

## NEW TECHNOLOGY IMPACTS PHASE I PROCESS EFFICIENCY

*In an environmental consultant survey EDR conducted this past summer, the responses to a question about the number of hours typically spent preparing the Phase I report were most interesting. While the majority of respondents said they spent at least five hours or more on report preparation for a typical Phase I, there were a few who reported spending less than two hours. In an effort to understand how these consultants could be spending so little time preparing their Phase I reports, we followed up with each one of them and we found that they were using an automated platform. Some were even collecting data in the field electronically using Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) and downloading the data directly into their automated report writing platform. The automated platforms being used were either proprietary systems that were developed in-house or platforms obtained from outside vendors.*

*Consultants using platforms from outside vendors informed us that two Phase I platforms are available commercially: the RESource System offered by GuideWire, and the PARCEL System offered by Jacques-Whitford (JWC). Interestingly, the decision to switch to an automated platform did not necessarily originate with the environmental consultant; at times, it was their client. Apparently, clients dealing with property portfolios can save considerable time if Phase I reports are delivered electronically, and spreadsheets covering multiple properties can be instantly prepared in a consistent format. Both commercial vendors were interviewed for this article. We hope you will find the article informative and we look forward to your comments.*

*Dianne P. Crocker, Editor*

Since its infancy in the late 1980s, the Phase I environmental site assessment (ESA) industry has evolved in a number of ways. A gradual acceptance of technology has been in progress as Phase I providers are increasingly challenged by their clients to complete ESAs more efficiently. In fact, more than half of Phase I providers today view technology as "very important" to enhancing the efficiency of



conducting Phase I ESAs. Yet, only a small percentage of environmental consulting firms have fully embraced the technology tools available today for digital data collection and electronic ESA reporting. This feature story takes a look back at the evolution of technology tools used in the Phase I industry, describes two comprehensive platforms commercially available today for automating the Phase I process, and identifies the benefits that some consultants are realizing by adopting a more "tech-savvy" approach to their Phase Is.

### Technology in the ESA Industry: A Look Back

By the early 1990s, particularly with the publication of ASTM Standard E 1527 in

1993, Phase I report formats were more or less standardized, although some clients still had individual formats in place that were tailored to their own unique needs. Today, many ESA reports look much the same as they did 10 years ago, with a few additions to the scope of work, largely attributable to the inclusion of non-scope issues (e.g., asbestos, lead-based paint, wetlands, etc.) and the advent of "environmental business risk" considerations.

After a standardized Phase I report format gained acceptance following the adoption of the ASTM E 1527 standard, it became quite common for consultants to use the "cut and paste" or "find and replace" method of report preparation. Such an approach involves finding a previously completed Phase I report that is similar in scope and content to a current project, and replacing old information with updated data. The main drawback of this approach is that it is labor-intensive, time-consuming and, most importantly, prone to error. There is no faster way for a consultant to diminish credibility with a client than to deliver a report to a client's desk that includes erroneous information from an old Phase I.

Another common technique adopted by consultants to harness available technology is to use spreadsheets and word proces-

*continued on page 3*

### CONTENTS

Feature Story . . . . .	1
Market Radar . . . . .	2
Ask Tony . . . . .	6



There were mixed results from the publicly-traded environmental consulting firms for the latest quarter. Consultants report some strength in demand from federal government clients, along with tight infrastructure spending in the state and local government sector, and reduced capital spending by private industry clients. Challenged by weak spending, consultants continue to look toward internal cost-cutting strategies and innovative acquisitions and alliances to offer clients a mix of services, including ESAs, that no other company offers.

## ESA Report Revenue Index

As shown in the accompanying graph, URS Corp. reported quarterly revenues of \$778 million for the second quarter of 2003, an increase of 33% compared to the second quarter of 2002. The company attributes its revenue growth to "robust" spending by clients in the federal government sector, particularly on the company's defense-related operations. Coupled with the growth in URS's revenue, however, was a seven percent decrease in quarterly profits (\$17.1 million compared to \$18.4 million).

