





Who am I?

- ☐ Vincent M. Carbone, P.G. with HDR Engineering, Inc.
- ☐ HDR is a 10,000 employee Engineering Firm based in Omaha, Nebraska
- □ 185 Locations in over 60 countries
- ☐ 27 years of (Phase I and II Site Assessment Experience)
- ☐ HDR Engineering Due Diligence Lead
- ☐ Site Specific, Corridor, and Area Studies







Before the Phase I Site Reconnaissance

- □ Why are you completing the Phase I ESA?
- ☐ Who is your client? Know your client!!!
- ☐ What is their intended use of the property?
- ☐ What is the schedule?
- ☐ Is the site active or inactive?

Knowing this information may change the way you proceed with the ESA!!





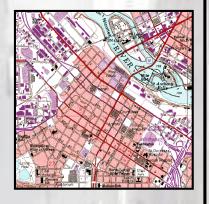


Common Types of Sites Encountered

• Be alert to the many types of sites you may see in the field.

For-sure sites to watch for:

- Current or repurposed gas stations
- Dry cleaners
- Industrial buildings
- Structures that seem out-of-place (i.e. mounds, soil disturbance, pits or ponds that seem out of place.)







Gas Stations

- USTs are largest source of petroleum contamination in US soils and groundwater
- Release sources to soil and groundwater:
 - Tank leaks (LUST)
 - Distribution line leaks
 - "Service stations" did they do auto repair?
 - Hydraulic lifts?
 - Floor drains? To sewer, septic or dry well?
 - Used oil disposal? Floor drains, "out the back door", in a UST, AST or 5 gallon buckets
 - Floors washed with TCE, and rinse down the drain
 - NFAs before 1998- view with suspicion
 - Surface drains for stormwater

























Dry Cleaners

- "Perc" (Per- or tetra-chlorethylene a.k.a. PCE)
 most common dry cleaning solvent
- Over time, dry cleaning machines create waste sludge that was often dumped out the back door, or to septic system
- Highly persistent and volatile, breakdown products (TCE, DCE and vinyl chloride) also volatile - "TCE is forever"
- Some pre-1940 dry cleaners used carbon tetrachloride that stuff is REALLY forever
- Not all dry cleaners clean onsite. Some are only drop off/pick-up locations. Stop in (or call) and ask!





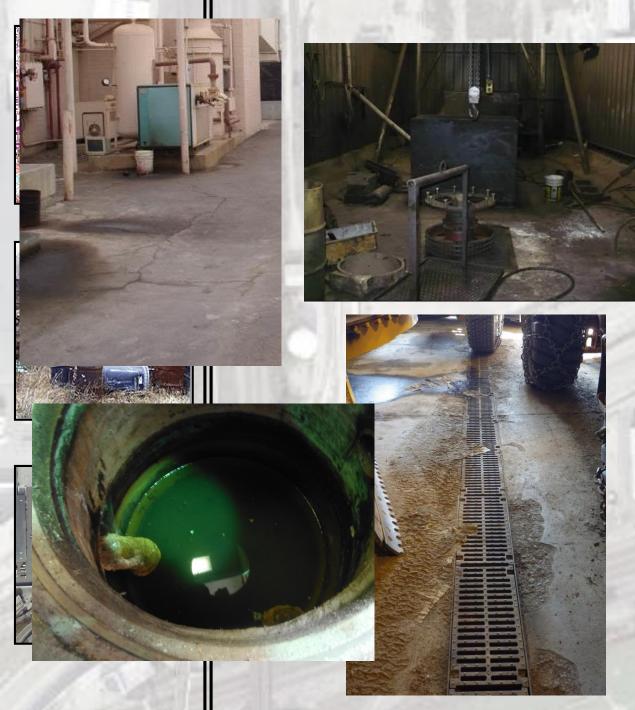




Industrial Buildings

- Waste storage and disposal
- Floor drains (Where do they go?)
- Floor cracks and staining
- Sewer or septic connection
- Hydraulic lifts
- Tanks AST and UST

<< Understand the facility's waste stream>>







It can be boring...









It can be interesting...











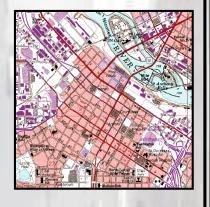
















The Basics

- Purpose To confirm current conditions for sites/issues you already know about, and to identify sites or conditions that are not included in regulatory databases
- Be organized Have a plan, do the history first if possible
- Know Your Contacts Who you need to talk to and not talk to.
- Ask If pictures are possible don't assume you can always take them
- Use a Checklist Included in your notebook
- Safety Do you need safety gear, training, to be escorted, etc.

