

MICHAEL H. HESTER

Principal – Environmental Science & Imaging Services

EDUCATION

M.S., Environmental Science, Indiana University, 1996

M.P.A., Indiana University, 1996

B.A., Earth Sciences (Geology) & Environmental Studies, Dartmouth College, 1985

Advanced Career Training Program in Professional Nature Photography, Rocky Mountain School of Photography, 1999

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Mr. Hester has over 18 years of experience evaluating the fate and ecological effects of anthropogenic compounds in freshwater, ground water, terrestrial and marine environments. He has been involved in numerous projects assessing the distribution, movement and ecological effects of oil and hazardous materials in aquatic and terrestrial settings, and in providing high quality photographic documentation of associated environmental conditions. Mr. Hester has played a key role in determining physical and chemical response strategies and remedial options at scores of contaminated sites throughout the United States. During his career in consulting he has gained extensive experience in contaminated site natural resource injury assessment, development of spill response and site remediation strategies, restoration planning and implementation, hazardous materials handling and disposal, risk assessment, spill contingency planning and environmental cost-benefit analysis. As a project manager he has successfully prepared project work plans, managed multi-disciplinary technical staff, coordinated environmental permitting, and maintained project scopes, schedules and budgets. A Principal at Environmental Science & Imaging Services since 1999, he is responsible for senior project management and business development associated with environmental, ecological and related photographic services. Mr. Hester's diverse experience on a wide variety of projects demonstrates his capabilities and expertise across a broad range of environmental disciplines. The projects listed below are representative of his consulting experience.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources. Natural Resource Damage Assessments. Provide technical support and serve as Case Manager for research, planning and implementation of Natural Resource Damage Assessments (NRDA) and restoration planning for past oil spills under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA). Conduct initial research on the nature and extent of resource injuries, prepare assessment strategies and related requests for Responsible Party or National Pollution Funds Center funding of damage assessments, and provide technical support and case management services for damage assessment implementation and associated restoration planning [2005 – Present].

United States Coast Guard National Pollution Funds Center. Electronic Desk Guide for Natural Resource Damage Assessments. Provided technical support to the U.S. Coast Guard's National Pollution Fund Center for the research, development, and preparation of the Electronic Desk Guide for Natural Resource Damage Assessments. Conducted research on current state-of-the-art methods and technologies used in assessment of damages to natural and cultural resources in both the marine and terrestrial environment. Wrote technical summaries and synopses of assessment methodologies for inclusion in the Desk Guide [2004].

Confidential Client. Bouchard Barge 120 Oil Spill, Environmental Property Damage Assessment – Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts. Conducted post-response assessment of potential spill- and cleanup-related property damages to privately owned areas of Buzzards Bay shoreline. Performed SCAT surveys and created an extensive photographic record of site conditions [2003].

United States Navy. Research and Development of Natural Resource Damage Assessment Guidance Manuals. Provided technical support to lead contractor for development of Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) guidance manuals and Oil and Hazardous Substance (OHS) spill response plans for U.S. Navy facilities in Hawaii and Guam [1999].

United States Department of Justice. Montrose Chemical Natural Resource Damage Assessment - California. Conducted technical review of scientists' published literature, expert reports and work papers submitted in support of the NRDA. Assisted U.S. Department of Justice attorneys in pre-deposition questioning and preparation of expert witnesses prior to their testimony in the NRDA environmental enforcement case [1998].

United States Environmental Protection Agency. Office of Policy Analysis and Review. Benefit-Cost Analysis of the Clean Air Act. As a member of the lead contractor team, provided technical and project management support to EPA for its Congressionally-mandated analysis of benefits and costs of the Clean Air Act. Developed a framework for identifying and quantifying the effects of air pollution and atmospheric deposition on marine, estuarine, and terrestrial ecosystems, based on review of relevant atmospheric science and ecology literature and interviews with primary researchers. Worked closely with and provided oversight to multi-disciplinary subcontractor teams on complex modeling and analytical tasks, as well as on writing and editing the draft and final reports to Congress [1996-1998].

