

Brownfields Investments: Minimizing Risks and Maximizing Returns

Thomas Donn, P.G. Founder and President, EnviroSouth, Inc.



Why perform a Phase I ESA?

- To identify subsurface environmental concerns before property purchase
- To satisfy U.S. EPA requirements for "All Appropriate Inquiry" (a.k.a. Environmental Due Diligence)
 - ASTM Standard E1527-21
 - "Innocent Landowner" defense
- To identify "Recognized Environmental Conditions" (a.k.a. Environmental "Red Flags") that may need to be further evaluated (Phase II ESA)
- FAQ: Should I have a Phase I ESA done on this property?



Included in Phase I Process:

Visual Inspection of the Property and Vicinity

➢ Review of Environmental Databases (State and Federal)

>Historical Sources of Information (maps, aerial photos, city directories, etc.)

➢ Review Any Prior Environmental Reports



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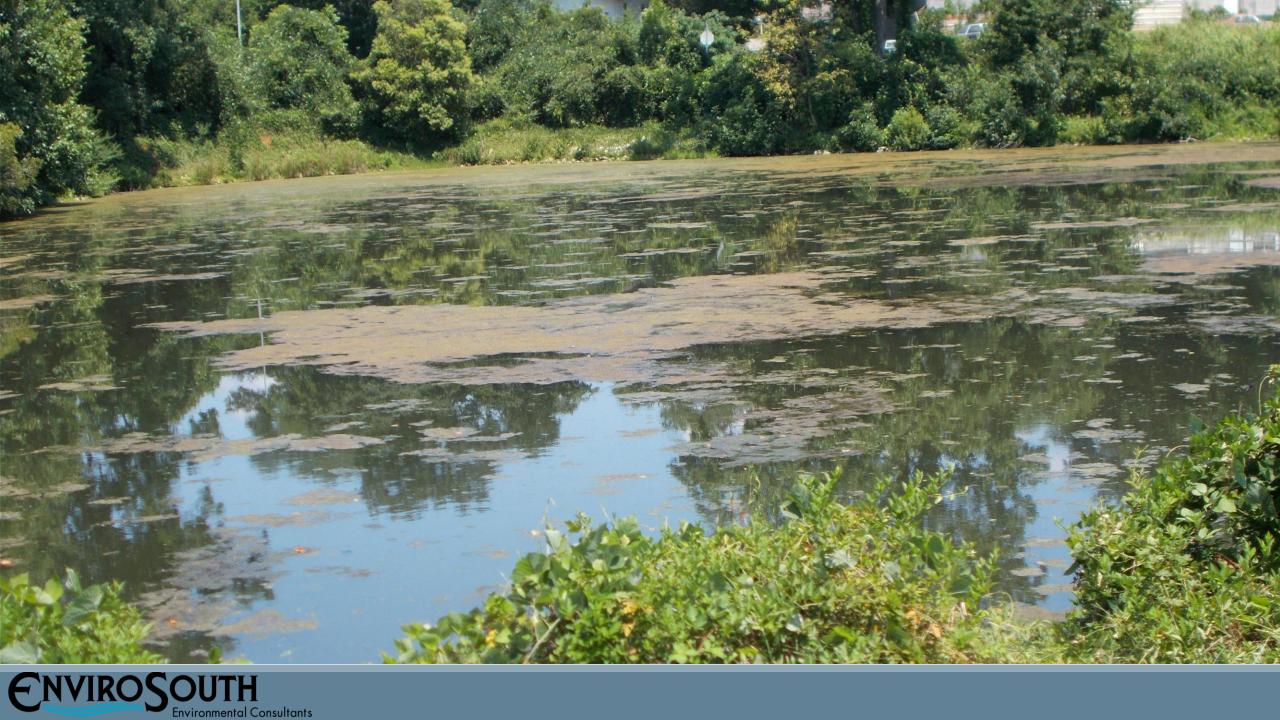


















































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468 E MAIN ST SPARTANBURG, SC 29302

