Using the PEAC-WMD Glossary

One of the features added in the PEAC-WMDv5 application and later releases of the software is the inclusion of a Glossary of terms used by individuals working with or responding to HAZMAT or WMD incidents.

Most of us recognize that dealing with hazardous materials is an occupation that comes with its own vocabulary or at least requires the responder to be familiar with terminology that is specific to these materials. The vocabulary relating to chemical properties, their behavior or associated acronyms are not typical terms most of the public would understand. The truth is that even individuals with a number of years in the field may run into terms or vernacular that are unfamiliar or just plain mystifying. During the almost 10 years that the AristaTek owners have been marketing the PEAC system and doing presentations, training or workshops around the country, we came to the conclusion that some basic understanding of terminology was required prior to or during any exchange describing the PEAC tool.

The Glossary was incorporated into the application with the release of the 5.0 version of the software in late 2004. Since then the Glossary content has been increased to deal with additional terms used in the industry. We suspect it will continue to grow as we run across terms not currently in the Glossary database or as users suggest new terms that should be added.

One of the other database elements added in version 5.0 release was the US EPA Chemical Reactivity Worksheet. A portion of this database was an extensive set of descriptions of specific chemicals and their documented reactions as found in literature references. This additional text and some of the terms included in the text, was an additional motivation to incorporate the Glossary feature in the software.

The Glossary can be utilized in two ways. First, the user has direct access to the Glossary terms by accessing the Glossary from the **Lookup By** selection field as shown in Figure 1 for the Windows version and Figure 2 for the Pocket PC version. When the user clicks or taps on the **Lookup By** field, a list of selections is displayed.

