

How to Select a Qualified Environmental Professional

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About Me! (Erin Gleason)

- Born and raised in Fairbanks Alaska. Received a BS in chemistry from Western Washington University in 2009, received a MS in environmental chemistry from UAF in 2014.
- I have been with ADEC contaminated sites program since 2016.
- This is my third year at ATCEM and second year on track planning committee!



Goals for presentation

Answer the following questions:

- What is a qualified environmental professional?
- Why do I need a qualified environmental professional?
- How do I find a qualified environmental professional?
- What questions should I ask a qualified environmental professional?
- How do I hire a qualified environmental professional?

What is a qualified environmental professional?



What is a qualified environmental professional?

- They are a person who is legally able to conduct work on your contaminated site.
- They're often called "Q.E.P."
- You may also hear them called "environmental consultant."
- They might be one person or they might be a large company with many QEPs that work together.



Legal definition- 18 AAC 75.333

- Impartial third party
- Actively practices in the field of environmental science
- Has not been found to have falsified environmental data or committed fraud in the past
- Has a four year science degree and one year of experience, or has a two year science degree and three years experience, or is a certified technician with three years experience.

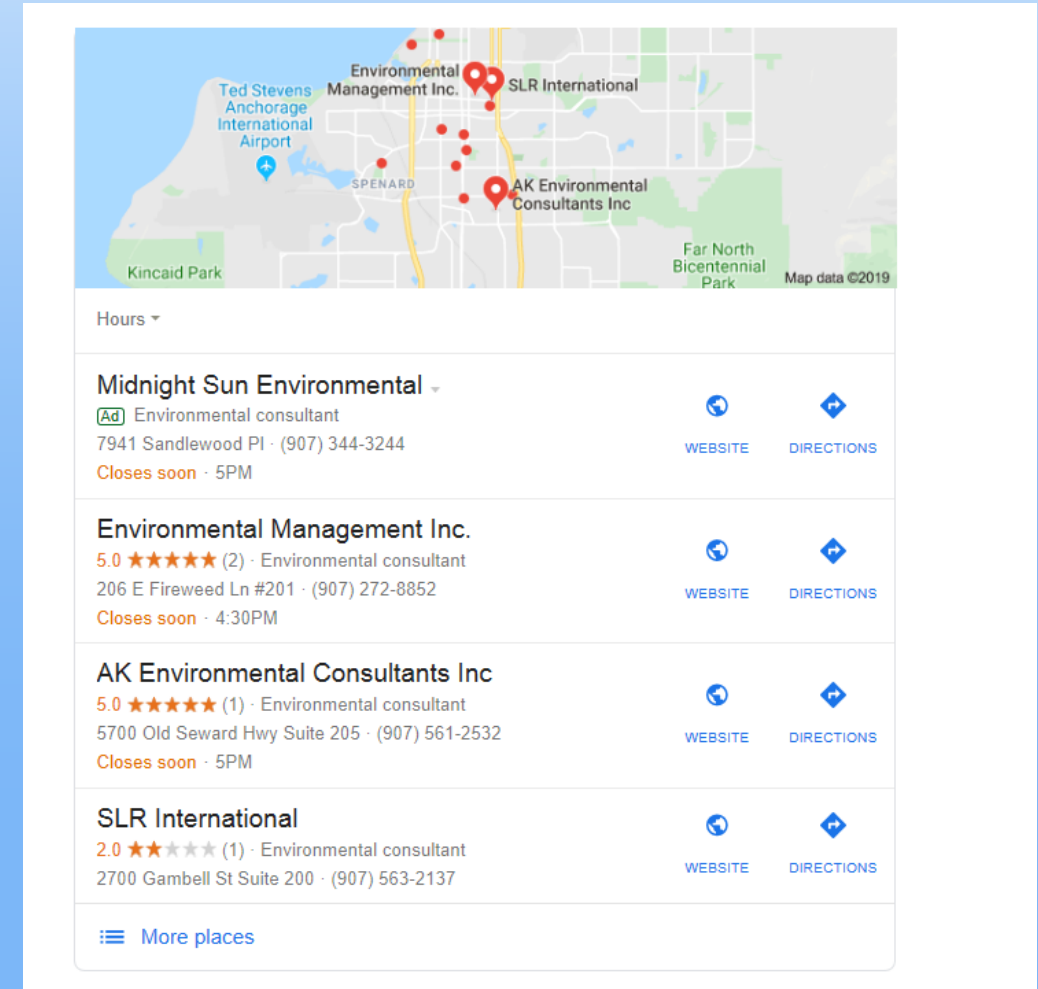
Why do I need a qualified environmental professional?



