

Recognized Environmental Professionals

The Division of Oil and Public Safety (OPS) has maintained the Listed Consultant Program since 1997 to assist owner/operators with the selection of environmental consultants. Environmental consulting companies and individual consultants are listed in the voluntary program. This program has been successful in identifying qualified personnel to ensure protection of human health and the environment from petroleum releases. However, enhancements have been identified to further streamline the process from petroleum release discovery to a no further action determination.

Recognized Environmental Professionals (REPs) will replace Individual Listed Consultants effective January 1, 2018. Existing Listed Consultants will be recognized as such through that time. Those wishing to obtain the REP designation will need to have their credentials approved by way of an application and test. Listed companies will remain as such by virtue of having at least one REP.

The purpose of the REP designation is to better align decision-making responsibility between OPS, environmental consultants and responsible parties by identifying environmental consultants who can demonstrate decision-making experience on environmental characterization and remediation projects.

What is a REP?

A REP is a senior environmental scientist or engineer with a demonstrated level of decision-making experience and regulatory proficiency related to the fields of environmental site assessment, remediation and regulatory closure. Responsible parties of confirmed releases must retain a listed company in order to seek reimbursement at the Reasonable Cost Guideline Consultant Labor Rates. The REP would then be the environmental professional of record associated with the release event. This distinction is transferable.

What are the responsibilities for a REP?

The REP of record will be responsible for:

- Signing off on all submitted reports (i.e., characterization reports, corrective action reports, data evaluation monitoring reports and reimbursement applications).
- Decision-making as it relates to assessment, cleanup, project progress toward regulatory endpoints, budget development and budget management.

What are the expectations for a REP?

Approved REPs will be held to a standard of excellence that will better align the responsibilities of an environmental professional overseeing work to completion of regulatory endpoints. Continued education will be a part of maintaining REP status. REPs not performing to the standard will be subject to revocation considerations.

How do you become a REP?

REP applicants will need to submit a complete application and pass a regulatory proficiency examination. The application will be reviewed by an Application Review Group (ARG). The ARG will consist of both OPS staff and approved outside reviewers. Those interested in being considered for participation in the ARG should send a statement of interest to OPS.

What will stay the same, and what will change?

OPS will still be involved in approving appropriate reports, including corrective action plans, reimbursement applications and no further action determinations. The difference lies in the clear responsibility of the REP to progress releases toward closure through their learned environmental decision-making and practical experience.

REP Criteria

REP applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:

Education

A B.S. or higher in the fields of engineering, industrial hygiene, biological, chemical, environmental or physical science is required. An alternate track of fifteen years of total professional experience and eight years of decision-making experience may also be considered.

Professional Ethics

Professional judgement is expected to conform to technical standards.

Total Professional Experience

Applicants will need to demonstrate eight years of total professional experience. Total professional experience is defined as experience applying scientific or engineering principles in the environmental, scientific or engineering fields where the resultant conclusions form the basis for reports, studies and other similar documents.

Decision-Making Experience

Applicants will need to demonstrate five years of decision-making experience, three of which have been in the past five years. Decision-making experience is defined as experience that is demonstrative of a concurrent combination of environmental decision-making experience and practical experience, both performed with proficiency.

Regulatory Understanding

Applicants will be tested on their understanding of OPS statutes, regulations, guidance, and forms.

Logistics of Being a REP

A REP can bill at a rate OPS allows for a senior engineer or scientist. The REP of record is responsible for appropriate project staffing. A company needs at least one REP to be a Listed company. Companies without a REP can seek reimbursement from the Petroleum Storage Tank Fund at reduced rates.

Send an Application Review Group Statement of Interest to:

Mail: Division of Oil and Public Safety

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