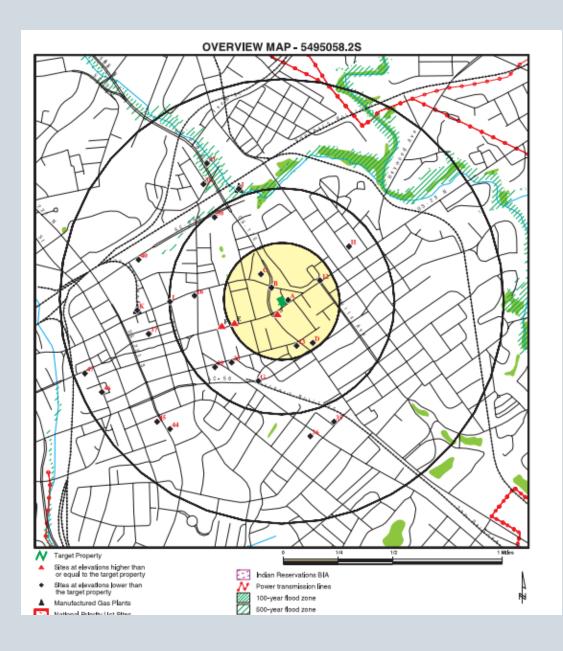
Inquiry Number: 5495058.2s December 05, 2018

The EDR Radius Map[™] Report

Prepared using the EDR FieldCheck® System



6 Armstrong Road, 4th floor Shelton, CT 06484 Toll Free: 800.352.0050 www.edmet.com





MAP FINDINGS SUMMARY								
Database	Search Distance (Miles)	Target Property	< 1/8	1/8 - 1/4	1/4 - 1/2	1/2 - 1	>1	Total Plotted
STANDARD ENVIRONMEN	TAL RECORDS							
Federal NPL site list								
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Federal Delisted NPL si	te list							
Delisted NPL	1.000		0	0	0	0	NR	0
Federal CERCLIS list								
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Federal CERCLIS NFRA	P site list							
SEMS-ARCHIVE	0.500		0	0	1	NR	NR	1
Federal RCRA CORRAC	TS facilities l	ist						
CORRACTS	1.000		0	0	0	0	NR	0
Federal RCRA non-COR	RACTS TSD	facilities list						
RCRA-TSDF	0.500		0	0	0	NR	NR	0
Federal RCRA generato	rs list							
RCRA-LQG RCRA-SQG RCRA-CESQG	0.250 0.250 0.250		0 0 1	0 0 1	NR NR NR	NR NR NR	NR NR NR	0 0 2
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Federal ERNS list			-	-	-			-
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State- and tribal - equiv	alent CERCLI	s	-					-
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State and tribal landfill a solid waste disposal sit								
SWF/LF	0.500		0	0	1	NR	NR	1
State and tribal leaking	storage tank	lists						
LUST INDIAN LUST	0.500		4	2	8 0	NR NR	NR NR	14 0
State and tribal register	ed storage tai	nk lists						
FEMA UST	0.250		0	0	NR	NR	NR	0

