

# Envirotest, Ltd.



# Enviro-Times

September 20, 2003

Volume 1, Issue 1

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### About Envirotest, Ltd.

We are a full service environmental consulting company founded in 1987. From our Houston headquarters, the Envirotest group of companies provide a comprehensive suite of environmental services worldwide. Our diverse client base includes many Fortune 500 Commercial and Industrial firms.

## Envirotest Focusing Renewal Effort on Customer Service

By James D. Murphy, Ph.D., C.P.G.  
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In an effort to better serve our customers, Envirotest has embarked on an exciting Renewal Process that will change the way we do business. A key element of our Renewal is feedback from a customer survey and personal discussions with many of our customers. This feedback was critical input to our restating Envirotest's Mission, Vision and Values. We think that our Mission, Vision and Values, as stated below, will be evident in our day-to-day

interaction with our customers and will provide a measurable upgrade in all of our services.

**Mission:**  
*(What we do)*  
To provide our clients consulting expertise with a focus on solutions that protect people and the environment.

**Vision:**  
*(What we want to be)*  
To be known as the premiere environmental consultant by employees, customers, partners, and regulators.

**Values:**  
*(The characteristics of our employees)*

- Professionalism
- Customer Focus
- Can-Do-Attitude
- Teamwork
- Technical Excellence

I will be communicating our progress on the many other exciting aspects of the Envirotest Renewal Process in future editions of the Enviro-Times.

## New Texas Mold Licensing Requirements

By Gabriela De Pavia, MS, CIE  
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Currently, there are dozens of Mold Bills pending approval around the country. In the State of Texas alone there are as many as 30 different pieces of legislation being reviewed that involve indoor air quality and/or mold.

One of particular interest is House Bill 329, which was signed by the

Governor of Texas on June 11, 2003. House Bill 329 requires the Texas Department of Health (TDH) to license mold investigators and remediation contractors, and to establish and enforce minimum performance standards and work practices for conducting mold assessment and mold remediation in Texas. This

requirement would apply to all buildings in the State of Texas, although the requirements do vary depending on if the building is considered a commercial or residential structure. The TDH has written draft regulations that are currently being reviewed. It is expected that the final version will be released sometime after April 1, 2004.

Continued on page 4.



*“...as many as 90 percent of the construction projects across the state were initiated in violation and that an asbestos survey was not performed prior to renovation or demolition.”*

## New Requirements for Construction Permits Effective September 1, 2001 - Senate Bill 509

By Bob Copus,  
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### Asbestos Survey Now Mandatory

In 2001 the Texas legislature passed legislation aimed directly at protecting public health. Beginning September 1, 2001, all municipalities in Texas must see proof of an asbestos survey prior to issuing construction permits. Proof of an asbestos survey can consist of one of the following: (1) actual asbestos survey report, or (2) a letter from an architect or PE stating that no asbestos materials were used in the original construction. Some municipalities will also accept as proof of a survey a letter from the owner or owner's representative that contains the date of the inspection, the area/building inspected, and the Texas Department of Health (TDH) license number of the asbestos inspector that performed the survey. The EPA has required asbestos inspections be performed prior to renovation and/or demolition for more than 25 years, however,

in a recent study the Texas Department of Health estimated that as many as 90 percent of the construction projects across the state were initiated in violation and that an asbestos survey was not performed prior to renovation or demolition. The study also indicated that approximately 80 percent of the projects in Dallas and 60 percent of the projects in Houston likely disturbed asbestos, resulting in asbestos exposure to building occupants.

Building owners and general contractors unaware of this new permit requirement have been affected the greatest. If the permit application does not contain proof of an asbestos survey then scheduled renovation projects will be delayed, affecting all parties involved. Renovation projects will be further delayed if the survey finds that asbestos materials are present. It is required that all asbestos materials

that will be disturbed during the renovation be removed by a TDH licensed asbestos abatement contractor. It is required that the project be managed by and air monitoring be performed by an asbestos consulting agency. The TDH also requires ten (10) days advance notice of an asbestos abatement activity, thus causing further delays to the startup and completion of the renovation project.

