

**APPENDIX D**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL SITE  
ASSESSMENT/ EVALUATION REPORT**



## **Important Information About Your Environmental Site Assessment/Evaluation Report**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENTS/EVALUATIONS ARE PERFORMED FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES AND FOR SPECIFIC CLIENTS.**

This report was prepared to meet the needs you specified with respect to your specific site and your risk management preferences. Unless indicated otherwise, we prepared your report expressly for you and for the purposes you indicated. No one other than you should use this report for any purpose without first conferring with us. No one is authorized to use this report for any purpose other than that originally contemplated without our prior written consent.

The findings and conclusions documented in this site assessment/evaluation have been prepared for specific application to this project and have been developed in a manner consistent with that level of care and skill normally exercised by members of the environmental science profession currently practicing under similar conditions in this area. The conclusions presented are based on interpretation of information currently available to us and are made within the operational scope, budget, and schedule constraints of this project. No warranty, express or implied, is made.

### **OUR REPORT IS BASED ON PROJECT-SPECIFIC FACTORS.**

Our environmental site assessment is based on several factors and may include (but not be limited to): reviewing public documents to chronicle site ownership for the past 30, 40, or more years; investigating the site's regulatory history to learn about permits granted or citations issued; determining prior uses of the site and those adjacent to it; reviewing available topographic and real estate maps, historical aerial photos, geologic information, and hydrologic data; reviewing readily available published information about surface and subsurface conditions; reviewing federal and state lists of known and potentially contaminated sites; evaluating the potential for naturally occurring hazards; and interviewing public officials, owners/operators, and/or adjacent owners with respect to local concerns and environmental conditions.

Except as noted within the text of the report, no sampling or quantitative laboratory testing was performed by us as part of this site assessment. Where such analyses were conducted by an outside laboratory, Shannon & Wilson relied upon the data provided and did not conduct an independent evaluation regarding the reliability of the data.

### **CONDITIONS CAN CHANGE.**

Site conditions, both surface and subsurface, may be affected as a result of natural processes or human influence. An environmental site assessment/evaluation is based on conditions that existed at the time of the evaluation. Because so many aspects of a historical review rely on third party information, most consultants will refuse to certify (warrant) that a site is free of contaminants, as it is impossible to know with absolute certainty if such a condition exists. Contaminants may be present in areas that were not surveyed or sampled, or may migrate to areas that showed no signs of contamination at the time they were studied.

Unless your consultant indicates otherwise, your report should not be construed to represent geotechnical subsurface conditions at or adjacent to the site and does not provide sufficient information for construction-related activities. Your report also should not be used following floods, earthquakes, or other acts of nature; if the size or configuration of the site is altered; if the location of the site is modified; or if there is a change of ownership and/or use of the property.

### **INCIDENTAL DAMAGE MAY OCCUR DURING SAMPLING ACTIVITIES.**

Incidental damage to a facility may occur during sampling activities. Asbestos and lead-based paint sampling often require destructive sampling of pipe insulation, floor tile, walls, doors, ceiling tile, roofing, and other building materials. Shannon & Wilson does not provide for paint repair. Limited repair of asbestos sample locations are provided. However, Shannon & Wilson neither warrants repairs made by our field personnel, nor are we held liable for injuries or damages as a result of those repairs. If you desire a specific form of repair, such as those provided by a licensed roofing contractor, you need to request the specific repair at the time of the proposal. The owner is responsible for repair methods that are not specified in the proposal.

### **READ RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSES CAREFULLY.**

Environmental site assessments/evaluations are less exact than other design disciplines because they are based extensively on judgment and opinion, and there may not have been any (or very limited) investigation of actual subsurface conditions. Wholly unwarranted claims have been lodged against consultants. To limit this exposure, consultants have developed a number of clauses for use in their contracts, reports, and other documents. These responsibility clauses are not exculpatory clauses designed to transfer the consultant's liabilities to other parties; rather, they are definitive clauses that identify where responsibilities begin and end. Their use helps all parties involved recognize their individual responsibilities and take appropriate action. Some of these definitive clauses may appear in this report, and you are encouraged to read them closely. Your consultant will be pleased to give full and frank answers to your questions.

Consultants cannot accept responsibility for problems that may develop if they are not consulted after factors considered in their reports have changed, or conditions at the site have changed. Therefore, it is incumbent upon you to notify your consultant of any factors that may have changed prior to submission of the final assessment/evaluation.

An assessment/evaluation of a site helps reduce your risk, but does not eliminate it. Even the most rigorous professional assessment may fail to identify all existing conditions.

### **ONE OF THE OBLIGATIONS OF YOUR CONSULTANT IS TO PROTECT THE SAFETY, HEALTH, PROPERTY, AND WELFARE OF THE PUBLIC.**

If our environmental site assessment/evaluation discloses the existence of conditions that may endanger the safety, health, property, or welfare of the public, we may be obligated under rules of professional conduct, statutory law, or common law to notify you and others of these conditions.

The preceding paragraphs are based on information provided by the  
ASFE/Association of Engineering Firms Practicing in the Geosciences, Silver Spring, Maryland