Map ID	Γ	MAP FINDINGS			
Direction Distance Elevation	Site		Database(s)	EDR ID Number EPA ID Number	
A1 East	FORMER ESSO SERVICE STAT	ON	LUST	U004140903 N/A	
< 1/8 0.019 mi.	SPARTANBURG, SC				
98 ft.	Site 1 of 5 in cluster A				
Relative: Lower	LUST: Release Number:				
Actual:	Facility ID:	19480			
801 ft.	Release Status Number: Substance:	1 PETROL			
	Tank Owner Company Name				
	Tank Owner Last Name: Tank Owner First name:	NIXON GEORGE			
	NFA Date:	05/25/2010			
	Tank Owner City:	SPARTANBURG			
	Confirmed Date:	Not reported			
	Release Date: EID:	08/11/2009 50305518			
	Local Facility District:	Spartanburg EQC Office			
	SCRBCA Class Number:	4BC			
	Release Fin Type Code:	W25			
	Qualified: Release Source:	Y Not reported			
	Local Fac Last Name:	FORMER ESSO SERVICE STATION			
	Local Fac First Name:	Not reported			
	User Name: Cleanup Initiated Date:	MILENKMP 08/13/2009			
	Prefix:	U			
	Total Score:	1			
	LUST:				
	Release Date:	08/11/2009			
	Cleanup Complete Date: Depth to Ground Water:	04/20/2010			
	Ground Water Flow Direction				
	Release Number:	1			
	Confirmed date:	08/13/2009			
	RP Name:	NIXON 460A MARION AVE			
	RP Address: RP City:	460A MARION AVE SPARTANBURG			
	RP State:	SC			
	RP Zip:	29306-3610			
	SCRBCA Class Code:	CLASS4BC MILENKOVA, MAIA P			
	Project Manager: Release Fin Type Code:	W25			
	UST:	9480			
		19480 J 19480			
		IXON, GEORGE			
		60A MARION AVE			
		SPARTANBURG SC 29306-3610			
	Owner Phone: 8	864-585-2391			
	Tank ID:				
	Status:	handoned			



Included in Phase I Process:

Visual Inspection of the Property and Vicinity

➢ Review of Environmental Databases

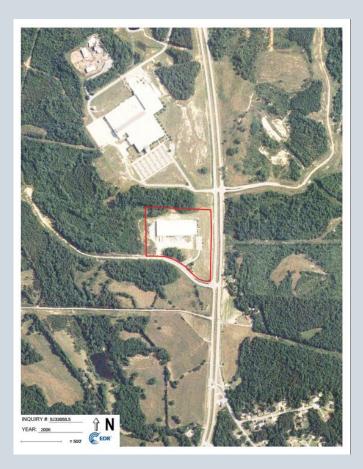
> Historical Sources of Information (maps, aerial photos, city directories, etc.)