United States Environmental Protection Agency. Office of Policy Planning and Evaluation. Guidance Manual for Assessment of Benefits of Drinking Water Regulations. Prepared a manual outlining procedures for assessing the economic benefits of drinking water regulations, to be used by EPA staff in performing cost-benefit analyses required by the Safe Drinking Water Act amendments of 1996. Researched and interpreted the applicability of various statutory and regulatory requirements to the assessment of benefits of drinking water regulations. Prepared background materials on benefits analysis and managed junior staff in development of case studies of hypothetical drinking water regulatory scenarios for presentation and discussion at the National Drinking Water Advisory Council's Benefits Working Group meeting [1998].

United States Environmental Protection Agency. Region 3 Acid Mine Drainage Initiative. National Network for Environmental Management Studies (NNEMS) Program Fellow. Provided technical assistance to agency staff in the completion of a variety of projects under the auspices of the Region 3 Acid Mine Drainage Initiative. Assessed the effects of acid mine drainage on groundwater resources and surface water quality, and evaluated the feasibility of various acid mine drainage abatement technologies. Researched sources and extent of acid mine drainage to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reservoir. Drafted an analysis of the eligibility of acid mine drainage abatement projects for continued funding under the Clean Water Act nonpoint source control program. Wrote a grant proposal seeking Chesapeake Bay Program funding for state-initiated acid mine drainage abatement projects [1995].

Eastern Utilities Associates. Emergency Response and Environmental Compliance Program. As a member of the environmental engineering staff for a consortium of four electric utility companies, coordinated and supervised emergency response to oil and hazardous substance releases from electrical equipment and facilities, underground storage tanks and line maintenance trucks. Developed and implemented an in-house employee training program on identification and protection of wetland

resources under state and federal regulations, and conducted aerial and ground-based photography of representative wetland types to support associated slide presentation. Conducted annual employee training in proper hazardous waste management, safety and record-keeping procedures as required by state and federal regulations, and provided management and oversight of company hazardous waste disposal and record-keeping program [1990-1993].

Lincoln Environmental Inc. Oil and Hazardous Substance Release Investigations. Designed and supervised field investigations to assess damage to soil, groundwater, and surface water resources resulting from oil and hazardous substance releases at a variety of commercial and industrial sites. Worked with state and local agencies to coordinate emergency response to ongoing releases as needed. Directed field crews in sampling and monitoring soil and water resources. Interpreted study results and laboratory data, and developed restoration plans in coordination with clients and agency representatives [1989-1990].

United States Environmental Protection Agency. Final Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Boston Harbor Sewage Treatment Facilities. Provided technical support to EPA on preparation of the Final Draft Environmental Impact Statement for proposed Boston Harbor sewage treatment facilities, including mathematical modeling of the dispersion of dense gases in air to evaluate the potential public health risks of accidental chlorine releases at the proposed facilities [1985-1986].

Selected Reports and Publications

Reilly, T.J., Hester, M. 2005. Tank Barge *Vista Bella* Oil Spill Assessment Claim. Prepared for Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources. Lighthouse Technical Consultants, Inc. Rockport, MA.

Reilly, T.J., Dominguez, J., Hester, M., Mills, M., Erickson, R., and N. Bergeron. 2004. Electronic Desk Guide for Natural Resource Damage Assessments. Prepared for United States Coast Guard National Pollution Funds Center under Contract Number DGCG23-01-D-HXZ004. Lighthouse Technical Consultants, Inc. Rockport, MA. 100 MB.

Previous Employers

1996 – 1998	Industrial Economics, Incorporated, Cambridge, MA, Associate
1990 – 1993	Eastern Utilities Associates, West Bridgewater, MA, Environmental Analyst
1989 – 1990	Lincoln Environmental, Inc., Smithfield, RI, Senior Hydrogeologist and Project Manager
1988 – 1989	Certified Engineering and Testing Company, Inc., Weymouth, MA, Geologist and Project Manager
1985 – 1988	Environmental Science Services, Providence, RI, Geologist / Environmental Scientist