Tetra Tech, Inc. is another company in the index that reported revenue growth for the latest quarter. Net revenue for the quarter was \$231.8 million, up 25% from the corresponding quarter of 2002, and net income increased to \$13.8 million, compared to \$8.1 million a year ago. Versar's revenue for the quarter decreased by 17% compared to the corresponding quarter of

2002 due in part to reduced levels of construction work in the company's architecture and engineering segment, and lower subcontracted activities in its environmental operations.

## Overall Spending Weak, Some Hot Spots

Weak levels of new commercial and industrial construction hurt some consulting firms in the second quarter. Key markets for assessment firms, including telecommunications, office, industrial, hotel and utility construction, were also flat to declining over the past quarter.

Cuts in infrastructure spending, especially on highways, continue as state and local governments grapple with deficits. The potential for spending cuts is particularly strong in California, which has the largest state transportation budget. By contrast, construction demand remains solid in the education, hospital and pharmaceutical sectors.

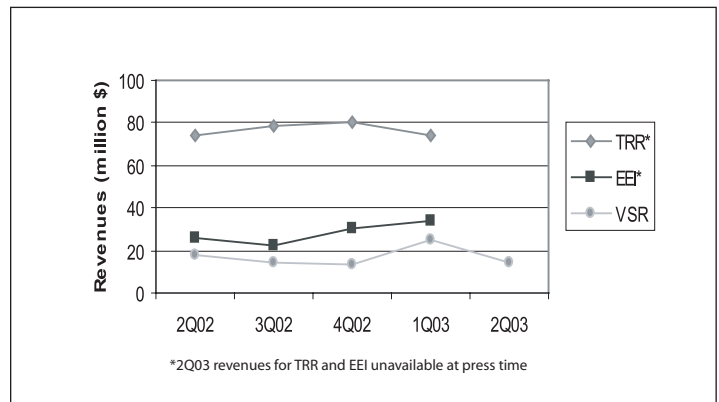
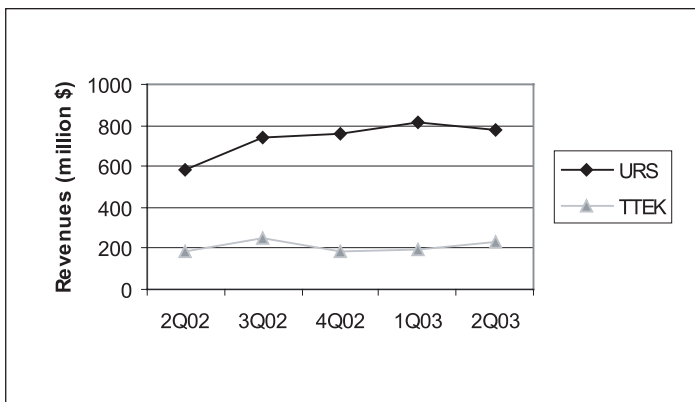
Spending from the state and local government sector continues to be weak with some notable exceptions. Healthy levels of site assessment activity are reported for educational facilities in many states including California, New Jersey and New York, to name a few. In early August, URS won a \$15 million, two-year contract to provide environmental and engineering consulting services to the Colorado Department of Transportation and the Denver-area Regional Transportation District.

## The Strategic Front

Given tight spending levels, consultants are shifting resources toward pockets of strength and innovative strategies. This past quarter, EMG announced a strategic alliance with TerraSure™, a firm specializing in fixed-price remediation of commercial properties. The impetus behind the initiative is to offer commercial real estate buyers, sellers and lenders a "one-stop solution" for addressing environmental problems on commercial properties from the initial site assessment to deal closure and beyond. According to Michael Logsdon, president and CEO of EMG, "We can now provide quality management and clean-up of environmental issues that could otherwise prohibit a deal from closing." Under the terms of the alliance agreement, EMG will conduct ESAs for various projects through its relationship with TerraSure, and TerraSure, in turn, will provide fixed price remediation services to real estate clients and their lending institutions.

In early August 2003, Tetra Tech, Inc. announced its acquisition of Engineering Management Concepts, Inc. (EMC), a \$40 million California-based engineering and program management firm serving clients in the federal government, primarily the U.S. Department of Defense. Tetra Tech's service to the federal government has been growing internally at about 20% annually, and the acquisition reflects the company's strategy to expand its capabilities in security-related areas.

