



April 3, 2012

## SMART SECOND LOOKS SAVE YEARS, DOLLARS IN RESOLVING ENVIRONMENTAL CLAIMS

### Environmental Law Client Alert

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Environmental contamination disputes often drag on for many years and sometimes for decades, often resulting in repeated, costly and inconclusive field investigations and sampling. Particularly for large NPL sites under long study, such as estuaries with toxic sediments, or mining sites, mindless adherence to approaches designed for small sites can add years and tens of millions of dollars to studies, without improving environmental results.

Likewise, many contaminated commercial locations where issues were thought to have been resolved years ago may be reopened as EPA and states pay more attention to vapor intrusion problems and as EPA considers tightened standards for chlorinated solvents like TCE. These problems may affect many in commercial real estate, those who finance real estate transactions, as well as major manufacturers, mining and oil companies.

Thankfully, seasoned environmental professionals have learned to take “second looks” at existing data, efforts which take advantage of big improvements in computing power in order use of 3D and time-lapse modeling to make much better sense of conceptual site models. The second look helps avoid needless further sampling and sites arrive at faster, fairer and often cheaper remedial solutions.

Muriel Robinette, of New England EnviroStrategies, working with Russ Randle, a Patton Boggs environmental partner, have collaborated on the article linked [here](#) to show specific examples of how smart use of such second look techniques can achieve faster and cheaper resolutions of environmental disputes. These illustrated examples provide dramatic evidence how smarter approaches to fixing environmental problems can pay big dividends in time, dollars, certainty and reputation.

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