



Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.

# Considerations When Choosing A Stack Testing Company

Franklin M Stevens

*October 1, 2019*

# Stack Testing

- Stack Testing is a knowledge-based service requiring a detailed understanding of Federal, State and local regulations and specialized sampling and analytical methods for determining air emissions
- So what should you look for when contracting a testing company?
  - What is the education and experience level of their field staff?
  - What is the stack testing companies equipment Quality Plan?
  - How do they train their employees?
  - Clear Communication - Does the stack test company assign a PM to a specific Client or do you get whomever is available?



# Is the Company Certified?

- Air Emission Testing Body (AETB)
  - American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) D7036-04, “Standard Practice for Competence of Air Emission Testing Bodies”
    - Establishes general criteria for a Quality System that, when followed, helps ensure consistently acceptable data quality from an AETB”
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Certification
  - Self Certified
- Individual Certifications
  - Qualified Stack Testing Individuals (QSTI)
  - Qualified Individuals (QI)



# OTHER CERTIFICATIONS

- National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation (NELAC)
  - NELAC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to foster the generation of environmental data of known and documented quality through an open, inclusive and transparent process .
- Louisiana Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (LELAP)
  - Designed to ensure the accuracy, precision, and reliability of the data generated, as well as the use of the department-approved methodologies in the generation of that data
- TNI Standard
  - TNI Standard is intended as an application of ISO/IEC 17025:2005(E), General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories



# Experience

- Experience in Your Industry – Check the references and background
  - Do they have experience in your specific industry and equipment
  - A Record of Success
    - Researching how long the stack testing company has been in operation
    - Familiarity with Your State Regulations
  - Cost Competitive Pricing
    - Cost is an important consideration, but before you go with the lowest bidder review the proposals to make sure that the low cost does not mean that you sacrifice quality of service.



# SAFETY

- Safety is an essential aspect of any successful stack testing project.
- Must Plan for it – every team member's responsibility!!
- As part of your RFQ
  - Require the company to have a Corporate safety program and provide you proof
  - What is their Total Recordable Case rate (TRIR) or Total Recordable Case Frequency (**TRCF**) Performance? It should be less than 1
  - Do they prepare safety plans specific to your project which includes documented tail gate meetings?



# Reporting

- Turn-around time on Reports,
  - Typical is 3 weeks
- Clear, Concise, Correct Reporting
  - Accurate and reliable test reports are crucial, so you can understand, evaluate, and process the data results in a manner relevant to your particular company and industry
  - QA procedures for reporting and calculations
- Obtain an example report that includes all the appendices as a means of evaluating the companies abilities



# There Should be Transparency

- Evaluate the report based on:
  - Identifies any emissions unit tested using the System Number and/or Unit Number
  - Clearly identifies any permit or testing deviations
  - Includes raw run data
  - Electronic data sheets
  - Lab reports with QA
  - Method descriptions and example calculations using the existing test data
  - Include calibrations and certification information
- Familiarity with EPA Electronic Reporting





# Contact Information

## Franklin M. Stevens

T: (314) 656-4571

C: (919) 815-1397

Email: [fstevens@cecinc.com](mailto:fstevens@cecinc.com)



# Questions?

## CONNECT WITH US!



[www.cecinc.com](http://www.cecinc.com)