*continued on page 7*



# FEATURE STORY CONT'D

*continued from page 1*

sors to merge ("mail merge") basic client information entered in a spreadsheet format into a report format. Alternatively, some consultants have also used MS Access as a system for generating reports. The difficulty with these systems is that they are localized on PCs and are subject to changes (both inadvertent and otherwise) that users may make. In other words, although there are some benefits to this approach in terms of productivity gains, it can be very challenging for individual environmental professionals to stay current with any changes to the report template. Another problem is that the data entered into the spreadsheet or MS Access database are typically not available to other users in the company. These systems are PC-based, which means that the report content, format and version will vary from computer to computer, contributing to a lack of consistency across the company. As such, if multiple professionals are preparing reports for a customer using different PCs, it is highly probable that subtle to substantial differences will be apparent in the final reports produced.

One last technology tool available to Phase I providers is the report writer system. This type of system is more advanced than the "mail merge" approach and allows users to generate a Phase I report by selecting a template and inserting standard language available to them in a dictionary or standard language table. Under these systems, the report format is standardized and the Phase I professional has the functionality to add the desired language to the report very quickly as

long as it is available in the system. If, however, an unusual, project-specific circumstance arises, the professional is challenged to create the language applicable to the issue and manually insert it into the report layout. The downside to this type of system is that the style of the output is limited, making it unacceptable for use with certain clients or for certain properties.

## Fundamentals for Developing Report Writing Platforms

It was this very lack of efficient systems for generating Phase I reports that led to the development of the two commercial platforms now gaining acceptance in today's marketplace. Both systems were designed for the same purpose: to help consultants complete Phase I ESA reports faster, more consistently and more accurately. A major contributing factor to the development of these two commercially available platforms was the maturation of the handheld computer industry, as well as developments in web-based technology, both of which now allow the average user to quite easily transmit data electronically and, in turn, automate the report-writing process.

The two platforms, the GuideWire RESource and Jacques-Whitford (JWC) PARCEL systems, were developed independently of each other, but follow similar fundamentals of technology. Interviews with the developers of each system revealed four key fundamentals that lay the foundation for any electronic data collection and reporting system.

### 1. Web Server Based Systems

Using the Internet is highly recommended for overcoming the limitations of using localized software for report generation. Whether your organization operates 1 office or 50 offices, the basis for consistency and quality is to store a template or model report in one central location. The reason for doing this is simple. One version of the standard report is then

available for use across the company. In many companies, the multiple formats of ESA reports produced are typically in direct proportion to the number of computers used for ESA report generation. When a customer can point out the variations between the reports created by different offices or environmental professionals, it may be time to consider switching to a web-based system that will provide some consistency to the company's report writing process.

Another benefit of using a server-based system is that a company can easily deploy industry standard report modifications (e.g., ASTM or EPA) or client specific formats at one central location, thereby ensuring that corporate liability and client satisfaction are both strictly attended to. Senior review time can then be spent evaluating the content and quality of the data and opinions in the report rather than determining whether the correct format of the report was utilized. Web systems have the added benefits of allowing for report tracking, conflict of interest protection and maintenance of a company-wide historical report inventory.

### 2. Database Centered Systems

When determining how to develop reporting systems that go beyond the capabilities of word processors, the developers of both the GuideWire RESource and JWC PARCEL systems focused on a "database-centric" design. This was a significant departure from their predecessor report production systems that utilized MS Excel/Lotus (flat-file database) based spreadsheets as the data repository. The new platforms utilize powerful relational database systems with the capability to store vast amounts of information from all of a company's past Phase I reports and perform complex data manipulation and functionalities that were not available in the older systems. This type of database approach is perfectly suited to the homogeneous nature of the data typically included in ESA reports.

*continued on page 4*



# FEATURE STORY CONT'D

continued from page 3

After a database is populated with the pertinent information from a particular Phase I, the possibilities available for using the data are virtually limitless. For instance, a consultant could easily generate the following types of data by conducting a simple query of a centralized Phase I report archive system:

- Projects performed in any given time period (e.g., quarterly productivity reports for company or offices);
- Projects performed on same street, in a particular zip code or county;
- Projects that resulted in Phase II recommendations;
- Projects that resulted in REC findings;
- Status of projects; and
- Multiple configurations of executive summary tables.