➢ Review Prior Reports

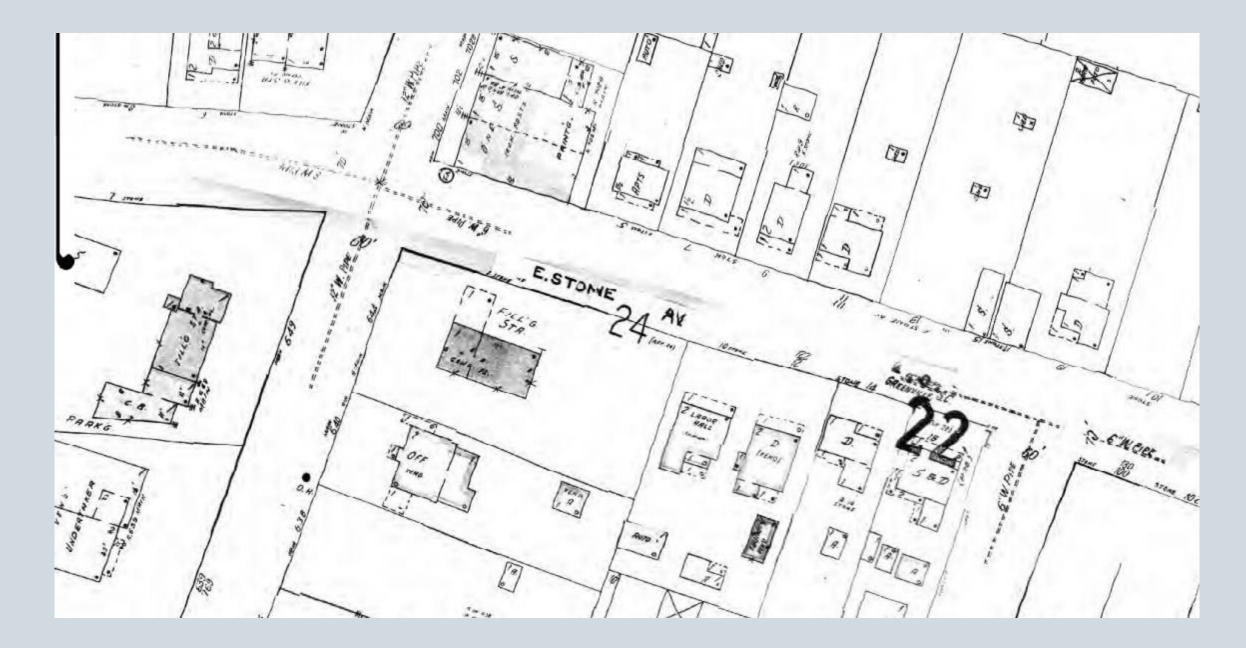




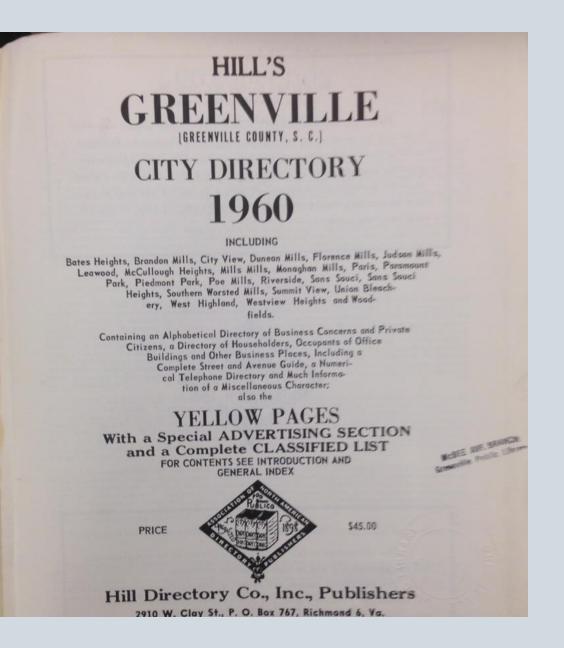












Environmental Consultants

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Included in Phase I Process:

Visual Inspection of the Property and Vicinity

➢ Review of Environmental Databases

➢ Historical Sources of Information

Review Prior Reports (ESAs, UST Removal, Groundwater Monitoring)



Included in Phase I Process:

➢ Visual Inspection of the Property and Vicinity

➢ Review of Environmental Databases

Historical Sources of Information

► Review Prior Reports

Interviews (with owners, site managers, long-term tenants, etc.)

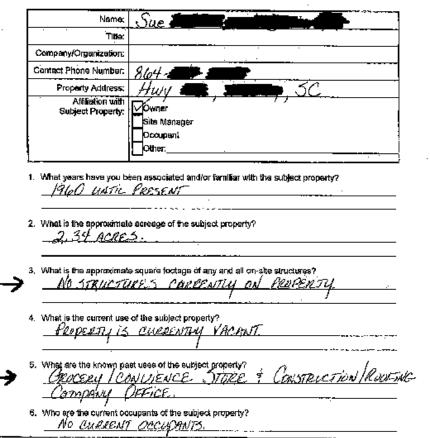


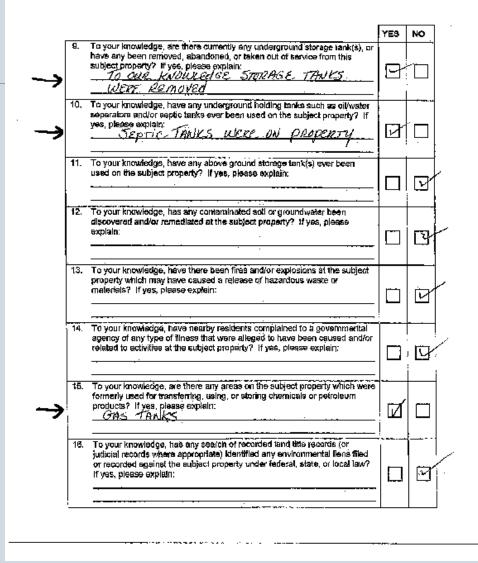
Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Questionnaire (Please envil to tersendiserviscenth.com when completed)

