



**Environmental Assessment Guidelines for Portfolio Loans**  
Revised 1/2/2012

The written environmental assessment of the loan security is to be addressed and certified to the Lender. No work is to commence until the firm conducting the review has been approved by the Lender. The report is to conform to the current ASTM guidelines and the Lender's protocol. Lender shall receive one hard copy and one electronic copy of the report.

In the performance of the assessment the environmental assessment shall include:

**I. Site's Physical Characteristics**

- A. General description of the property and improvements, referencing SCS soil surveys, hydrogeological surveys, USGS quad maps, and FEMA floodplain maps.
- B. Determine the local domestic water supply and describe sewage (including septic systems, leaching ponds, waste removal, etc.) and sanitary systems of the facility. If potable water is provided by a well, the engineer shall include test results, from the responsible testing authority, for the past three years.
- C. Assess the property for presence of above ground or underground storage tanks.

**II. Site History**

- A. Review available topographic maps, geotechnical and geologic information, historical maps (e.g., Sanborn maps) and historical aerial photographs of the property, and comment on all significant findings and observations.
- B. Review the chain of title and any zoning progressions.
- C. Include interview with owners, occupants and government officials.
- D. Previous environmental assessments, including any prior soil, water or air sampling and inspections of underground storage tanks.
- E. Review the past site use to identify activities that may pose an environmental risk to the property.

### III. **Site Inspection**

- A. Review current site use and tenant activities to identify activities that may pose an environmental risk to the property. This review shall include tenant housekeeping practices as well.
- B. Review all waste disposal practices at the property.
- C. Identify any hazardous materials used or stored on-site, including quantity, location, storage and handling methods, MSDS, and necessary permits.
- D. Identify neighboring sites, including site uses, tenant activities and hazardous materials, if possible.

### IV. **Database Searches**

- A. Review and include Federal, State and local environmental record sources for known potential sources of contamination. Record sources search distances should follow ASTM guidelines, at a minimum, and include NPL, CERCLIS, RCRIS, ERNS, State hazardous waste sites, state landfills, registered UST's and leaking UST's.
- B. List type and extent of remediation, if any, for the listed sites.
- C. Database searches should be completed through Environmental Data Resources, Inc. (EDR) or Environmental FirstSearch and copies of the report should be appended in the assessment.

### V. **Asbestos Containing Materials**

- A. Observe readily accessible areas building(s) and component systems to evaluate the possible presence of asbestos containing materials. If suspect asbestos containing materials are present, they shall be tested.

### VI. **Lead Based Paint**

- A. Comment on the presence or likeliness of lead based paint.

### VII. **Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB)**

- A. Observe the local power company transformers on the property, confirm ownership and inspect for leaks and presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Solicit utility company response regarding presence of PCBs. Observe privately owned transformers and capacitors for leaks and assess presence of PCBs.

### VIII. **Radon**

- A. Review available information to assess occurrence of radon in the area. If requested by Lender, a limited number of activated carbon radon canister tests will be performed to determine site radon conditions.

IX. **Mold**

Comment on the presence or likeliness of mold in multi-family or hotel/motel locations.

X. **Remediation**

- A. If necessary, list type and extent of remediation of hazardous materials, cost estimates, and recommendations for operation and maintenance programs.