Another benefit of a database-centric ESA system is that project information can be easily extracted from the database and inserted into any other report needed for the project (e.g., a Property Condition Assessment report or a Phase II report).

Both the RESource and PARCEL systems also utilize the functionality of databases to facilitate a wide variety of tasks that are typically conducted by the environmental professional or senior reviewer. For instance, the process of reviewing the report to determine whether all pertinent information from the body of the report also appears in the Executive or Project Summary can be a time-consuming task. Under both systems, salient facts that are scattered throughout the body of the report can be automatically inserted into the formatted Executive Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations, and Project Summary sections of the report. In addition to the obvious time savings, such an approach also ensures that parallel language is used throughout the report. The database-centric report generation systems can perform the text insertion task at the push of a button once the system is programmed to "know" which information to import. As a result, clients,

senior staff members and other environmental professionals can instantly produce the Phase I report's Executive Summary. This type of efficiency is only available using a database-centric report generation system.

### 3. Digital Data Collection

A third fundamental for any company wanting to harness the latest technology tools for efficiency is the collection of electronic data that is then available to the entire reporting system. Handhelds (i.e., PDAs) are currently the best available technology for digital data collection in the field. (Tablet computers are also slowly creating more of a foothold in the industry.) The best way for a Phase I professional to gain efficiency during site reconnaissance is to electronically complete checklists on handhelds using digital forms.

According to the results of *EDR's Benchmarking Survey of Environmental Professionals: Technology Track* (see August 2003 *ESA Report*), only eight percent of consultants currently use a handheld device for the onsite input of field observation data during site reconnaissance. Nonetheless, interest in PDAs is gaining momentum. The resistance that some consultants have to using PDAs is based on their belief that the screens are small (relative to their PCs) and that it would be difficult to learn a new data input system. It is understandable that field personnel, often operating under tight time constraints, would be reluctant to spend time staring at a 4-inch screen and using a miniature keyboard.

The forms used in the new RESource and PARCEL systems, however, were designed for use on the small screens of PDAs, making them easier to read. Both of the commercially available ESA report platforms are also designed to maximize the number of pick lists/pull-down menus, thus minimizing the amount of data entry required. Both companies worked through multiple iterations before settling on a format they believe is user

friendly and efficient. Learning how to enter data using the forms of the two new systems is not much different than gaining comfort navigating the web and using the pull-down menus that many web sites now feature.

There are myriad benefits associated with using electronic data collection, not the least of which is that an environmental professional can be more thorough in the field using a PDA. The consultant is later rewarded for the effort with fewer hours required for data entry and report writing. The key benefits of digital data collection in the field include:

- More thorough documentation from the site visit;
- Easier transfer of data from the field into the report;
- More consistent data collection across the company;
- Reduced risk of data entry errors;
- Elimination of need to enter field data after site visit; and
- Reduced cost of field work.

EDR's survey also revealed that nearly half (48%) of consultants who are already using PDAs in the field estimate that one to three hours can be shaved off of the total time for completing the Phase I (principally associated with the information transfer process). Interestingly, twenty percent of respondents put the savings estimate even higher, at three to five hours.

Currently, the report writing stage is the most time-consuming step of the Phase I process. Having all of the Phase I data in one centralized location allows for efficient generation of the final report. In fact, with these new systems, many field staff members are returning to the office with the report as much as 80% complete. If the use of these systems gains wide acceptance, report generation down the road could conceivably become much more efficient and less prone to error.

continued on page 5

# FEATURE STORY CONT'D

continued from page 4

## 4. Digital Report Production and Storage

The final fundamental of an efficient ESA reporting system is the use of digital report generation and storage. The reports generated by the newest systems are portable document format (PDF) files that can be easily viewed on any computer. EDR's survey revealed that 64% of consultants do not deliver their Phase I reports electronically to any of their clients. One barrier that many consultants faced in trying to migrate to electronic reporting is software incompatibility between client and consultant. Another problem is that electronic Phase I reports can be quite large, making email delivery impossible. Electronic documents, assembled improperly in any software, can exceed the maximum file size allowable for email traffic.

