



Estimating Brownfield Remediation Costs: How Much Data is Enough, and How Many Expert Opinions are Needed?

Grant Walsom, Trace Associates Inc

This case study will explore the struggle to determine how much data on soil and groundwater is needed to develop a meaningful cost estimate for remediation prior to redevelopment in a prominent Western Canadian City. Environmental consulting professionals have their trusted methods and practices for estimating costs that each come with a level of uncertainty. When does the amount of data and remediation method chosen for estimating out-weigh the cost uncertainty in settling a legal dispute or deciding to proceed with redevelopment? Do innovative thinking and use of new technologies make the cost estimate more representative? Depending on the development opportunity, can the construction methods assist with the remediation process and reduce the cost liabilities associated with environmental remediation. At what point do contractors play a role in the determining an accurate cost estimate?

Grant Walsom

D. Grant Walsom, B.A.Sc., P.Eng., QP, Partner/Principal Engineer with Trace Associates Inc. is a senior remediation engineer with over 30 years of experience. Mr. Walsom is a Professional Engineer registered in Ontario and Alberta, and a registered Consulting Engineer in Ontario. In addition, Mr. Walsom is a Qualified Person as defined by the Ontario Regulations (O. Reg.) 153/04 and 406/19.

Mr. Walsom currently is the Past-Chair of the Board of Directors for the Ontario Environment Industry Association (ONEIA) and a past co-Chair for the Excess Soils Working Group. Mr. Walsom also served on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Brownfield Network (CBN) from 2011 to 2022 and now as an advisor. Grant proudly founded the Qualified Persons Community of Ontario (QPCO) and serves as the Council Chair and participates in many of the QPCO committees. He was named the 2015 "Brownfielder of the Year" by the Canadian Urban Institute and received the ONEIA "Skip Willis Award" for 2019.

Mr. Walsom enjoys participating in speaking engagements and presentations regarding site remediation case-studies, Brownfield redevelopment, and excess soil management.

Note: if possible, an emerging professional from Trace Associates will be asked to co-present.