SECTION I: SUBJECT PROPERTY INFORMATION

Environmental Consultants

Instructions: Complete the following descriptive Information about the subject property. Completion of this questionnaire to the bast of your personal knowledge is required for the user(s) of this report to qualify for landowner liability protections and to meet the "all appropriate inquiries" requirements of 40 CFR 113.25.26,28,30,and 31.







FAQ: Does a Phase I Include Sampling of Soil, Groundwater, Asbestos, Lead-Based Paint, etc...?

No. Sampling is not Included in the Phase I Process.

Out-Of-Scope Services

- Buildings: Asbestos, Lead-Based Paint, Radon, Mold, Indoor Air, Building Condition
- Outdoors: Wetlands, Flood Zone Determination
- Sampling of soil, groundwater, or subsurface chemical vapors
- Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Surveys (typically used to find old USTs)



Recognized Environmental Condition (REC):

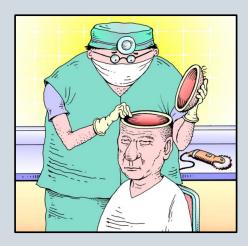
- ASTM Definition of REC: the presence or <u>likely</u> presence of hazardous substances or petroleum products in, on, or at a property (i.e., in the soil, <u>soil vapor</u>, groundwater and/or surface water)...
- A common problem is when an EP considers a Possible or Potential (vs. Likely) environmental concern to be a REC.
- The EP must interpret what the definition of "likely" is.
- For borderline environmental concerns not considered a REC, the client should still be aware of the concern



Recognized Environmental Condition (REC):

There are many disagreements among Environmental Professionals (EPs) in deciding if an environmental concern is a REC.

Some are "No-Brainers"









But...



Does a REC Exist? Many times there is not a clear answer, but a matter of interpretation by the EP based on experience and the definition of a REC.



Possibility vs. Likelihood



Recognized Environmental Conditions

Client ultimately decides the level of concern of a REC based on counsel from EP, Environmental Attorney, and other factors, including....



Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA)

Factors Influencing the Client's Response to RECs:

➢ Personal Risk Tolerance

>Bank Requirements (often based on loan amount or property type)

➢Planned Use of the Property (dry cleaner vs. day care)

➢Impact on Future Sale

Eligibility for Brownfield (Non-Responsible Party) Contract with State



Phase I ESA Case Study

Spartanburg County, SC --Steel Fabricating Plant from 1960 to 2014







Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA)

ESA Case Study - Continued

- Upstate SC -- Steel Fabricating Plant from 1960 to 2014
- Common use of degreasing solvents (i.e. TCE) in that industry
- Septic systems as sole source of sewerage, including floor drains
- Operated a lab and reported generation of hazardous wastes
- Current owner's reps only knew chemical use history back to 2000



Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA)

ESA Case Study - Continued

• Prior consultant in 2004 concluded no RECs existed

 EnviroSouth considered the likely past use of solvents combined w/septic drainfields as a REC based on likely chemical impact



Common Phase I ESA RECs

Underground Storage Tanks (USTs)









Underground Storage Tanks (USTs)

- Petroleum UST Releases are source of over 90% of groundwater contamination cases in U.S.
- South Carolina's S.U.P.E.R.B. (UST Trust) Fund -- A "safety net" for UST owners and buyers
 - Eligible ONLY for sites with USTs that store regulated fuels (excludes heating oil)
 - Funding (1/2 cent per gallon tax; UST annual fee)
 - \$25,000 deductible
 - UST owner at time of discovery is the Responsible Party (RP)
 - "Orphan" site if USTs abandoned and no RP exists



Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) – Continued

<u>Regulated</u> (primarily gas stations)