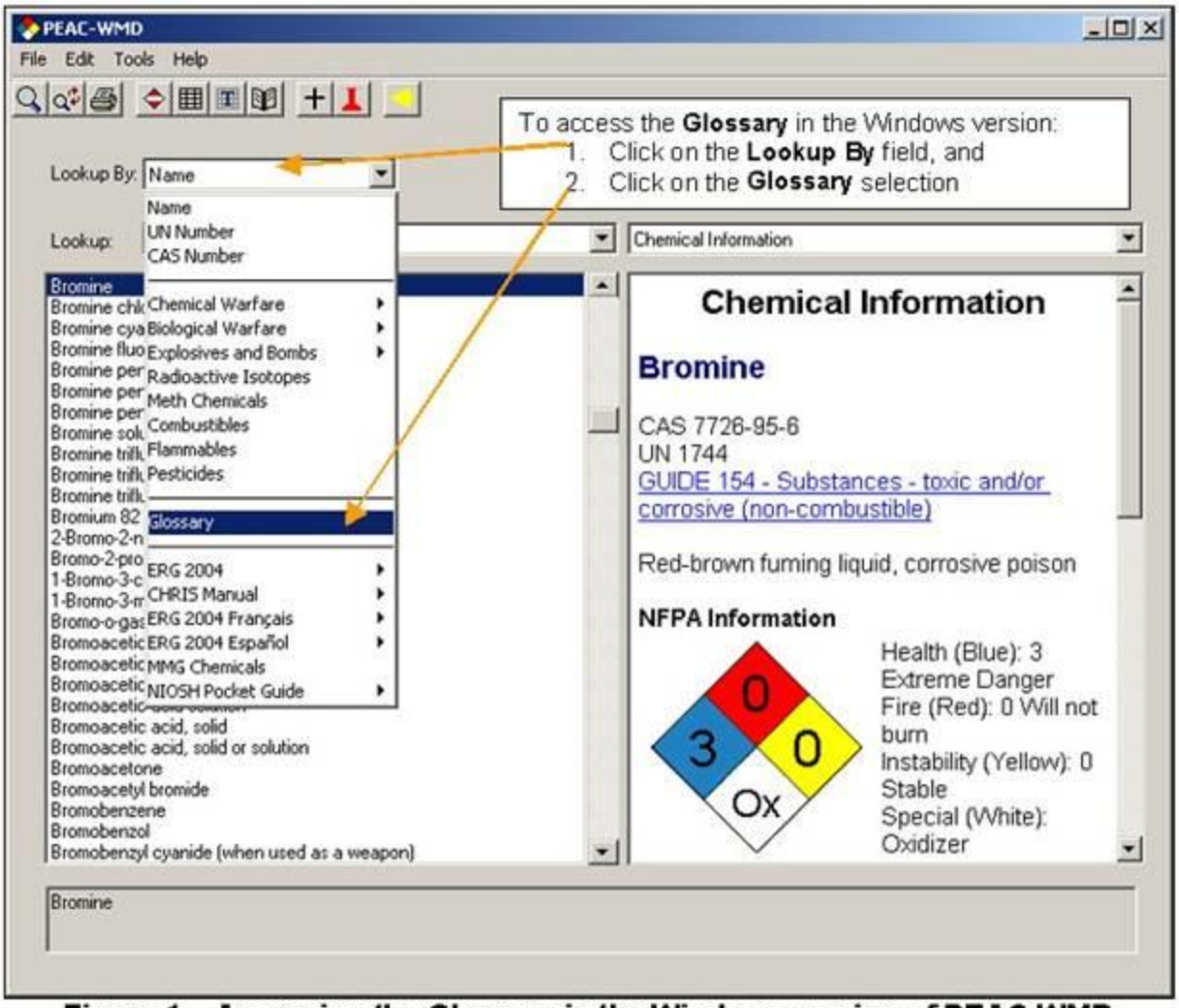

Figure 1 – Accessing the Glossary in the Windows version of PEAC-WMD

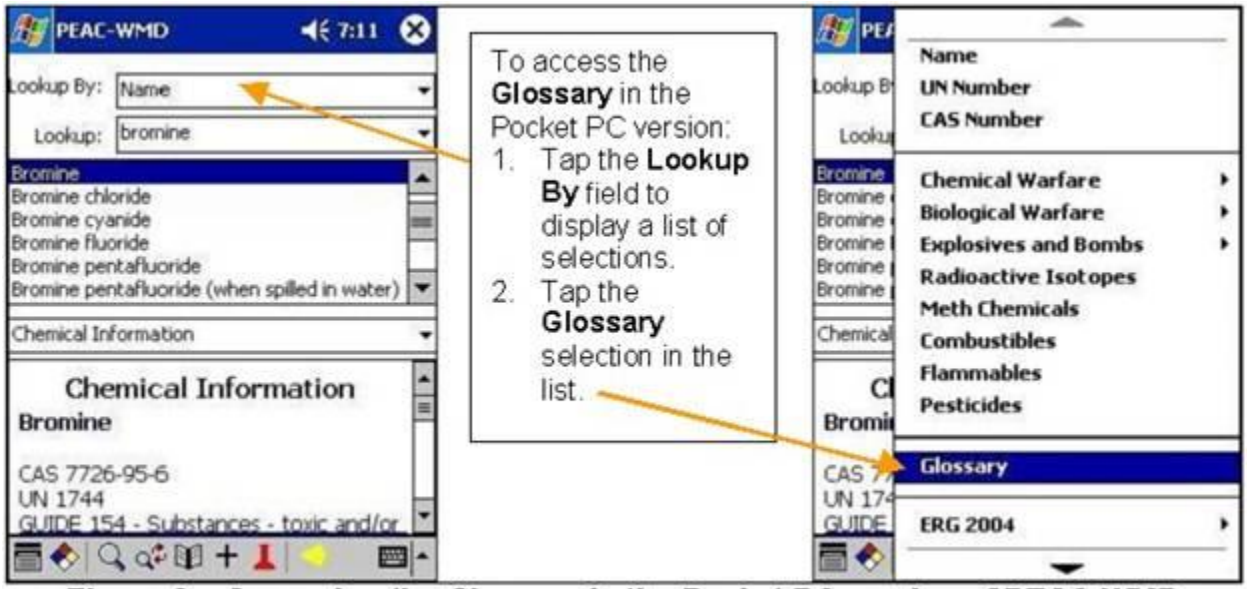

Figure 2 – Accessing the Glossary in the Pocket PC version of PEAC-WMD

Clicking (Windows version) or tapping (Pocket PC version) on the Glossary selection will display the respective screens as shown in Figure 3 (Windows version) and Figure 4 (Pocket PC version).

The user can find and display the definition of a term in the right side of the screen for the Windows version or the lower portion of the screen in the Pocket PC version by one of two methods.? First, they can scroll through the list of terms, which are listed in alphabetical order, or they can enter the term in the **Lookup** field and the PEAC-WMD application will find the term and display the definition.

Glossary terms in the list cover acronyms (e.g., IDLH, STEL, PAD, UEL) and terminology routinely encountered in the day-to-day encounters with HAZMAT and WMD (e.g., molecular weight, hydrophobic, fuming, isotope, vapor pressure).

