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Environmental focus

SOLVING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS FOR BUSINESS OWNERS; PROPERTY MANAGERS; AND FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES.

Saving Time and Money with Passive Diffusion Bags and Similar Technologies

Does your company have a site that requires periodic sampling of groundwater monitor wells? Periodic groundwater sampling, sometimes as often as quarterly, is typically required to document achievement of cleanup goals or to monitor natural attenuation at Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) sites. For the past several years the TCEQ has advocated the use of "low-flow" sampling techniques, which require the use of time consuming procedures and complex equipment to collect the samples. Consequently, low-flow sampling is costly, especially at sites with many, or very few, monitor wells.

dse is now using several new passive groundwater sample collection methods in place of the traditional low-flow sample collection method in an effort to reduce our clients' costs. Two of these passive sample collection methods that dse has used successfully include passive diffusion bags (PDBs) and the HydraSleeve®.

PDBs are small plastic bags filled with distilled water that are suspended in the water column within the monitor well. The PDB material allows the slow diffusion of groundwater into the distilled water in the bag. The PDB is retrieved after it has been in the monitor well for at least 14 days. The field technicians collect the sample by decanting the water within the PDB into sample bottles provided by the laboratory. The PDB method reduces cost as there is no expensive equipment used, virtually no waste is generated and the field technicians can collect a sample in less than half the time of low-flow techniques.

The HydraSleeve® is a small collapsible plastic bag that is suspended in the monitor well. The HydraSleeve® is recovered several hours after deployment to allow the monitor well to regain equilibrium following insertion. The HydraSleeve® immediately fills with water and seals as it is pulled to the surface. The field technicians collect the sample by decanting the water within the HydraSleeve® into sample bottles provided by the laboratory. HydraSleeves® reduce cost as there is no expensive equipment used, virtually no waste is generated and the technicians can collect a sample in less than half the time of low-flow techniques.

PDBs and HydraSleeves® are ideally suited for the collection of Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) samples from low yield monitor wells and from discrete intervals within monitor wells. In addition to VOCs, HydraSleeves® may also be used to collect samples of chemicals of concern that do not diffuse

dse's friendly staff of experienced environmental professionals is standing by to show you how these passive groundwater sampling techniques can reduce your environmental assessment costs.

Come See Us at These Trade Shows and Conferences:

- **Women's Business Round Up Trade Fair,** April 11, 2007, Arlington Convention Center, Arlington, Texas
- **TCEQ Environmental Trade Fair and Conference,** May 1 to 3, 2007, Austin Convention Center, Austin, Texas–See us at Booth 410.
- **National Women's Business Enterprise Council Convention,** June 26 to 28, 2007, LA Convention Center, Los Angeles, CA.

REGULATORY WATCH

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has launched a new Web-based service that automatically issues e-mail alerts as soon as the agency posts announcements or new information on its Web site. The subscription service is free and allows Texans a quick, convenient way to receive news and information about many of the TCEQ's programs. Topics include: Agency rulemaking, Commission meetings and actions, Publications and newsletters,Air and water quality, Air permitting and compliance guidance,RENEW, the waste exchange network, and News releases. For more details, go to the agency home page at www.tceq.state.tx.us and click on the icon that reads "Sign up for e-mail updates."

dse Helps out at the Cutting Edge of Technology

dse is helping to spread wireless technology by providing site assessment services for cell towers across North Texas as the demand for wireless services spreads beyond industrial and commercial areas into residential and rural areas.

It is no secret that wireless technology is spreading like wild fire in response to the demand for more and more wireless services and easy access to them. Along with that demand comes the spread of cell towers and the need to site those towers in areas where their impact to the surrounding areas are minimized.

As a part of this ongoing effort, Dougherty Sprague Environmental, Inc. (dse) has been active in the early stages of selection for these cell tower sites. On sites all across North Texas, dse has conducted a specialized form of a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment that involves more aspects of a site's surroundings and history. This augmented Phase I ESA not only entails the usual review and investigation of the site's history and current and past usage, but it also considers the cultural and historical aspects of the site and the surrounding properties within a mile radius. Any historical properties in the area of the neighborhood may cause the site to be moved or otherwise hidden as a "stealth" tower so as not to disrupt the historic character of the area.

These studies allow the demand for wireless services to be met without hurting our heritage.

THE PEOPLE OF dse:

Deborah A. Farris

Phase I ESA Manager

Deborah has been a member of the dse team since the company was started back in 1998. She has nine years experience in conducting Phase I ESAs and is also a Texas licensed Asbestos Inspector and Lead Risk Assessor. Deborah is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and holds a B.A. in English with History and Multi Disciplinary Environmental Minors.

dse

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