- Rules for Installation, Operating, and Abandonment
- Must be abandoned by Removal or Filling-In-Place
- Annual Fees (per tank per year; approx. \$7,000 per UST since 1988)
- Releases (spill or leaks) are SUPERB eligible

Non-Regulated (primarily heating oil USTs of any size)

• No State Environmental Regulations

Existing motor vehicle fuel USTs out-of-service prior to January 1974 - <u>Not regulated</u>, but <u>eligible for SUPERB if a release is discovered</u>



Common Phase I ESA Recs

Dry Cleaners

- Petroleum vs. Perc vs. "Green" Solvents
- Problems with Perc (persists long-term in the ground, spreads far in GW, vapor intrusion)
- S.C. Dry Cleaning Restoration Trust Fund
 - Eligibility (closed to new claims as of 1/1/2015)
 - Grossly Underfunded liability implications for buyers (Brownfield NRP Contract recommended if contamination exists)
- Considerations for Property Purchasers
 - Off-Site Contamination
 - Vapor Intrusion if no longer used as a dry cleaner



Common Phase I ESA Recs

Industrial Properties

- Typical Contaminants
 - Degreaser Solvents (TCE, PCE, etc.)
 - Metal Plating Wastes
 - Petroleum Fuels and Lubricants
- Industrial Septic Systems
- Chemicals Used, Waste handling/Disposal Practices (past and present)
- Waste Treatment Ponds
- Large Acreage Sites Difficult to Thoroughly Assess
 - $\,\circ\,\,$ Purchasers typically enter into Brownfield (NRP) contracts with State



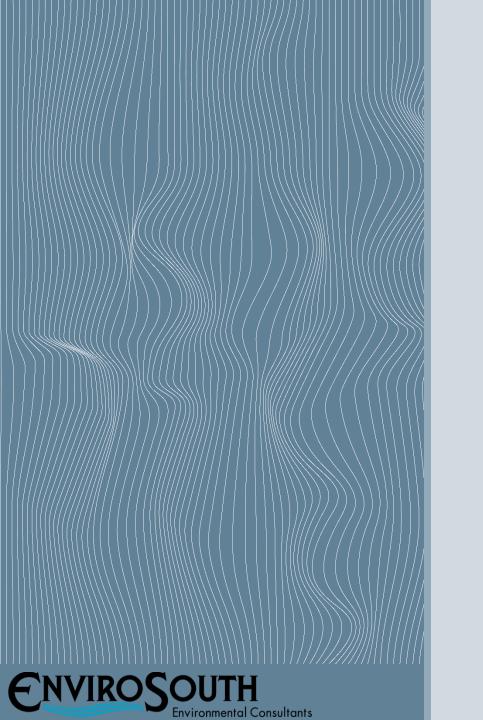
Common Phase I ESA Recs

Automotive Facilities

- Repair Shops
- Body Shops
- Dealerships
- Salvage Yards

Contaminants may include petroleum fuels, automotive fluids, and parts cleaners





Phase II ESAs and Case Studies

Phase II ESA - Assessments

"Phase II ESA" is a Generic Term for any Subsurface Environmental Assessment; typically triggered by Phase I RECs

FAQs: Who Usually Pays? What is the Cost? How Long Does It Take to Complete?

• Most Common: Petroleum fuels, Chemical Solvents, Plating Waste

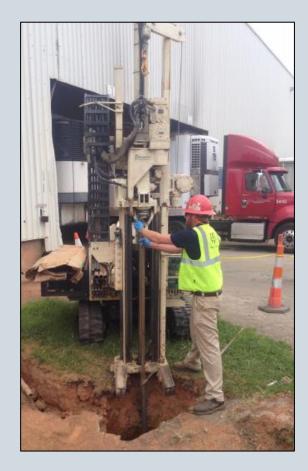
• Impacted Media: Soil, Groundwater, Soil Vapor, and Indoor Air