The size of a PDF file has the benefit of being smaller, more secure and easier to read by any client in any location. In addition, the documents can be stored electronically, making them more readily accessible than hard copy reports stored in a file cabinet, back office or warehouse. Another advantage of electronic reporting is the ability to email the final report to the client quickly, avoiding the need for

overnight delivery. Reports may also be generated either by the client or by the consultant. A Phase I report in PDF can also be easily delivered in hard copy format at the client's request in a form that is ready to bind with no collation required. If a client needs additional copies of a Phase I report, hard copies are always available at the push of a button, and immediate response is available via email. The newest digital documentation platforms allow authorized clients to quickly access archived reports and data, thereby freeing up administrative and technical staff to perform billable or more time-critical tasks.

The new digital documentation systems were also designed to comply with existing standards for ESA reports (i.e., ASTM E 1527-00 and E 1528-00) and are flexible enough to be updated as such standards are revised.

## Transitioning to Phase I Platform

Any consultant considering the transition to an electronic data collection and Phase I report writing system needs to understand that the development of such a system is iterative and can be quite time-con-

suming. The developers of the REsource and PARCEL systems estimate that the internal development of such systems could require a capital outlay of at least \$200,000 to \$1,000,000. The effort also requires significant expertise not only in the Phase I process, but in information technology and programming. Given the time, cost and expertise involved, staff must be engaged in the process to build support for using such a system at all levels of the organization.

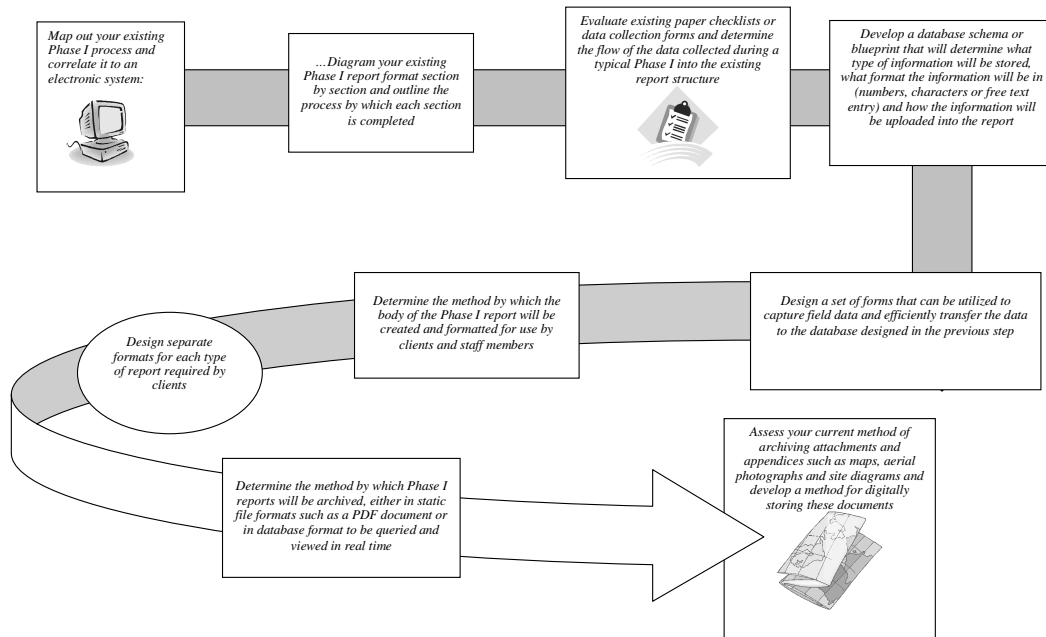
Once developed, these systems require maintenance and support roughly equal to their development costs. In the end, however, such automated platforms pay for themselves in terms of such benefits as reduced turnaround time, cost savings, accuracy, higher quality Phase I reports, enhanced responsiveness to clients' needs, consistency in reports across multiple offices, easier ability to tailor clients' reports to their needs, and perhaps, most importantly, competitive edge.