Being unable to do a site recon is a data gap and must be documented







Phase I ESA Recognized Environmental Condition

- ASTM E1527-13 Definition of REC
- The term recognized environmental conditions means the presence or likely presence of any hazardous substances or petroleum products in, on, or at a property: (1) due to any release to the environment; (2) under conditions indicative of a release to the environment; or (3) under conditions that pose a material threat of a future release to the environment. De minimis conditions are not recognized environmental conditions.







Background Information

- ☐ Historical
 - Sanborn Maps
 - Aerial Photos
 - City Directories
 - Prior Documents
 - People to Contact/interview
 - Towns/municipalities/state
- EDR Report- Data base review!
 - Cover your area! Make sure the radius meets the AAI standard.
 - FOIA
- ☐ Google IT!
- Now on to a pictorial....

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Company: FF			(503) 906-9231 FA	
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Site Reconnaissance

Sometimes conditions are pretty clear!!



Evidence of contamination, or past use of it.....



Stressed Vegetation, eroded asphalt, placards, storage areas, drum circles or rings, soil disturbance







Site Reconnaissance

☐ Sometimes not so clear....

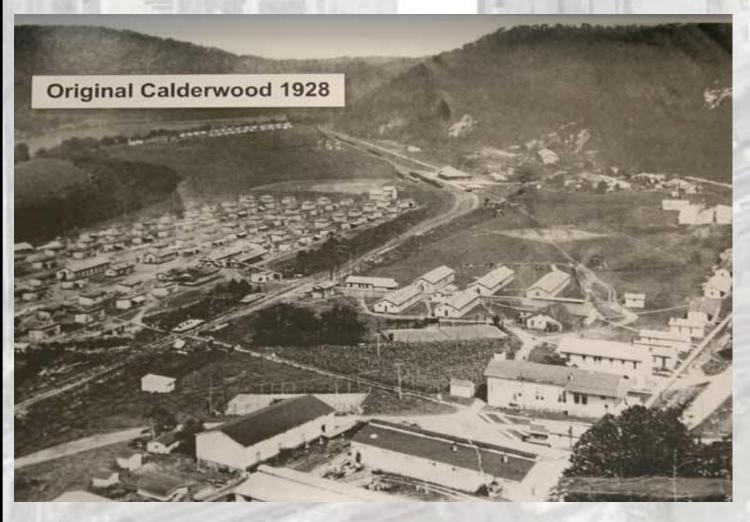








As they were in the past!

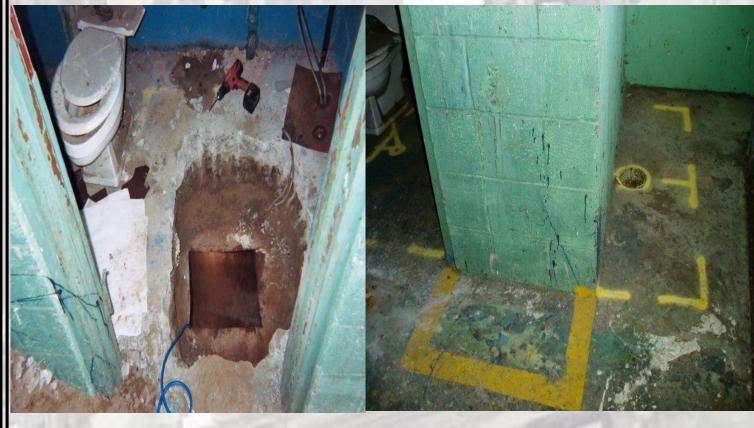








Or Where you least expect it!



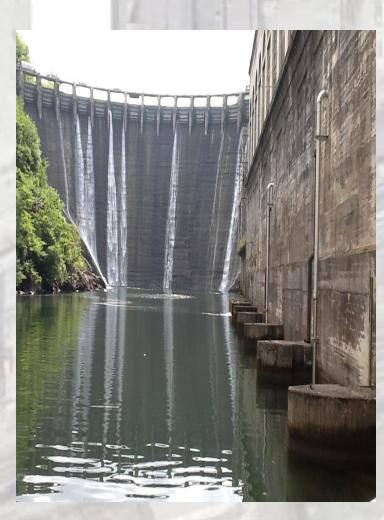


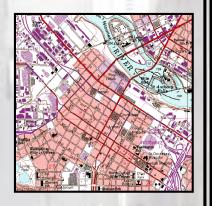




Site Reconnaissance

- ☐ Use your info!
- □ Narrow your focus!
- ☐ Use your experience!
- ☐ You don't need to see everything!
 - "Practically Reviewable"
 - "Reasonably Ascertainable"









Santeetlah Station It all comes clear!

