Technology Team and thereafter the Biochemical Reactors for Treating Mining Influenced Water Team. He actively participates in the implementation of and training on the use of these guidance documents. In 2014 Doug was appointed as Utah's Point of Contact. In 2016 he was appointed to the Board of Advisors as the newly selected State Engagement Coordinator. Doug has a B.S. degree in Environmental Biology from Plymouth State College, Plymouth, NH, and he holds "Certified Public Manager" credentials from Utah's Certified Public Managers Program.

Sara Pearson (MI) – Training Program Coordinator (2017-2022)

Sara Pearson has been involved with ITRC since 2014 serving as the Michigan Point of Contact. Sara has worked in the environmental remediation and redevelopment field in Michigan for more than 25 years. She has worked as both a consultant managing contaminated sites for major petroleum companies and industry, and then as a senior geologist for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) reviewing the investigative and cleanup efforts. She currently serves as the supervisor of the Information Management Unit for the MDEQ's Remediation and Redevelopment Division. Sara's expertise spans the spectrum of activities related to remediation and redevelopment including extensive investigative, risk assessment and corrective action experience. Sara is a Certified Professional Geologist (CPG) and has been an active member of the American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG) since 1998 serving on the Michigan Section Executive Committee twice. She is a founder and co-chair of the Michigan Section's Annual Environmental Risk Management Workshop that focuses on learning technical topics, and promoting collaboration and the building of partnerships among the regulators, consultants, and owners of contaminated property to find solutions to complex environmental problems. Sara holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Aquinas College in physical geography and environmental studies and a minor in political science. She earned a Master of Science degree in earth science with a focus in hydrogeology from Western Michigan University.

Rebecca Higgins (MN) – State Association Representative (2020-2022)

Rebecca Higgins is a Senior Hydrogeologist in the East Metro Unit of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in St. Paul. In her roll at the MPCA, she is a member of the team assigned to evaluate releases of hazardous substances and PFAS compounds that pose a risk to human and ecological receptors. Rebecca also serves as liaison between the stormwater program and remediation divisions of the MPCA. In that role she seeks to find innovative technical solutions for sites where contamination poses a risk to human health and the environment from infiltrated stormwater. Rebecca is an ITRC Point-of-Contact for the State of Minnesota and a Co-Team Leader the Stormwater BMP Performance Evaluation Team. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Geology from North Dakota State University in 1998 and spent 9 years in the environmental consulting industry in Colorado and Minnesota until joining the MPCA in 2007.

Melinda McClanahan (NM) – Stakeholder Representative (2020-2022)

Selected to serve as Public/Tribal Stakeholder Representative to ITRC's Board of Advisors, Dr. McClanahan - a member of Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma - has previously served as a tribal stakeholder for ITRC's Contaminated Sediments-Remediation Team from 2012-2014, receiving the ITRC Public and Tribal Stakeholder Recognition Award for outstanding contributions with her work. Dr. McClanahan comes from a distinguished career in Washington, D.C. with the United States Senior Executive Service, where she held high-level positions with EPA's Office of Research and Development and USDA's Agricultural Research Service. After retiring from federal service in 2009 as the Chief Information Officer of the USDA Agricultural Research Service, Dr. McClanahan continued to work as a collaborator to the USDA, and serve on the Board of Directors for the Soil and Water Conservation Society, as well as the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), where she remains an advisor today.