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Whitman's Michael Russo Becomes Certified, Pre-Qualified Professional Through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

DEP's Unregulated Heating Oil Tank Program Allows Qualified Individuals to Quickly Investigate and Remediate Environmental Claims

EAST BRUNSWICK, N.J. – Whitman, New Jersey's leading environmental, engineering and management firm, has been pre-qualified for certified status under the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Unregulated Heating Oil Tank program.

Whitman was certified through the state's initial pilot program in November, allowing the company to complete investigative and remediation work associated with unregulated underground tanks. Unregulated tanks are classified as any tank that carries less than 2,000 gallons of heating oil on a non-residential property. All residential heating oil tanks are classified as unregulated.

"With this certification, the DEP has basically qualified us to do investigative and remedial work with limited DEP oversight subject to possible audit. We do the work, submit remediation documents (including a questionnaire and certification statement) and put it all back in the hands of the department," said Michael Russo, Whitman's manager for unregulated tank assessment and remediation activities. "It's a huge benefit, because projects aren't being held up for years by the state. This is critical because in many cases, the resolution or closure of a UST matter is a condition of a sale of property. They're being investigated and dealt with by licensed professionals, but all of the checks and balances are still in place."

Russo said the program is especially important for home insurance providers, who often deal with unregulated tank claims. The program will allow them to close cases in a matter of days or weeks, as opposed to the months or years that it can take when having to navigate the often cumbersome state agency process. DEP has already published proposed regulations to ensure that the pilot program will become a regulation.

"Usually the only time you hear about an unregulated tank is when someone is selling a home and the buyer wants the tank to come out," Russo said. "The other instance is when there's a problem with the tank – whether that's water inside it or a loss of fuel for whatever reason. But it almost always come back to the insurance provider, so moving the process along is good for them."

Pre-qualified environmental professionals can assess sites with few exceptions. More information about the program is available at www.nj.gov/dep/srp/unregulatedtanks/

Whitman is New Jersey's leading environmental, engineering and management firm, with more than 22 years experience in managing environmental projects, including site remediation projects,

the removal of underground storage tanks, asbestos abatement and the demolition of small structures. Since its founding in 1985, the East Brunswick-based company has performed more than 2,500 site assessments and has secured over \$30 million in state and federal reimbursements for environmental work for its clients.

Whitman

Whitman is New Jersey's leading environmental, engineering and management firm, offering expertise in brownfield redevelopment, civil and geotechnical engineering, site assessment, remediation cost recovery, groundwater contamination and recovery, indoor air quality solutions, industrial hygiene and innovative remediation technologies. Since its founding in 1985, the East Brunswick, N.J.-based company has performed more than 2,500 site assessments, remedial investigations and remediation designs for all types of development and redevelopment projects, including commercial, retail and residential properties in more than 12 states. Whitman has secured more than \$30 million in state and federal reimbursements for environmental work for their clients.

In 2007, Whitman acquired Brownworth Engineering, a mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineering firm. The acquisition resulted in one of the largest full-service firms in the state, providing expertise in all areas of environmental and engineering services.

For more information on Whitman please call 732-390-5858 or visit www.whitmanco.com.

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