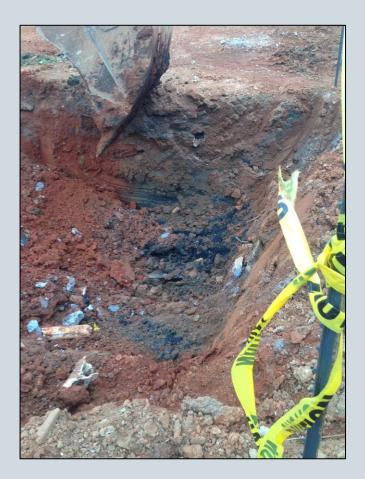




Phase II ESAs - SOIL









Phase II ESAs - GROUNDWATER











Phase II ESAs – VAPOR/AIR









Phase II ESA – Case Study

Groundwater Impact at UST/AST facility, Florence County, SC





Phase II ESA – Case Study

Groundwater Impact at UST/AST facility, Florence County, SC



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<u>2008</u>

- USTs Closed by Owner
- "Clean" Closure
- NFA Letter from SCDHEC
- Aboveground Fuel Tanks (ASTs) installed
- 2015 - Phase I ESA for Buyer
- Phase II found dissolved gasoline in GW
- Not eligible for SUPERB Fund because clean UST closure, then ASTs used with U/G pipes
- Price reduced by \$50,000 for delays and VCC costs

Phase II ESA – Case Study

Former Dry Cleaning Facility, Greenville, SC



City Directories: On-site drycleaner from 1935 to 1970 Type of DC solvent unknown; Perc use was widespread beginning in 1940s

Petroleum Tanks and Chemical Drums located off-site at property line





Phase II ESA – Case Study

Former Dry Cleaning Facility, Greenville, SC



4 Groundwater samples collected

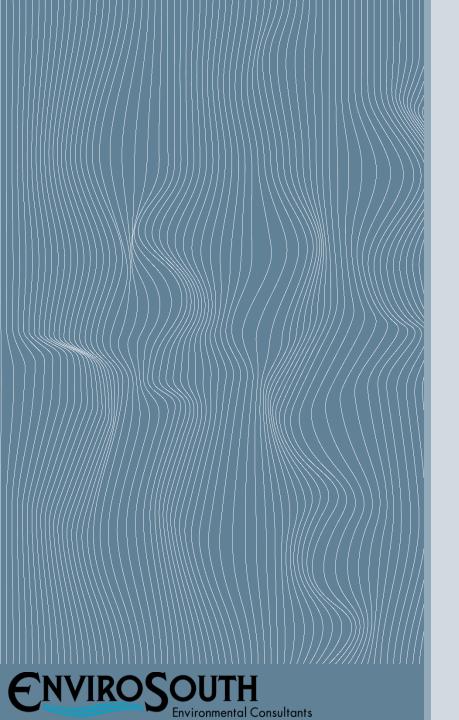
Analyzed in lab for VOCs

VOCs include many petroleum compounds and the main chlorinated dry cleaning solvent Perc (PCE or tetrachloroethene)

No VOCs found in groundwater

Concluded that the DC likely used petroleum-based solvents





SCDHEC Brownfield Process

Buyer Submits VCC Application with Current Phase I ESA Wait 8+ weeks for DHEC Response

SCDHEC Provides Draft VCC Contract for Buyer's Review

Buyer Reviews / Negotiates Changes / Signs Contract

*** Closing can now occur with NRP-VCC Protection for Buyer***

Then...30-Day SCDHEC Public Notice / Sign Erected by Applicant Work Plan Submitted

SCDHEC Approval of Work Plan Field Sampling / Lab Analyses (soil, groundwater, indoor air, surface water) Assessment Report Submitted to SCDHEC SCDHEC Approves Report Media Management and Stewardship Plans Submitted SCDHEC Issues Draft Deed Restrictions Buyer Records Final Deed Restrictions

SCDHEC Issues Certificate of Completion

Forever Chemicals (PFAS)

What's New and Impact on Property Transactions