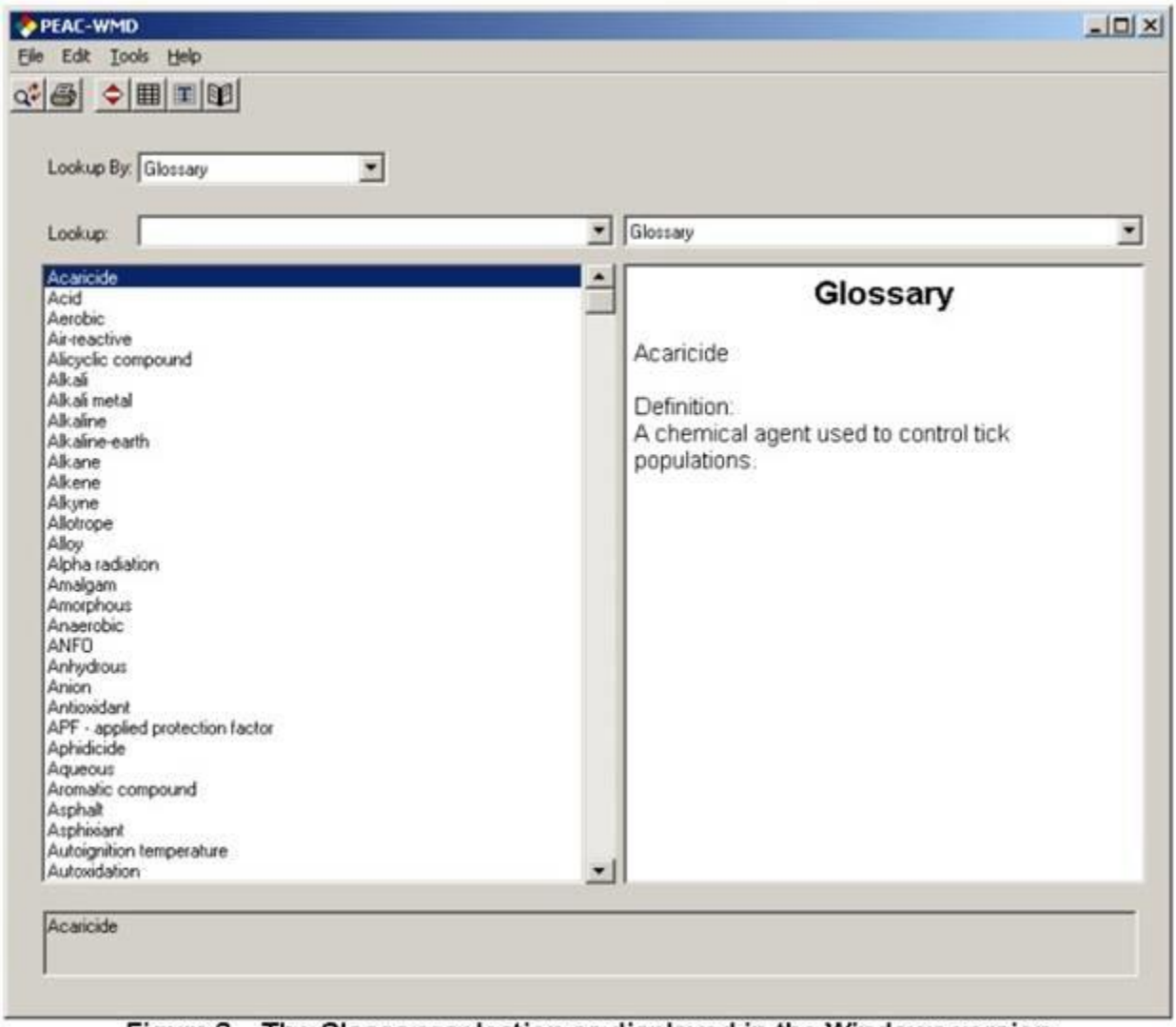

Figure 3 – The Glossary selection as displayed in the Windows version

Figure 4 – The Glossary selection as displayed in the Pocket PC version

The second way the Glossary feature can be used in the PEAC-WMD application is referred to as the interactive method. Since the Glossary was included because of the increase in text fields now accessible in the PEAC-WMD tool, the user can toggle ON/OFF the interactive Glossary feature, as they desire. To toggle the Glossary feature ON/OFF, the user clicks (Windows version) or taps (Pocket PC version) the interactive Glossary icon [ ] on the main screen for the appropriate version. The interactive Glossary icon is located on the row of icons at the top of the main screen as shown in Figure 5 and at the bottom of the main screen as shown in Figure 6.