## Buy or Build?

If your company is interested in developing a system internally, the process outlined in Figure 1 should help assure a use-

continued on page 8

Figure 1. The Decision to "Buy or Build" a Phase I Report Writing Platform





# ASK TONY

*Our client plans to lease a small rooftop area for a cell tower site (to be co-located with another cell company) on a multi-story building situated on a 40-acre site. Would you conduct a full Phase I on the entire property? Or would you recommend limiting the Phase I solely to the roof area where the tower will be located? In addition, should we be concerned with the possible presence of asbestos in the building (built in the 1970s), since the cell company would need to drill through the roof to reach a power source?*

*Our client is seeking to protect himself from any potential environmental liability that may exist on the site and draw him into a cleanup if the property were contaminated, but is leaving it up to us to decide the scope of the Phase I to be conducted. Normally, we would be assessing the entire property; however, it seems absurd to look at the entire property when all our client plans to do is place antennas and a small building on the roof.*

S.S.

Raleigh, NC

S.S. -- From my experience, the reason for doing a Phase I on a cell tower site is to identify any environmental condition that may potentially impact cell tower operation. This is where you must use your professional judgment. In the end, your specific scope of services must be completely understood, and agreed to, by your client. The issue of asbestos must be discussed with your client if:

- there is a justification to remove asbestos from the building and the removal effort has the potential to impact the roof's structural stability; or
- the mere presence of asbestos in the roof might be disturbed by any rooftop construction.

In the case of the latter, it may make sense to do a comprehensive asbestos investigation in the area of the roof that might be disturbed.

With respect to where the Phase I is conducted, it depends entirely on the scope of services agreed upon with your client. If

they understand all the ramifications and agree to the Phase I being conducted on only a section of the property parcel, then so be it - do the Phase I solely on the building footprint (not the roof, but the building footprint). Also, be sure to identify in the Phase I report this "deviation" from the ASTM E 1527-00 standard (as the ASTM standard requires the Phase I on the entire property parcel).



If your client is really seeking to protect himself from any environmental liability that may exist on the site, then it may be more appropriate to conduct the Phase I on the entire property parcel. This is the only way to protect against being drawn into a property contamination problem. Although, since your client is only leasing the rooftop space, frankly I do not see how they might be "[drawn] into a cleanup if the property were contaminated." The owner of the building has this responsibility, not the tenant, unless the tenant can be shown to be a contributor to the contamination.

*We are interested in understanding to what degree we can rely on a lead agency site closure/no further action letter for a particular site. The site was a gas station at the time of the inspection and had operated as such for many years. Two adjacent properties are (or were historically) gas stations. Our Phase I identified potential petroleum hydrocarbon contamination on the subject property as a recognized environmental condition (REC) in connection with the historic use of underground storage tanks on the site. Local records indicate that one underground storage tank (UST) was removed in 1988 and two USTs were removed in 1994. No analytical results could be found from the 1988 tank removal. Soil*

*The "Ask Tony" section of ESA Report is provided as a general information service for ESA Report readers, tapping into the many years of experience of EDR's President and Chief Executive Officer, Anthony J. Buonicore, in the field of environmental site assessment and the requirements of the ASTM E 1527 and E 1528 standards. Mr. Buonicore is former Chairman of the ASTM Task Group responsible for developing the ASTM E 1527 and E 1528 standards. The answers provided in this section do not represent the opinions or statements of the ASTM and are not meant to serve as definitive practice recommendations or requirements for any particular project. You should not base your approach to any particular project solely on the answers provided in this section and should always consult the specific language of the applicable ASTM standard. All risk of use of the information provided in this section is with the user. Neither EDR nor Mr. Buonicore shall have any liability for any loss, cost or damage incurred by anyone as a result of such person's use of the information provided in this section. ■*

*samples from the 1994 tank removal resulted in non-detectable levels of petroleum hydrocarbon contamination. The local regulatory agency files indicated that petroleum odor, staining and product on the groundwater present in the excavation were found during tank pull activities. Groundwater samples were reportedly collected; however, analytical results were not in the file.*

*After submitting our Phase I report with the above REC noted, the client provided a letter from the local agency stating that "no further assessment or remediation" for the site was required. To the best of our knowledge, this "closure" letter was not in the agency's file when we conducted our file review.*

*Should we be able to rely on this closure letter regardless of the circumstances surrounding the site? Or is part of our job as "environmental professionals" to determine if the closure letter is appropriate and acceptable.*

L.B.