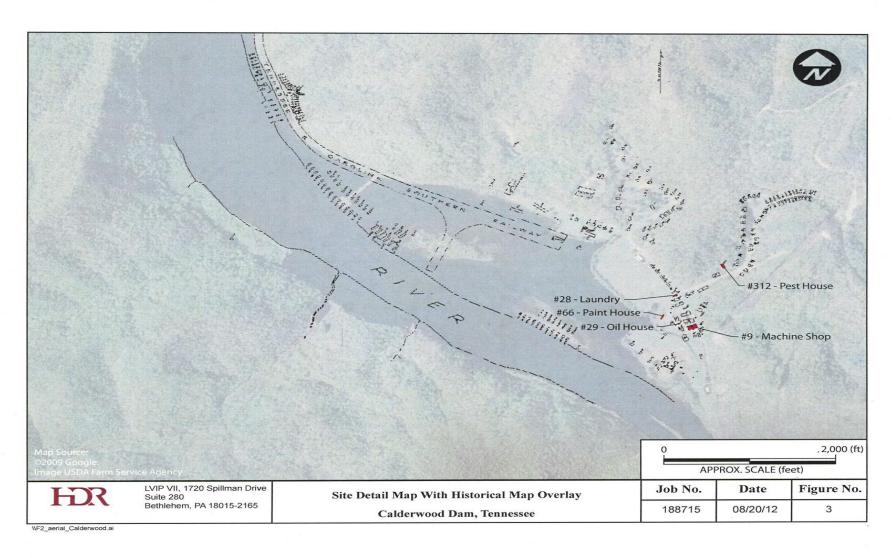
Archives Libraries Vaults

Common areas
Old Timers
Union Halls
Interview with
KNOWLEDGE!





Calderwood Village









Architecture









Site processes, vents, blow down areas, changes in pavement

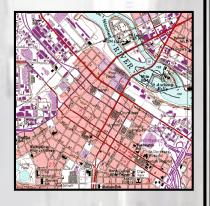






Nuts and Bolts: The Art of the Interview

- ☐ The OFN A vanishing resource
- □ Approaching an interviewee
- ☐ Gleaning useful information vs. shooting the breeze
- The importance of cross-referencing
- Limiting who you should interview and what you can reveal about your project
- ☐ Avoid the clipboard!







EI&M—Before the Phase I

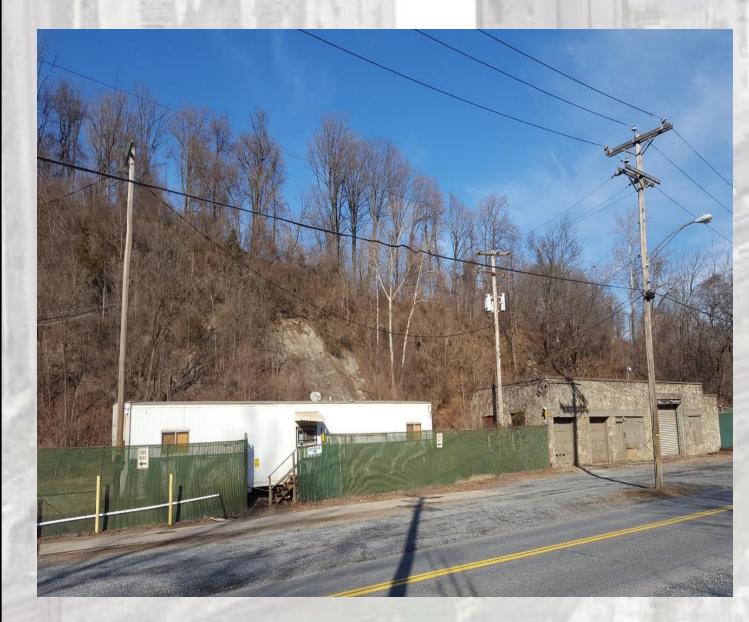
- ☐ Site is being evaluated by the City of Easton as part of a larger project. The site is part of a larger planning corridor train system.
- ☐ Client was LVLRI using a grant from USEPA/ to assist in identifying environmental concerns prior to purchase, Due diligence.
- ☐ Planning corridor, nature walk, community improvement.
- ☐ Schedule for Phase I & potential Phase II work is ASAP.
- ☐ Site is inactive.