- Required in Alaska Administrative Code (18 AAC 75.333)
- They have the knowledge and skills to help protect human health and the environment at your site!
- They ensure the work performed at your site meets objectives and the results are credible and usable.
- They can also help your site get to closure ASAP.

How do I find a qualified environmental professional?

- Google, Yelp!, etc.
- Ask your friends and neighbors
- Ask DEC for ideas
- Snoop on the ADEC database to see which QEPs have previously worked in your community





ADEC does not endorse any specific QEP


Snoop the database!


CONTAMINATED SITES SEARCH

Site Name <input type="text"/>	Record Key <input type="text"/>
Hazard ID <input type="text"/>	Event ID <input type="text"/>
Status <input type="text"/>	Site Type <input type="text"/>
Street Address <input type="text"/>	City <input type="text"/>
Zip Code <input type="text"/>	Borough <input type="text"/>
File ID <input type="text"/>	LUST Only <input type="checkbox"/>
IC Registry <input type="text"/>	ICs Only <input type="checkbox"/>


Download All Site
Records


Download Only CS
Site Records


Download Only
LUST Site Records


View CS Map

<http://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/SPAR/PublicMVC/CSP/Search/>

Site Report: Huslia Huntington School Complex

SITE NAME: Huslia Huntington School Complex

ADDRESS: Shore Lyin Drive, Huslia, AK 99746

FILE
NUMBER: 820.38.002

HAZARD ID: 23

STATUS: Active

STAFF: Laura Jacobs, laura.jacobs@alaska.gov

LATITUDE: 65.701813

LONGITUDE: -156.388629

HORIZONTAL
DATUM: WGS84



View CS Map



New Search



Print Report



Glossary /Acronyms

We make every effort to ensure the data presented here is accurate based on the best available information currently on file with DEC. It is therefore subject to change as new information becomes available. We recommend contacting the assigned project staff prior to making decisions based on this information.

Site Chronology

IC / Closure Details

Documents

Problems/Comments

Historical leaks from bulk fuel aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) and fuel lines to barge dock (under Hazard ID XXX). Impacted soil found along 75 feet of water main to a depth of 3 feet, at a distance of 50 feet from the ASTs. Past complaints from adjacent property owners indicate possible migration of petroleum contamination. There is a drinking water well 100 feet away from the area and there is no indication of contamination at the water supply. The elevation is ~46 meters (~151 feet). The two areas of concern around the Huslia Huntington School include the abandoned tank farm on the eastern side of the High School and the four abandoned underground storage tanks.

Action Information

8/9/2010	Site Visit	Oasis, consultant for DEC, went out the to Huslia from 8/9 - 21/2010 to conduct the cleanup work at the school. The work included removing 3 USTs; abandoning one UST in place; excavation of approximately 2,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the USTs and the former AST tank farm location.	Deborah Williams
8/23/2010	Update or Other Action	DEC received the Contaminated Soil Sampling Report from the AST spill excavation that is located adjacent to the High School. During a construction project for the Huslia High School that included the installation of a french drain along the footings of the building and application of waterproof membrane around the stem wall, a 500-gallon AST and a 500-gallon UST were removed. Contaminated soil was encountered during the construction work. Approximately 25 cubic yards of contaminated soil was excavated in association with releases from the two tanks. The excavation was approximately six feet deep and fifteen feet wide. Many soils were screened using a PID and 14 soil samples were collected and analyzed for DRO and BTEX. All the soil samples were below DEC Health Based cleanup levels except for one sample that was collected from the excavation that had a DRO level at 18,700 ppm and Xylenes at 128 ppm.	Deborah Williams
2/25/2011	Report or Workplan Review - Other	DEC received the UST Removal and Soil Cleanup Report for the Huslia Huntington School project dated February 14, 2011. During the summer of 2010, Oasis Environmental performed an underground storage tank removal and soil cleanup at the Jimmy Huntington School in Huslia, Alaska, on behalf of DEC. The project involved removing three USTs; two associated with the Vocational Education Building and one associated with Teacher's Housing. A fourth UST associated with the	Deborah Williams
8/15/2019	Exposure Tracking Model Ranking	A new updated ranking with ETM has been completed for source area 78120 Former school ASTs & USTs.	Laura Jacobs
9/17/2019	Report or Workplan Review - Other	ADEC staff reviewed the document "Vapor Intrusion Assessment, Land Farm Monitoring, and Site Characterization Phased Work Plan" for proposed efforts at this site. Comments were issued for this draft work plan. Five soil-gas samples will be collected from the crawlspace within the combined elementary and high school building. Indoor air samples will be collected from four locations within the building. Land farmed soils will be sampled to determine whether they are ready to be spread outside of the land farm. Shannon & Wilson hopes to complete the work by the end of September or October.	Laura Jacobs

