

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

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**Underground Storage Tanks and Hazardous Waste (UST/HW) Investigation  
Transmittal Request Guidelines for Phase II**

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The GDOT's Office of Materials and Testing conducts Phase II UST/HW investigations prior to acquisition on all property where there is a potential for hazardous waste contamination or an operational or abandoned UST within the proposed or existing right-of-way. Upon establishing the proposed right-of-way limits, the Office of Materials and Testing conducts this investigation in order to locate all UST/HW sites within or adjacent to proposed and existing right-of-way. All Phase II Environmental Site Assessments follow the scope of ASTM Designation: E 1903-11 – Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase II Environmental Site Assessment Process.

**A. Field Investigation (Phase II)**

1. A field investigation should be performed at sites identified as potential UST or hazardous waste sites during the preliminary investigation.
2. Property owners should be notified and utilities located prior to beginning the field investigation.
3. Drilling should be conducted in the proposed right-of-way to a depth of at least 17-feet for UST sites and 5-feet below the suspected source at hazardous waste sites. If contamination is visually detected or an odor is encountered, a soil sample should be collected. If groundwater is encountered, a water sample should also be taken. Soil and groundwater samples should be collected at all confirmed release sites.
4. Samples taken from UST sites should be tested for BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene) and PNAs (polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbon compounds) and those taken from suspected hazardous waste sites should typically be tested for VOCs (volatile organic compounds), BNAs (semi-volatile organics) and Total Metals. Each site should be individually considered and tested for other constituents as necessary based on the previous operations at the site.
5. Additional guidance on sampling procedures can be found in EPA, Region IV, Environmental Investigations Standard Operating Procedures and Quality Assurance Manual ([EISOPQAM](#)), which can be found online.

**B. Phase II Field Investigation Report Preparation**

1. Each report should include a cover letter summarizing the investigation and the consultants' recommendations. It is suggested that all reports be kept as brief as possible. The report should be divided into separate sections for each impacted property.
2. If UST systems are located on the property, document in the report whether the system is within the proposed right-of-way or outside right-of-way limits. Make recommendation

for proper closure by qualified consultants of any tanks located within the proposed right-of-way. If UST systems are thought to exist on site, but locations are unknown, provide recommendations for closure if tanks are found.

3. Reports should document the screening results and the extent of contamination. If contamination is encountered, determine if the contamination level exceeds [notification requirements](#). This information should be highlighted in the report for GDOT.
4. In addition, appropriate recommendations for roadway design and right-of-way negotiations should be included. If contamination is encountered, the following considerations should be taken when making recommendations. Determine what effect the contaminants can have on construction of the roadway. If the contamination may require clean-up actions, determine what steps must be taken prior to construction and if roadway realignment may be necessary to avoid contaminated parcels. If contamination is minimal, recommend that any contaminated soil excavated during construction be disposed of at a permitted lined municipal solid waste landfill. In addition, note that the contractor shall implement the best possible engineering and management controls to ensure adequate protection of employee safety in accordance with Georgia's Rules for Hazardous Waste Management.
5. Additional guidance for these investigations can be found in ASTM Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: [Phase II](#) (E 1903-11).
6. Transmit report to the GDOT Project Manager. A copy of this report should be transmitted to the Office of Materials and Testing (OMAT), Environmental Testing Unit for review.
7. After OMAT has reviewed the consultant report and deemed it acceptable for use during design, right-of-way negotiations and construction, the project manager is responsible for distributing the report to the appropriate offices with a letter of acceptance. These offices include District Environmental Office, Office of Right-of-Way, Office of Environmental Services, and District Right-of-Way offices. A copy of the summary cover letter should also be sent to the District Engineer.
8. Any recommendations made regarding UST/HW sites should be addressed during final plan preparation.