Easton Iron and Metal

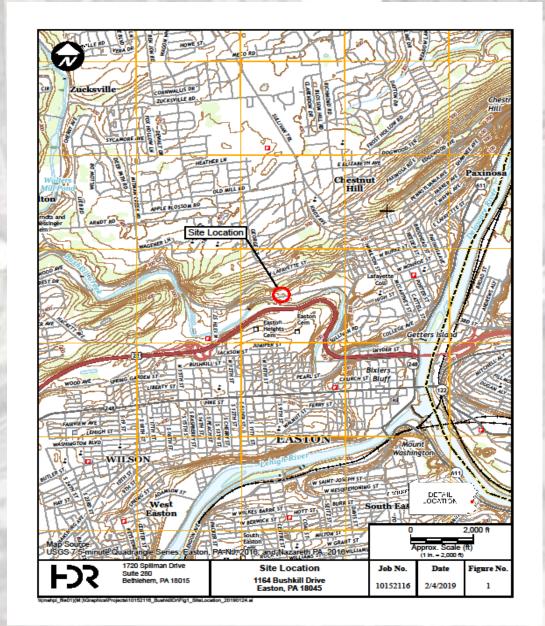








Research-Site Location

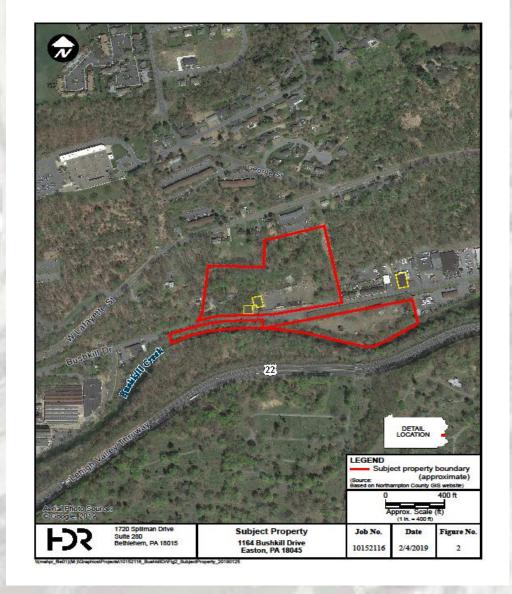


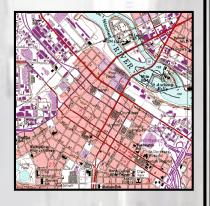
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Research –Subject Property Boundaries









Research-Site Location

- Topography
- ☐ Setting (urban, rural)
- ☐ Surface Water/Sediments
- ☐ Active, Inactive
- ☐ Public Water and Sewer?
- ☐ Exposure Routes
- ☐ Geology
- ☐ Hydrogeology

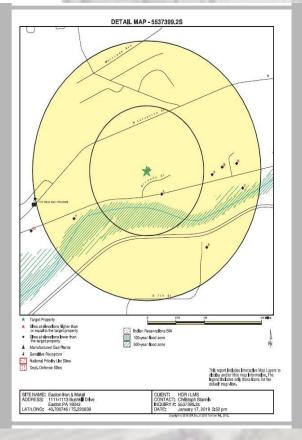






Research-Government Records EDR Radius Reports/ EMAP PA





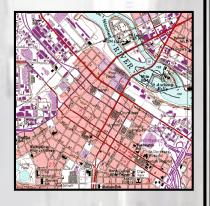






Historical Document Review

- □ "Ensure that a continuous record of land uses is assembled to create a comprehensive review of the potential for releases of hazardous substances at the property." (ASTM)
 - To first developed use of the site or 1940, whichever is earlier

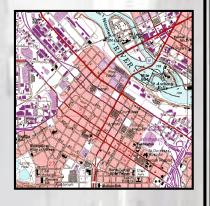






Do your Research!

- □ Research Tools & Sources
 - □Convenience: New Technology
 - Internet, GIS, research companies, etc.
 - □Roll Up Your Sleeves: Old School Sources
 - Libraries, government offices, farmer Bill







Interviews

- □ John Grandson of original owner
 - Worked at the project facility from 1970 to 1980 when it closed.
 - Note the dates that this person worked at the facility. What does it tell you?







Site Reconnaissance

- ☐ What To Look For?
 - Use your Research as a guide!
 - Tanks/Vent Pipes
 - Railroad
 - Foundations
 - Pavement Cuts
 - Stressed Vegetation
 - Depressions or Mounds
 - Sumps
 - Stains
 - Body Language of your escort
 - Many others!
 - Look under/over and in between
 - NOTE THINGS YOU CANT GET TO!







Looks Can be Deceiving!



As they appear now may not be as they were in the past. Take your research with you!