



IN THE TRENCHES

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR KEEPING EMPLOYEES AND PROJECT BUDGETS SAFE

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR KEEPING EMPLOYEES AND PROJECT BUDGETS SAFE

- Ways to determine if you are going to be working at an environmentally impacted site
- Planning for work at environmentally impacted sites
- What to look for when working at an environmentally impacted site



WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO AVOID INJURING A WORKER AND PROTECTING YOUR BUSINESS?

- In addition to planning and
- “Doing the Right Thing”
- DOCUMENT THAT YOU DID IT
- Remember that even using photo documentation – things might not be what they seem



HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM ABOUT TO UNDERTAKE WORK AT A CONTAMINATED PROJECT SITE OR IN CONTAMINATED CONDITIONS?

- How about ---- ask your customer
- Use come common sense
- State contaminated site databases and registries
- Review privately available site documentation





ASK THE CUSTOMER

1. Any known chemical hazards?
2. What was the property used for?
3. What am I doing – exactly?



USE COMMON SENSE

1. Where are we working?
2. What's around us?
3. What have we heard/read about?



In Virginia.....

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/Land/RemediationPrograms/VoluntaryRemediationProgram/csr.pdf>

52 page PDF List



In Maryland.....

<http://www.mde.state.md.us/PROGRAMS/LAND/MARYLANDBROWNFIELDVCP/LRPSITES/Pages/LRP.aspx>

Searchable Database



STATE DATABASES

1. State or local Site Registries
2. Are there use restrictions?
3. Who else is involved?



I WILL USE GOOGLE BEFORE ASKING DUMB QUESTIONS.
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REVIEW OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INFORMATION

1. Environmental Phase Is
2. Environmental Phase IIs
3. Other environmental reports



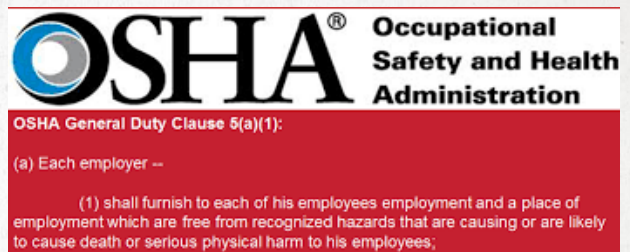
YOU HAVE TO ASK – THE INFORMATION IS RARELY VOLUNTEERED

- Customer may not have thought about it
- Customer may not know about it
- Customer may not care
- Customer may hope you don't "have to know" about it
- And the ever popular..... "Not my job"



MULTI-EMPLOYER WORK SITE DOCTRINE CPL 02-00-124 THERE'S OSHA – AND THERE ARE CIVIL LIABILITIES

- Worker's compensation only covers employee-employer relationship
- Subcontractor employees may sue general contractor
- Prevention:
 - Reasonable care to prevent/correct hazard
 - Coordination with other employers
 - Contract terms / practices with contractors
 - DOCUMENT WHAT YOU DID



REAL LIFE.....

- Gas Station
 - Broken Water Line
 - A Giant Litigation
-
- Property Owner/Operator
 - Plumbing Contractor
 - Vacuum truck operator
 - Soils management company
 - Environmental Consultant

And then what happened.....



PLANNING FOR WORK AT ENVIRONMENTALLY IMPACTED SITES

- Review the plans and bid-specs carefully
- Ask questions – lots of questions
- Attend agency meetings if you can
- Document





REVIEW THE PLANS AND NOTES

1. Drawing notes are critical
2. Speak to Engineer of Record on Project
3. Don't manage by hoping for the best



In most permitting programs, each application has unique characteristics that influence its processing time. For each program listed, the standard time represents the time in which 90% of applications can be processed. Many applications will require less time; **a few will require more time due to unusual circumstances.**



AGENCY MEETINGS

1. Stormwater Management
2. Importing/exporting fill
3. Erosion & Sedimentation Planning





DOCUMENT IT

1. Written Notes
2. Photos or Videos
3. Third Party Verification
4. Retain your records



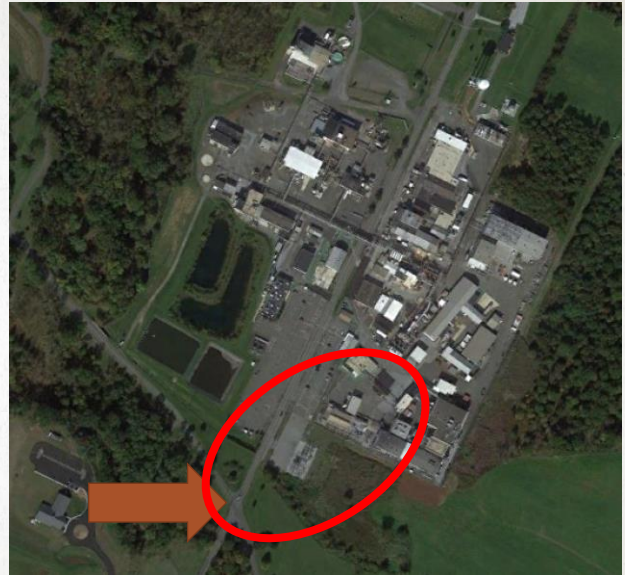
BAD PLANNING IN REAL LIFE

Municipal Road

Bridge Replacement

Contaminated Groundwater

14 month project delay



WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN WORKING (TELL-TALE SIGNS YOU'RE IN TROUBLE)

- Unexpected materials
- Odors
- Color
- Noises



Foster a culture of reporting those things that need to be reported



EXAMPLE SITUATION



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*"There are no words on earth that can illustrate
how much my head hurt, or how bored I was."*

Anonymous evaluation of a presentation March 2000