Chico, CA

*continued on page 7*

# ASK TONY CONT'D

continued from page 6

L.B. -- The situation you describe is not a unique one. In fact, many others in our profession have faced similar situations. What I would suggest is that you consider (because only you have all the facts) identifying the situation as a "de minimis" environmental condition associated with the property since it appears to meet the two "de minimis" criteria:

- (1) no material risk to public health or the environment (appears obvious by the issuance of the NFA letter by the local regulatory agency that is ultimately responsible to protect the public); and
- (2) if the regulatory agencies were aware of it, they would not take enforcement

action (obviously, they are aware as evidenced by issuance of the NFA letter). As such, according to the ASTM standard (and I am assuming you have been requested by the client to conduct an ASTM E 1527-00 Phase I), de minimis environmental conditions are NOT recognized environmental conditions.

There is one other issue you should also be aware of, and that is the presence of MTBE in gasoline. I would suggest investigating whether MTBE was considered in the past cleanup of the gas station. NFA letters typically have qualifiers, such as "there is no further action unless new information arises..."

MTBE is a more recent phenomenon and some formerly cleaned up sites with NFAs have been re-opened (generally speaking, if there were drinking water wells nearby - something you might want to investigate in much greater depth at your property and in the surrounding area). It may also make sense for you to question the local regulatory agency on their re-opener policy with respect to dealing with MTBE. Your client certainly should be made aware of all this regardless of your findings. At the minimum, assuming your client is the buyer, he or she may be able to use a potential MTBE risk to support a lower purchase price. ■

## MARKET RADAR CONT'D

continued from page 2

In early September, SSR Engineers, Inc., a consulting engineering firm specializing in services to the electrical power industry, joined HDR, an architecture-engineering-consulting company for an undisclosed amount. Going forward, SSR will conduct business as HDR/SSR Engineers Inc. The agreement reflects HDR's expectation that the need to upgrade and add new transmission and distribution infrastructure positions the electric utility sector as a growth market. HDR will now offer SSR's clients in the electric utility sector with a "full-service approach" including corridor planning, ESAs and environmental permitting to accelerate delivery of new electrical transmission systems.

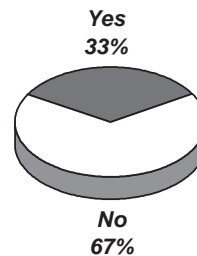
Looking ahead to the end of 2003 and into next year, consultants expect stable spending in the state and local government market. Provided state budgets for 2004 are approved, infrastructure projects should begin to move forward and drive modest revenue growth.

In the private sector, some consultants are optimistic about preliminary indications that the economy is improving, including reports of growth in the manufacturing sector and in construction spending. ■

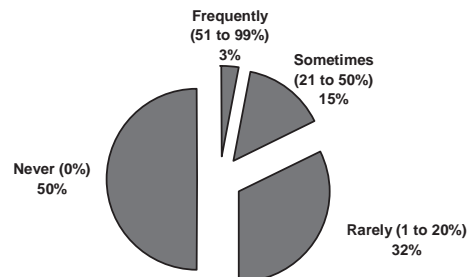


## TrendTrack: PCA Focus

Does your firm conduct Property Condition Assessments (PCAs)?



If yes, how often are PCAs being performed in conjunction with a Phase I ESA?



Source: EDR's TrendTrack survey at [www.edrnet.com](http://www.edrnet.com)

*Publisher:* Anthony J. Buonicore, P.E., DEE  
*Editor:* Dianne Crocker  
*Production Editor:* Suzanne Chabot  
*Copy Editors:* Brett Dehler, Kate Morrissey Neary  
*Subscriptions Manager:* Amy Sakso  
*Technical Advisor:* Anthony Buonicore P.E., DEE, Rob Barber

*Environmental Site Assessment Report* is published monthly by EDR Business Information Services, 3530 Post Road, Southport, CT, 06890.