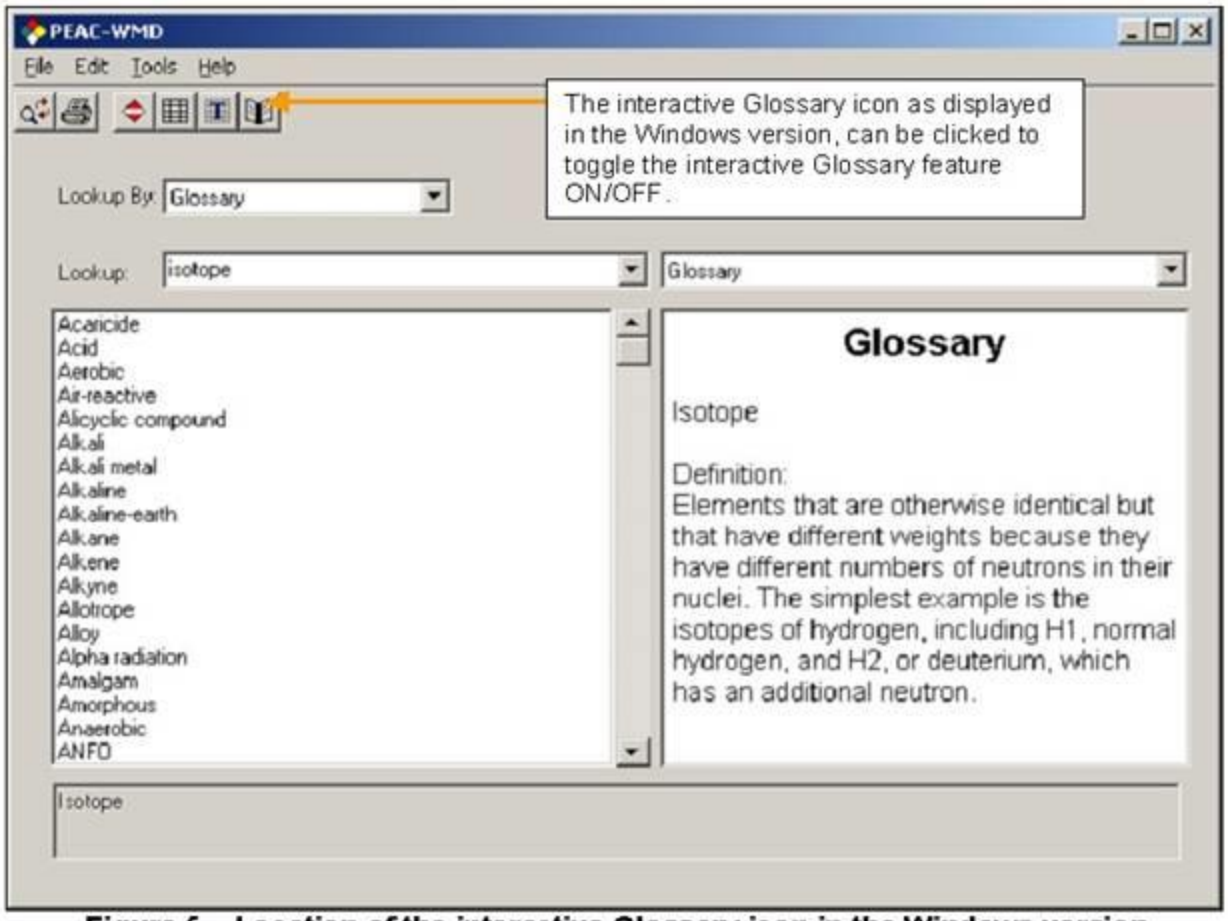

Figure 5 – Location of the interactive Glossary icon in the Windows version

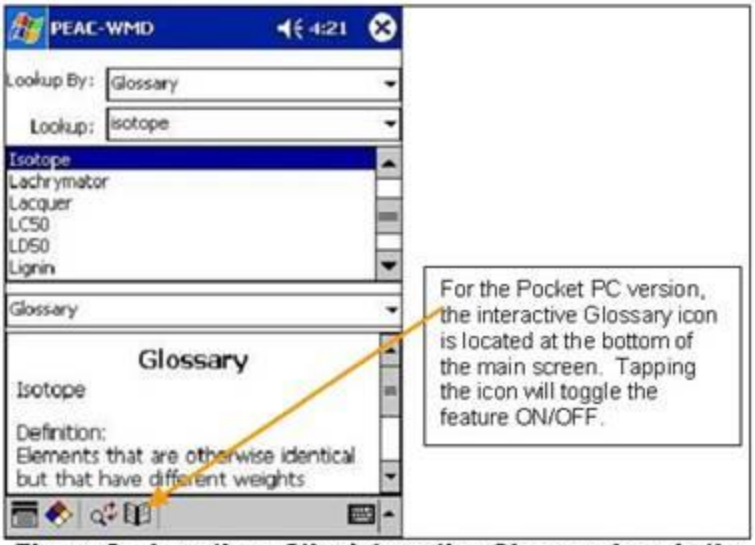

Figure 6 – Location of the interactive Glossary icon in the Pocket PC version

When the interactive Glossary feature is turned **OFF**, all text in the Data Display Field (for those not sure what the Data Display Field is, this is the right side of the main screen in the Windows version or the lower portion of the main screen in the Pocket PC version) appears in normal font whether it is a Glossary term or not. If the interactive Glossary feature is turned **ON**, then any place in the Data Display Field that a Glossary term is displayed it will appear in a different font as a hyperlink. Examples are shown for the both the Windows version (Figure 7) and the Pocket PC version (Figure 8).

