

## **Donna Stephenson, P.E**

### **CV Summary**

#### **Burnside Environmental Group, LLC (BEG)**

##### **Littleton, Colorado**

Member of Burnside Environmental Group which works on behalf of clients throughout the United States to:

- respond to, document, and evaluate environmental incidents and events
- assist the litigation team with their responses to receipt of requests for information, subpoenas and executions of search warrants
- evaluate regulatory inspection results
- evaluate CWA permits
- audit existing environmental compliance plans and environmental management systems
- evaluate the government's sampling procedures and analytical protocols
- conduct sampling to mirror government sampling events
- arrange laboratory support for sampling events and interpretation of analytical results
- investigate maritime/ surface water pollution incidents
- train workers on environmental compliance issues
- provide technical testimony on environmental issues

#### **Senior Environmental Engineer**

##### **U. S. EPA National Enforcement Investigation Center (NEIC)**

##### **Building 25, Denver Federal Center**

##### **Denver, CO**

Provided technical support to all phases of civil and criminal investigations:

- Planned and lead civil team in the multi-media inspections of large industrial facilities;
- Evaluate wastewater data to determine compliance with regulations and permits;
- Developed plans and lead multi-disciplinary teams at criminal search warrant sites;
- Over-saw the collection of evidentiary samples, documentary photographs, and prepared chain-of-custody documentation;
- Prepared expert engineering reports for use in litigation and plea agreements;
- Provided testimony in grand jury, Daubert, evidentiary, and sentencing hearings, and trials in Federal, state and local courts;
- Authored and co-authored NEIC procedures for sampling surface water, soil and containers;
- Prepared training on the subjects of water and wastewater regulations, field sampling, and site safety.
- Provided training at the EPA National Enforcement Training Institute, EPA regions, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, DOJ National Advocacy Center, and in Santiago, Chile;

**Significant Litigation Support- qualified as an expert witness in Federal court**

**Colorado Electroplater-** Performed an engineering analysis of the facility's wastewater treatment system. Determined treatment capacity, then compared that to wastewater produced and identified when bypass of treatment would be necessary. Prepared an expert report which was instrumental in obtaining a settlement of the case before trial in which the facility entered a guilty plea.

**Colorado Propylene Glycol Recycler-** Interviewed facility operator and inspected process equipment. Obtained detailed information about process capabilities and storage capacity of site, as well as volume of incoming solutions to be recycled. Performed a detailed process analysis to determine when the system and storage capacity would be overwhelmed, and bypass of treatment occurred. Provided expert testimony at trial in Federal court in Denver, Colorado. The trial resulted in a felony conviction for the facility operator.

**Georgia Chemical Blender-** Analyzed 7 years of continuous flow data for a chemical blending facility which discharged to a municipal wastewater treatment system (POTW) subject to regulation by a discharge permit issued by the POTW. The permit included a duty to report amount of wastewater discharged, and a provision to pay a surcharge above an established discharge amount. The analysis identified hundreds of falsely reported flow numbers within the 7 year period. The facility and the engineer who operated the wastewater treatment system entered guilty pleas prior to trial.

**Louisiana Wastewater Treatment Plants-** as government expert post- retirement from EPA-NEIC, provided litigation support to DOJ and EPA at the trial of the operator of several small residential wastewater treatment systems. The plants had chronically violated limits of discharge permits issued by the state of Louisiana (LPDES). Provided expert testimony at trial in Federal court in Monroe, Louisiana. The trial resulted in a felony conviction for the treatment system operator.

**Large Midwestern Pipe Manufacturer-** as consultant to facility defense counsel, re-created government sampling of wastewater discharge to identify probable cause used by EPA to obtain a federal criminal search warrant. Sample results, and review of previous sample data were used to characterize the facility's discharge and prepare a defense to potential criminal charges against the facility and its operators. My conclusions, in addition to detailed information about environmental projects at the facility, were presented to the Assistant U.S. Attorney, who chose to decline prosecution of the case.