

# Phase I Environmental Site Assessments



Sierra Piedmont has completed hundreds of Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) for clients in a variety of industries. We typically conduct ESAs in accordance with the standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), unless a client has another format they prefer us to use. In some cases, we have worked with clients to develop their own corporate guidelines, based on their unique facility conditions and risk profile.

Of all the services that environmental consultants offer, in our opinion ESAs represent the greatest opportunity for legal exposure to both the consultant and the client. Unfortunately, these projects are frequently treated as a commodity, with many consultants putting their most junior person in the field with limited supervision or training and hoping for the best. At Sierra Piedmont, our account managers have completed thousands of ESAs, and continue to conduct, supervise and review each one with the high level of attention it deserves. None of our ESAs have ever had a technical challenge.

## Some specific examples of our ESA services include:

- **Automotive Service Center and Manufacturing Facilities – Multiple Locations, Nationwide**

Sierra Piedmont has completed approximately 400 Phase I ESAs for a major tire manufacturer, with locations throughout the continental United States. The primary focus of these projects is establishing a baseline before entering, or after leaving, a property. A matrix that includes age, condition and repair history is used to assess underground and aboveground storage tanks, hydraulic lifts and oil/water separators.



- **Manufacturing Facility – Huntsville, Alabama**

Sierra Piedmont was retained to perform a Phase I ESA for a 1.3 million square foot, 142-acre manufacturing facility in Huntsville, Alabama. To identify potential environmental concerns, a site walkover was conducted; this included visual inspection of the perimeter of the property and a walkover of the interior of the property. Visual observations of the adjacent properties were also conducted. Historical information was gathered to determine past land use, ownership and potential environmental issues. Aerial photographs were reviewed to identify past land use of the subject site. In addition, interviews were conducted to confirm past land use and potential environmental concerns. A search of federal and state environmental databases was conducted to determine previous regulatory issues affecting the site.