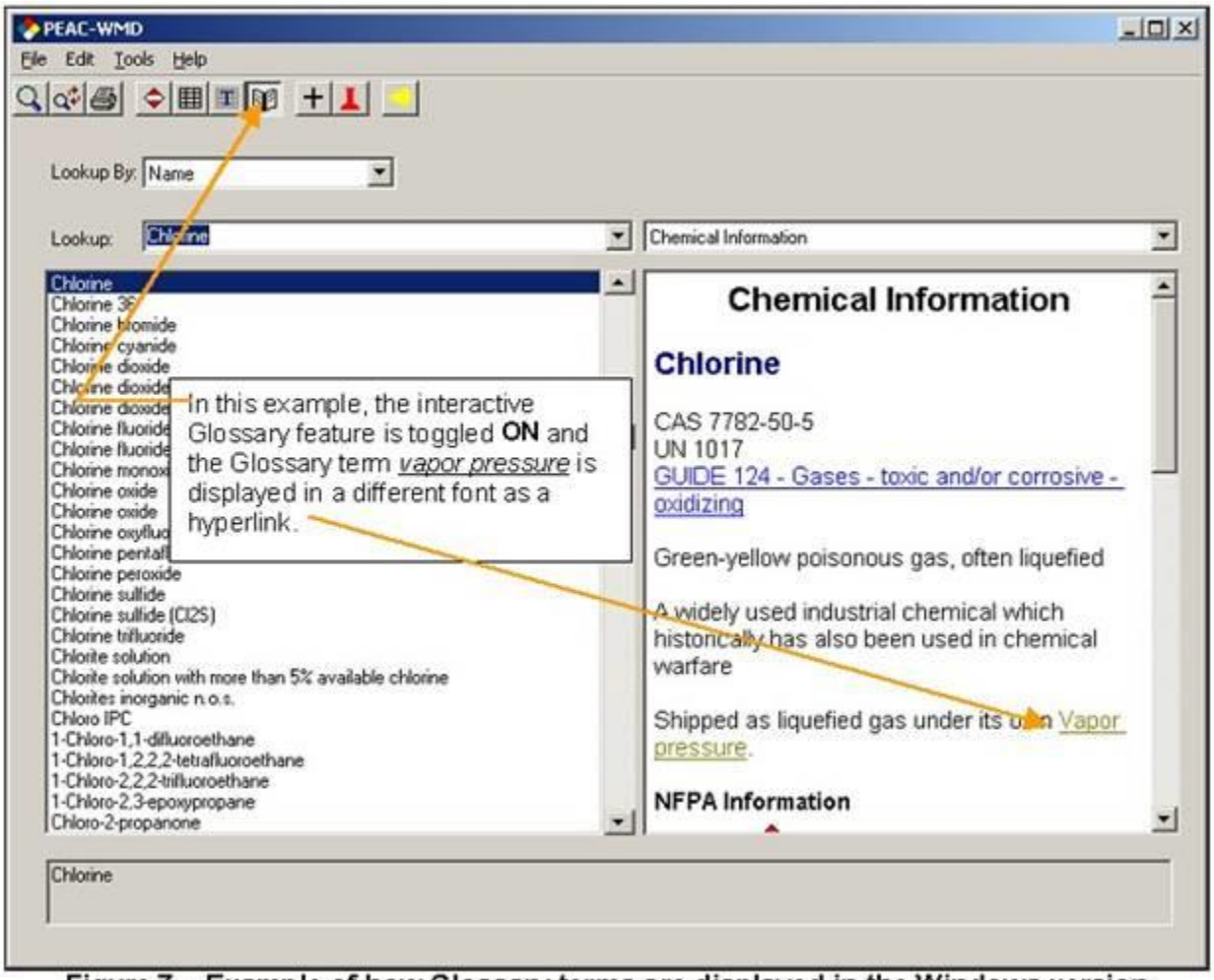

Figure 7 – Example of how Glossary terms are displayed in the Windows version

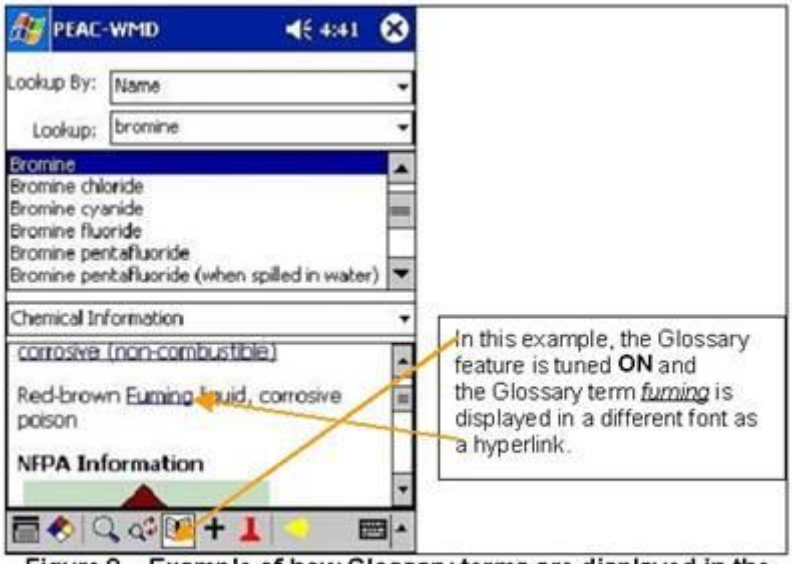

Figure 8 – Example of how Glossary terms are displayed in the Pocket PC version

For the user to view the definition of the Glossary term in question the user simply clicks or taps on the specific hyperlink and a window will appear with the definition displayed (see Figure 9 for the Windows version and Figure 10 for the Pocket PC version). When finished reading the definition, the user simply clicks or taps on the **[OK]** on the definition window and the window will be removed.