**Phone:** 1-800-352-0050  
**Fax:** 1-800-231-6802  
**Web:** www.edrmet.com  
**e-mail:** asakso@edrmet.com  
**Subscriptions:** \$195/year. 12 monthly issues.

When changing your address, please include both old and new addresses with ZIP code numbers, accompanied by a mailing label from a recent issue.

Unauthorized reproduction in any form, including emailing, photocopying, faxing, and image scanning is prohibited. Copyright © 2003 Environmental Data Resources, Inc.

Environmental Data Resources, Inc. makes no representation that this report is absolutely accurate or complete. Errors and omissions, typographical, clerical and otherwise, sometimes occur, and this possibility exists in respect to anything printed in the work. Hence, nothing herein should be relied upon in any instance where there is any possibility of any loss or damage in any direction resulting from any statement error or omission.

Environmental Data Resources, Inc. is a information services firm providing research, publishing, map-based information products and strategic advisory services covering the environmental risk management markets.

Environmental Data Resources, Inc. is headquartered in Southport, CT, and has offices in: Atlanta; Boston; Charlotte; Chicago; Dallas; Denver; Detroit; Houston; Irvine; Los Angeles; Miami; Minneapolis; Newark; New York City; Philadelphia; San Francisco; Seattle; St. Louis and Washington, DC. Environmental Data Resources, Inc. is wholly owned by Daily Mail and General Trust, (DMGT) subsidiary DMG Information.

## FEATURE STORY CONT'D

*continued from page 5*

ful and scaleable product. An approximate timeframe and cost estimate for performing each of these tasks must be developed. With these estimates in hand, consultants will be in a much better position to evaluate the "buy or build" decision.

The results of EDR's survey provide compelling evidence that the Phase I industry could well be in the early stages of a transition toward a more automated system of report writing. For consultants who are not familiar with such systems, information is provided in the shaded box about how to evaluate the two commercially available systems. Weighing these two systems against your own internal report writing system could be a useful exercise for determining the areas of your Phase I process that might best be suited to automation. ■

### For More Information

#### 1. GuideWire REsource Platform

- [www.guidewireresource.com](http://www.guidewireresource.com)
- Phone (888) 294-0905
- Test drive the system using:

Login ID = DDD/Password = 123456



#### 2. Jacques-Whitford PARCEL Platform

- <http://parcel.jacqueswhitford.com>
- The system is available to sample using the following:

User name = DDD/Password = 123456

- Phone (781) 935-9281



### Did you know...

...President Bush just signed new legislation that averts a cutoff of federal surface transportation funds?

The legislation keeps funds flowing through TEA-21 legislation (scheduled to expire September 30) until February 29, 2004 while debates continue in the multi-year successor to TEA-21. The new law avoids any disruption in the operations of the hundreds of state and local transportation agencies by providing \$14.7 billion in new funding for existing highway projects.

## ASTM UPDATE • ASTM UPDATE • ASTM UPDATE • ASTM UPDATE • ASTM UPDATE

The next meeting of ASTM Committee E50 on Environmental Assessment, Risk Management and Corrective Action will take place October 21-23, 2003 at the Tampa Marriott Waterside in Tampa, FL. The schedule of task group meetings related to environmental site assessments is as follows:

### Tuesday, October 21, 2003

Phase I ESA/Transaction Screen Task Group  
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

### Wednesday, October 22, 2003

Mold Task Group  
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Brownfields Task Group  
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Environmental Compliance Assessment Task Group  
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

### Thursday, October 23, 2003

Limited Asbestos Screening Task Group  
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Activity and Use Limitations Task Group  
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

*For the complete Committee E50 meeting schedule, visit <http://www.astm.org/COMMIT/SCHEDRTF/E50.doc>*

*For questions, contact E50 Staff Manager, Daniel Smith at (610) 832-9727 or [dsmith@astm.org](mailto:dsmith@astm.org)*

*All meetings will be held at the Tampa Marriott Waterside. For reservations, call (813) 221-4900.*