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ENVIRONMENTAL DUE DILIGENCE



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WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL DUE DILIGENCE?

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment

- reviews the history and current uses of both the Site and the adjacent properties
- non-intrusive, but requires a Site visit
- outcome is a statement regarding the possibility of environmental impacts at the Site due to environmental risks from onsite or offsite sources

Outcome: Report does or does not recommend a Phase II ESA



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WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL DUE DILIGENCE?

Phase II Environmental Site Assessment

- Physical investigation of those risks through drilling and/or test pitting
- Intrusive assessment, includes collection of soil and/or groundwater samples

Outcome: Report will state if environmental impacts were found at the Site

Next Steps for properties with impacts:

- Do nothing
- Remediation (physical clean up of property)
- Risk Assessment



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WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL DUE DILIGENCE?

Phase III Environmental Site Assessment

- Cleaning up the soil and/or groundwater impacts identified in the Phase II ESA
- Types of clean up: dig and dump, injections, insitu remediation

Risk Assessment

- Leave impacts in place, build safety measures to keep people/ plants safe from the impacts
- Best used when impacts are deep, hard to clean up (dry cleaning impacts), and/or under buildings



WHY DO I CARE?

WHO WILL BE ASKING FOR THESE REPORTS?

**FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS and/or
INVESTORS**

**CITY OR
MUNICIPALITY
(PERMITS OFFICE)**

TIMING: FINANCE VS PERMITS

Financing

DUE DILIGENCE

At the time of
purchase / refinance

Permits

REGULATORY

At the time of
construction

RECORD OF SITE CONDITION



Required when changing a land use to a more sensitive use (ie commercial to residential)



Reports must be written to meet O.Reg. 153/04 requirements (\$\$\$)



3 month process with review by the MECP

TIMING AND PRICING: FOR FINANCE PURPOSES

Phase I ESA

2 – 3 WEEKS

\$3,000 - \$4,000

Phase II ESA

6 – 8 WEEKS

\$20,000 +
(scope specific)

TIMING AND PRICING: FOR PERMIT PURPOSES

Phase I ESA

3 – 4 WEEKS

\$8,000 +
(Site specific)

Phase II ESA

10 – 14 WEEKS

Site + scope specific



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HOW TO AVOID AN RSC

IF ALL THE FOLLOWING APPLY TO YOUR SITE, RSC NOT REQUIRED

- The property has never been used for: industrial use, a garage, gas station, or dry cleaners
- Building envelope remains the same, no additions to the exterior
- Building has no more than six stories, before or after the change



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CHOOSING A PROPERTY: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

High Risk Properties

- Gas Stations or Underground Tanks: Upgradient or beside your property up to 50 m
- Dry cleaners: anything within 100 m, in any direction
 - 1-hour dry cleaners = onsite chemical use
 - Highest chemical uses: 1960s to 1990s
 - Lots of major streets in Toronto had dry cleaners on every block
- Area of dense industrial and/or manufacturing, typically near railway lines
- Anything south of Front Street



MY PROPERTY IS IMPACTED, NOW WHAT?

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CONSULTANT

- Soil or groundwater impacted?
- Do we know the source?
- **OFFSITE LIABILITY?**
- Full extent of impacts known?
- Remediation Options? Timing?
- Remediation Costs?
- Are the remediation costs fixed cost or potentially ongoing/growing?
- Can your project handle the remediation costs? What if the costs increase?

TIMING: PHASE III ESA + RSC

DIG AND DUMP

10 MTHS

- 1 month dig
- 6 months GWS
- 3 months RSC

INJECTIONS

21 MTHS

- 6 months injections
- 12 months GWS
- 3 months RSC

RISK ASSESSMENT

24 MTHS

- 3 months drilling
- 15 – 18 months RA
- 3 months RSC

EXAMPLES

- Small, infill project on Dundas
- Former dry cleaner with groundwater impacts
- Remediation solution: Risk Assessment + RSC
- Timeline: 2 – 3 years
- Estimated cost: \$400 - \$500K

Result: Client did not purchase property

- Large redevelopment project
- Known soil and groundwater impacts
- Hazardous levels of PCBs

Result: \$1M disposal fees



WHY DO I CARE?

WHAT IS THE WORST THAT CAN HAPPEN?

A background image showing a whiteboard with a wooden surface and a white marker. The whiteboard is covered with a blue geometric pattern of overlapping triangles.

**ENVIRONMENTALS CAN KILL DEALS
AND ERODE PROFIT**



KEY TAKEAWAYS

Start Early!

**Investigation is an Iterative Process
Know your risk tolerance for impacts,
both cost and time**



KEYS TO CHOSING A CONSULTANT

The background of the slide is a photograph of a wooden desk. On the desk, there is a black ruler with white markings, a white pen, and a portion of an orange chair. A dark blue rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text.

COMPETENT
GOOD COMMUNICATION
PROACTIVE
SOMEONE YOU TRUST



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