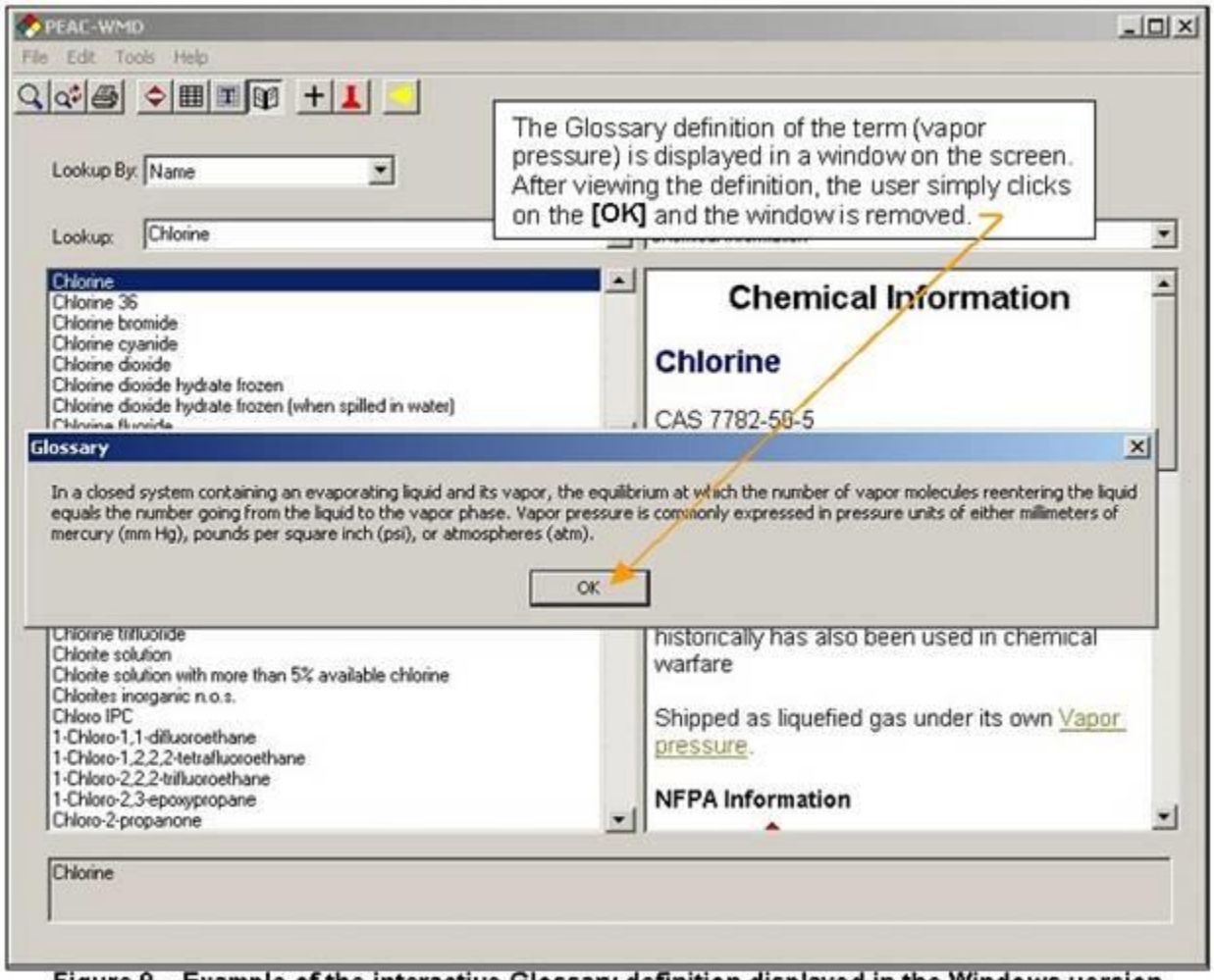

Figure 9 – Example of the interactive Glossary definition displayed in the Windows version

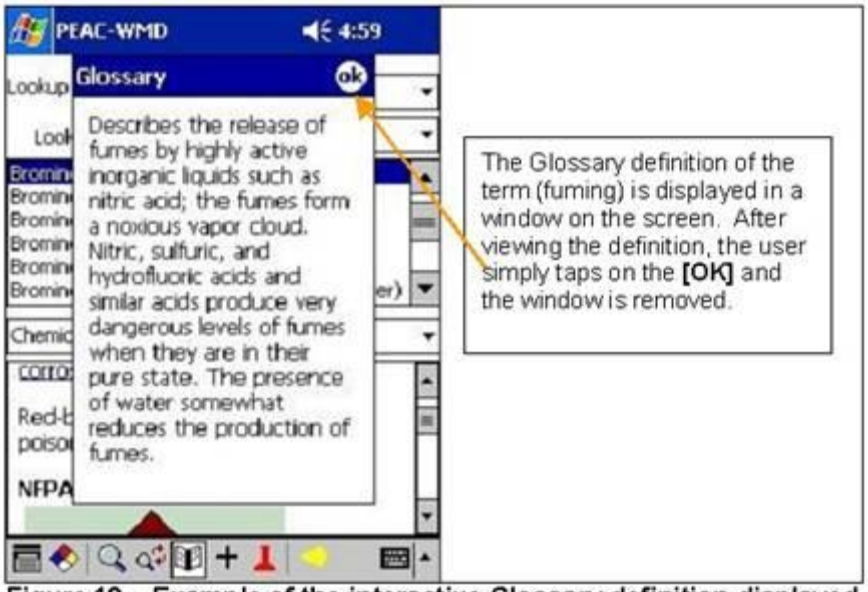

Figure 10 – Example of the interactive Glossary definition displayed in the Pocket PC version

If users find specific terms they would like to see included into the PEAC-WMD Glossary, please send them to support@aristatek.com and we?ll try to include those terms into the next release of the PEAC-WMD application. Any suggestions, comments or feedback on the PEAC-WMD application or the content of the newsletter can also be sent to the same email address.