

Prensa Update

February 2013

Why use a site auditor for contaminated land?

The assessment of contaminated sites is often a technically challenging discipline, due to the complexity of contaminants in the environment and the risks posed to human health and ecological systems. Collection of robust and reliable data can also prove to be difficult.

It is therefore advantageous for planning authorities, land owners and developers to seek sound advice from appropriately qualified and highly experienced specialists in making decisions on the development and sale of potentially contaminated land.

The role of a site auditor is to provide an independent sign-off and review of consultants' reports.

The NSW Site Auditor Scheme is administered by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) under Part 4 of the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 (CLM Act).

In addition to the voluntary use of an auditor, it is mandatory to use their services when a statutory site audit is required under:

- CLM Act 1997 (s. 24 (l)(d));
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979; and
- Any other Act.

The outcomes of a site audit are:

- The provision of a site audit statement which outlines the conclusions of a site audit; and
- An accompanying site audit report that summarises the consultant's report reviewed by the auditor and provides the basis for the conclusions made in the site audit statement.

A site auditor can add value by:

- Providing a level of confidence to regulators and stakeholders for independent sign-off on complex sites or issues;
- Minimising delays by agreeing the scope of work at the start of a project;
- Assisting in the sale of a site prior to remediation being undertaken;
- Ensuring unnecessary remediation is not being done; and
- Saving money by minimising the need for the rework of poorly scoped projects.

Prensa can assist with the services of **Dr Wayne Drew**.

Wayne is a chemist/ chemical engineer/ biochemical engineer with over 40 years professional experience and is:

- An accredited site auditor in New South Wales;
- An environmental auditor for contaminated land and industrial facilities in Victoria;
- A contaminated sites auditor in Western Australia; and
- A site contamination auditor in South Australia.

Since 1994 he has completed close to 400 statutory audits across Australia and has directed many hundreds of environmental assessment and due diligence projects for both private and public sector clients.

If you have the need for a site audit statement or similar, please call Prensa to discuss your options.

Reference:

- DEC NSW (2006), Guidelines for the NSW Site Auditor Scheme (2nd Edition).

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