

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

Environmental and Engineering Group Dinner Meeting

Guadalajara Hacienda Restaurant • 9799 Katy Freeway (south side of Katy Freeway between Bunker Hill and Gessner)
Social 5:30 p.m., Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$25 Preregistered members; \$30 Nonmembers & Walk-ups

Make your reservations now on-line through the HGS website at www.hgs.org; or, by calling 713-463-9476 or by e-mail to Joan@hgs.org (include your name, meeting you are attending, phone number and membership ID#).

by *Don Grauer*
EDR
Houston, Texas

The Federal “All Appropriate Inquiry” Rule: A New Phase in Phase I’s

Thursday, August 26, 2004, marked a truly historic moment for the environmental site assessment industry. On this date, the US EPA proposed the first federal standard for “all appropriate inquiries”—the term used for the investigation into a property’s potential for environmental contamination prior to purchase. By year-end 2005, the developing federal standard will be promulgated into federal law, changing the forces that govern the way environmental due diligence is conducted significantly in some respects. The AAI law will establish specific regulatory requirements that a property owner (and the owner’s environmental consultant) must follow to determine the previous ownership, uses and environmental conditions of a property for the purposes of qualifying for certain landowner liability protections under CERCLA. Within the proposed rule is text that

The AAI (All Appropriate Inquiry) law will establish specific regulatory requirements that a property owner...must follow to determine the previous ownership, uses and environmental conditions of a property for the purposes of qualifying for certain landowner liability protections ...

will not only dictate who can perform Phase I environmental site assessments (ESAs) in the future, but also calls for significant changes in how ESAs can be performed—from historical research documentation to reviews of local and tribal government records to documentation of data gaps. As such, it is imperative for anyone conducting Phase I environmental site assessments to stay up-to-date on this important new ruling as it nears promulgation. At this workshop, attendees will learn about the implications of the new federal environmental due diligence standard so that they can prepare for any necessary changes to their Phase I practices now, rather than later. ■

Biographical Sketch

DON GRAUER is EDR’s South Texas Regional Manager based in Houston, Texas. His duties include servicing and maintaining EDR’s current client base, and exploring new business opportunities across different market segments. Don is available to meet with clients in person for training and other client needs.



Don has been with EDR for four years where he started out as an Account Executive for the state of Florida, after which he was promoted to Senior Account Executive. Don holds a bachelors degree in business management from the University of Connecticut.

Call for Volunteers

The HGS and GSH are locating for several volunteers to assist the Arrangements Committee for the upcoming OTC Conference from May 2 through May 5. A half-day volunteer will receive full registration for the convention and a free parking pass good for the entire convention. Please contact Lynn Coyle at 281-578-6397 daytime, or 281-491-2294 evenings, or email lynn@velocitydatabank.com or Claudia Ludwig at 713-723-2511 or email at petra@hal-pc.org.