Initial contact with QEP

- Make a summary of your project that you can share with them
- Make a list of at least three QEPs that you can talk to about your project
- Call them!
 - Tell them you have a project and are looking for QEP to work on it.
 - Share your project summary
 - Ask them questions about their experience



What questions should I ask a QEP?

- What projects have they managed in the past?
- How similar are the projects to yours?
- Have they worked in your community?
- Are they qualified to do the full scope of work or will they need to subcontract another company?
- Who would manage your project?
- What is their experience with working with ADEC?
- Do they meet the requirements of a QEP?
- Who are their subcontractors for services such as excavation and laboratory?
- Do they do local hire?

Request Proposals

- Ask for proposals from the QEPs that you like best
- Their proposals should include scope of work, staff resumes, schedule, costs and fees, total cost, and references
- Don't be afraid to ask for clarification or additional information!



Things to watch out for

- Bids significantly lower than those of competing firms
- “Hard sell” approaches
- Strong bias toward or against certain investigation or cleanup methods
- Conflicts of interest
- Extra speedy timelines



Contaminated Sites Program Fact Sheet

Our mission: "Protecting human health and the environment by managing the cleanup of contaminated soil and groundwater in Alaska"

(Current as of July 2015)

Selecting an Environmental Consultant

Investigating and cleaning up a release of petroleum or other hazardous substances can be expensive. Selecting an unqualified or inexperienced environmental consultant to do the work, however, may end up costing even more.

Asking questions and checking references is essential. A competent consultant will help you define the problem and develop solutions that are protective, in compliance with environmental regulations, and cost-effective.

Your consulting team should have:

- A thorough understanding of Alaska's environmental cleanup regulations, related laws, and guidance documents.
- Experience in projects that are similar to yours in scope and nature.
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written.

1. Where to Begin

After a hazardous substance discharge is discovered and reported, the first step is to compile all the information you can about the property, including the history of operations at the site, potential sources of contamination, and any company or personal records on where and how hazardous substances have been used or stored.

Prepare a brief, written description of the site, including current use, the problem as you understand it, and the potential work that may need to be done. Providing as much information as you can will enable consulting firms to give you more consistent and accurate estimates. This can save you time and money.

DEC cannot recommend specific consultants, but we can refer you to other parties that have participated



Lead paint is removed from concrete prior to demolition at a site in King Salmon, Alaska

in cleanup projects who may be willing to share their experiences with you.

2. Initial Contacts

Next, put together a list of companies that perform contaminated site characterization or cleanup work in that area. Companies can be found in the yellow pages under headings such as "Engineers - Environmental," or "Environmental and Ecological Services."

Contact several of the companies and inquire about their experience, training, fees, and insurance coverage to determine which company best suits your needs.

The firm you select should demonstrate that it is capable and has qualified staff on board who will be available when you want the work done. Ask the consulting firm to estimate the time needed to complete the work required and how they might phase the work to fit your budget and your plans for the site. Keep in mind that environmental investigations often turn up new information that may change the scope, adding both cost and time to the project.

Questions?

Give contaminated sites a call!

- 907-269-7503 (Anchorage)
- 907-451-2143 (Fairbanks)
- 907-465-5390 (Juneau)
- 907-262-5210 (Soldotna)

