

## **SOBRA SUBGROUP – VAPOUR INTRUSION**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE (OCTOBER 2020)**

#### **Membership**

Jo Wilding (SoBRA Executive Committee Sponsor) (RSK)  
Mel Lyons (Group lead) (RSK)

Alan Wilson (Exova Jones)  
Alex Lee (WSP)  
Becky Whiteley (Wood)  
Catherine Copping (Peter Brett)  
David Dyson (AECOM)  
Geraint Williams (ALS)  
Jenny Mullen (Exploration & Testing Associates Ltd)  
John Andrews (EPG)  
Lucy Bethell (Mott MacDonald)

Matthew Lennard (NHBC)  
Matthew May (Sweco)  
Mel Lyons (RSK)  
Paloma Montes (WSP)  
Peter Sheppard (Advisian)  
Richard Brinkworth (LEAP)  
Sarah Mortimer (EPG)  
Simon Firth (Firth Consultants)  
Simon Tempest (ERM)

*Note: Membership of the subgroup will be under regular review, with places allocated to those who actively contribute, i.e. fulfil their work remit in the timescales agreed with the subgroup Lead, in liaison with SoBRA's Executive Committee.*

*The SoBRA Executive Committee, in liaison with the subgroup Lead, reserve the right to remove Members of the sub-group.*

*Only members of the subgroup who have actively contributed will be credited within any publications.*

#### **Privacy Statement**

At SoBRA, we are committed to protecting and respecting privacy. SoBRA retains a Privacy policy that can be found at <https://sobra.org.uk/about-us/>. As members of this subgroup you are agreeing to the terms of this Privacy policy in full. Throughout this project subgroup members are also agreeing to share their email and contact details with the other members of this group. Personal data should not however be disclosed to unauthorised people, either within SoBRA or externally without approval

#### **General Aims**

The purpose of the Vapour Intrusion (VI) SubGroup will be to follow-up the publication of the SoBRA groundwater vGAC report and 2017 summer workshop by continuing to progress SoBRA's work in leading VI risk assessment and raising standards in this regard across the UK.

In accordance with the recommendations of the summer workshop, the VI sub-group initially aims to:

- Provide a set of concise guidance for the risk assessment industry with respect to VI conceptual site models (CSM) and data collection in order to;
  - Promote and emphasise the importance of soil gas data collection, where a plausible pathway exists, rather than collecting soil and groundwater data alone; and
  - Raise awareness of data collection and data interpretation methods available.

Subsequent aims may include (subject to the outcome of earlier phases of work):

- Derivation of soilgasvGAC (vapour phase for comparison with soil gas data) for the standard CLEA land uses.

We also aim to provide ongoing support to the development of practitioner competency regarding the selection of vapour phase mitigation measures.

The above aims are considered to align with the SoBRA core objectives:

- To encourage “good practice” in the practical applications of risk assessment to support decisions regarding the appropriate management of land contamination; and
- To facilitate and widen access to the dissemination of knowledge regarding land contamination risk assessment.

### **Details of the Initiative**

A VI subgroup was requested by our members for 2018.

*The group's initial aim will be to provide a set of four concise summary guidance notes on the topics of VI CSM development, the benefits of soil gas sampling for VI assessment, and the various VI data collection and modelling/assessment methods available.*

The group acknowledges that there is already a wealth of existing guidance available within the industry but recognises that the existing guidance documents are highly detailed and extensive. We therefore aim to provide a set of summary notes which will signpost practitioners to the existing guidance (including CIRIA and other relevant international guidance) where required, for more detail in respect to the various guidance topics to support UK industry.

On this basis, our initial work item (1) aims to produce four concise and practical guidance notes, covering the following topics:

- a) CSM development for VI linkages;
- b) Benefits of soil gas sampling for assessment of VI risks;
- c) VI data collection options available, including the benefits and limitations; and
- d) VI modelling/assessment options available, including the benefits and limitations of these.

If considered appropriate following the completion of guidance note “d” and subsequent discussions within the group, we aim to develop a set of soil gas vapour-phase GAC to support assessment of potential VI risks as a follow-on work item (2).

Finally, as an ongoing aim, the group will engage and work with practitioner-based organisations such as the Land Forum, local contaminated land forums, membrane installation and verification providers, as well as other professional bodies such as The Royal Society of Chemistry, Geological Society and Institute of Environment Sciences, and CL:AIRE to raise standards with respect to competency of practitioners regarding the selection of vapour phase mitigation measures.

### **Data Storage**

The subgroup is to maintain its own secure repository for the sharing of data (e.g. a Dropbox account). The Sponsor will annually, or at key points such as when deliverables are ready for publication, transfer its contents to the SoBRA Dropbox that acts as a central repository of all Society-related efforts and communications.

By reminder, everyone who works for or volunteers with SoBRA has some responsibility for ensuring personal data is collected, stored and handled appropriately. Each member that handles personal data must ensure that it is handled and processed in line with the SoBRA privacy policy and data protection principles. When data is stored electronically, it must be protected from unauthorised access, accidental deletion and malicious hacking attempts as per the requirements of our privacy policy.