

PFAS Litigation Support & Expert Testimony



Litigation and Expert Witness Support

The breadth and depth of environmental expertise at GES provides the technical foundation necessary to help our clients resolve a wide range of legal disputes and issues. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) pose significant challenges in source identification, investigation, remediation, and regulatory compliance. Our senior consultants are immersed in the latest scientific and regulatory developments, site investigation and analytical methods. They are also skilled at effectively presenting scientific findings in everyday terms to those unfamiliar with the topic.

GES employs a complete and integrated team of scientists, engineers, and consultants listen, collaborate, and ultimately help you navigate the complex legal, technical, regulatory, and financial concerns unique to PFAS. Our experience includes more than 37 years' helping clients resolve environmental issues including identifying the source and timing of releases, responsible parties, and filing damage claims. Our diverse experience ranges from preliminary assessment of impairment and risk through remedial investigation, site cleanup, property transfer, redevelopment, and regulatory closure.

Our in-house PFAS expert professionals provide support at the local and national levels to support your team with environmental risk assessment, engineering studies, environmental forensics, fate and transport modeling, and data visualization. Our PFAS team also provides third party technical reviews on behalf of clients to evaluate the context of standards and soundness of professional judgment of work performed by other parties. Our credentialed professionals also have experience providing consulting and expert testimony under a variety of regulatory, technical, and business settings.

Areas of Expertise

- Aerially deposited PFAS studies
- Air quality consulting and source testing
- Cost recovery support
- Data management and validation
- Environmental due diligence
- Environmental forensics
- Environmental justice consulting
- Expert testimony
- Forensic site investigation
- Litigation support
- Mediation and negotiation support
- Multi-media sampling
- Multi-party cost allocation analysis
- On-site water treatment
- Point of entry treatment (POET) systems
- Public participation support
- Remediation pro forma analysis
- Remedy selection and design following AFFF release
- Waste management

Litigation Support and Expert Witness Team

The following GES staff, representing a full complement of PFAS-related sciences, are available to support PADEP with PFAS-related litigation and expert witness support:

Brian Hecker, PE

Principal Engineer

Brian is GES Principal Engineer and a Licensed professional engineer with 25 years of experience. with over 18 years of remediation system design, installation, and operation, maintenance, and monitoring (OM&M) experience. He provides engineering support for petroleum refining, retail petroleum, pipeline, and industrial clients. He has experience with sites contaminated with volatile organic compounds, perfluorinated compounds, and petroleum products. Served as principal engineer for the design, construction, commissioning, and operation of a 50-gpm industrial wastewater treatment plant at a bulk petroleum storage terminal for discharge to surface water. Completed series of bench top and pilot studies as part of the design effort to demonstrate effective treatment of industrial wastewater containing perfluorinated compounds, petroleum hydrocarbons, and brackish water..

Bonnie Janowiak, Ph.D.

Analytical method and forensics

Bonnie is Principal Chemist and Certified Environmental Analytical Chemist with over 25 years of environmental, analytical, and organic chemistry experience. Her expertise includes laboratory method evaluation and selection; data validation, usability, and interpretation; risk assessment; and statistical analysis. Bonnie is GES' lead technical resource for PFAS laboratory analytical method selection, data validation, source identification forensics, and litigation data evaluation. She establishes data quality objectives for sampling projects and is knowledgeable of multiple government programs for data usability, including the Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency, and state environmental regulatory agencies.

Richard Evans, PE

PFAS sampling and treatment

Richard is a licensed professional engineer in Pennsylvania with over 23 years of environmental remediation experience and an original member of the Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC) PFAS team. He leads GES' Emerging Contaminants team, which focuses on PFAS and developed GES' library of PFAS sampling standard operating procedures. He provides consulting and engineering services on PFAS assessment, treatment, and source identification projects. His expertise includes data interpretation and treatment options analysis, selection, and design.

Brian J. Deering

Municipal solid waste and industrial landfills

Brian is a principal responsible for managing environmental activities for multiple active and former municipal solid waste (MSW) and industrial landfills and other industrial manufacturing sites. His PFAS expertise is related to landfill leachate and gas collection and treatment system design and operations, maintenance, and monitoring (OM&M). He prepares and manages PFAS sampling programs for leachate and groundwater for projects and has supported bench testing for PFAS treatment in leachate.

Scott McDonald

Private well management (sampling and treatment)

Scott provides technical support companywide for sampling and treatment of potable wells. He has managed the installation of over 100 PFAS point of entry treatment (POET) systems, and is deeply familiar with promulgated and developing PFAS regulations and guidance. His experience also includes laboratory quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) at construction materials testing laboratories in compliance with ASTM procedures.

Jennifer O'Reilly, PG

Pennsylvania regulatory and project management expertise

Jennifer is a licensed professional geologist in Pennsylvania with over 27 years of environmental experience and is an expert in Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection regulations and guidance. Her experience includes site characterization; fate and transport modeling; exposure pathways assessment; conceptual site model development; and complex project management. She successfully managed for PADEP the design, installation, startup, and operation of a community drinking water treatment system in Pennsylvania to replace existing contaminated groundwater supply wells.

Joseph Skurka

Pennsylvania regulatory and project management expertise

Joe is a Principal Project Manager and Environmental Scientist with 25 years of environmental consulting experience and is an expert in Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection regulations and guidance. His technical experience includes site characterization and conceptual site model development; vapor intrusion assessments; remedial alternatives evaluation and implementation, and comprehensive management of project execution including a range of project stakeholder interactions.

Thomas Szocinski

Vapor intrusion and mitigation expert

Thomas is a certified environmental professional (CEP) with 20 years of experience designing and implementing hundreds of vapor mitigation projects for volatile organic compounds and methane, including warehouses, manufacturing facilities, landfills, and commercial buildings. He participates in multiple state and federal regulatory review groups, teams, and boards to evaluate VI and methane guidance, mitigation, VI screening levels, and VI evaluation and mitigation approaches.

Richard Brown

Aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) release field response

Richard has over 20 years of experience providing field services, including a sampling of all media; treatment system operation, maintenance, and monitoring (OM&M), troubleshooting, and optimization; and construction and contractor management. His expertise includes rapid response, ongoing recovery, and remediation/treatment services for AFFF releases/discharges.

David Cleland, PG, GISP

Data management, visualization, and modeling

David is a Pennsylvania-licensed professional geologist and an expert in geotechnical space, data management and visualization, and subsurface and overland spill flow modeling. He designs database architecture for large datasets, including custom and commercial databases. David is also a certified GIS professional. He manages and processes data collected from uncrewed aerial systems (drones) and supports litigation actions with presentations of historical data and temporal and geospatial data analysis.

Mark Lancaster

Health, safety, security, and environment (HSSE)

Mark oversees HSSE-related operations and corporate and client-specific compliance issues. He develops site-specific health and safety plans (HASPs) for PFAS projects and provides HSSE support for AFFF release/discharge rapid response projects. Mark selects personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure worker protection on PFAS related projects.