To avoid delays in renovation projects and to avoid the accidental disturbance of asbestos materials, it is recommended that building owners and/or general contractors have an asbestos survey performed as soon as possible prior to the scheduled start date of the renovation project. Envirotest, Ltd. is a TDH licensed asbestos consulting agency and provides the asbestos inspections needed to obtain renovation permits.

## Envirotest, Ltd. Devil's River Project

By Mark Gregory, Senior Vice President of Operations  
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Envirotest was recently honored to have been selected by a leading Texas nature conservancy group as the environmental consultant on the Devils River Project located in Val Verde County in West Texas. The organization is in the process of acquiring approximately 90,000 acres to protect the headwaters of the Devils River in Val Verde County. The purchase consists of eight historic ranches located approximately 75 miles northwest of Del Rio. This project will protect eight miles of the 60-mile long river.

The Devils River is considered an irreplaceable water source, winding through the arid canyons of West Texas. Conserving the land protects the rich historic ranching heritage of these lands. A portion of the historic Chihuahuah Trail crosses the project area. The area also includes numerous pictographs dating back 4-5,000 years as well as other evidence of human habitation that may be as much as 10,000 years old. The significance of the Devils River area is widely recognized by archaeologists.

A large cave system, known as Fern Cave, is also located on the property. This cave system provides a micro-climate for plants,

including a fern from Central American found nowhere else in the United States. It is also home to a population of over 1 million Mexican free-tailed bats.

The conservancy organization will retain some of the land along the river while the majority will be sold to conservation minded owners. The group will use a legal instrument called a conservation easement to restrict future development and land-use activities in perpetuity. Development will be strictly limited to a single home or cabin for each parcel and grazing and farming will be limited in nature and contained in small areas away from environmentally sensitive areas. The group retains the right to inspect lands it sells to private investors and in fact physically inspects each property at least once a year to ensure that the conservation easements are being honored.

Envirotest personnel spent several days on the eight historic ranches performing environmental inspections of the ranch buildings and inspecting underground storage tank sites. It is expected that Envirotest will perform Phase II soil and groundwater sampling and project oversight during the underground storage tank removals.



A cabin overlooking the Devil's River on the Nix Ranch



The Mayfield Family Cemetery on the historic Mayfield Ranch.



Scenic view of The Devils River

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## Mold Licensing Requirements continued from page 1

Who will be affected by House Bill 329?

**Commercial Building Owners:**  
Commercial building owners will be required to employ licensed personnel to perform mold investigations and licensed contractors to perform mold remediation.

**Owners of Residential Properties:**  
Owners of single-family residences and residential structures containing less than (10) dwelling units may perform mold investigations and mold remediation themselves. If the owner chooses to

utilize outside contractors to perform these functions they must be licensed. Owners of residential structures containing (10) or more dwelling units must use licensed contractors to perform investigations and remediation.

**Remediation Contractors:**  
Remediation contractors will be required to be licensed to perform mold remediation. Workers and supervisors will require licensing as well as the remediation company. Prior to mold remediation, the contractor will be required to notify the TDH and obtain a permit for

each structure.

Envirotest, Ltd. has been in constant communication with TDH representatives regarding the drafting of these rules. Envirotest has offered to assist in the statistical analysis of our extensive mold investigation database. We are also in the process of assuring that our mold/indoor air quality inspectors will be licensed by the TDH and that our current Mold Remediation Training division will be licensed in order to provide the necessary training for supervisors and workers.

## Envirotest Welcomes David Miller, Vice President of Sales

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David Miller, V.P. of Sales, recently joined the Envirotest, Ltd. Team. David, a graduate of Texas A&M University, comes to us with a combined 18 years of

sales and business development experience. He was Vice President and Sales Manager of an industrial distribution company, where he was responsible for the



establishment of all operational functions including sales, marketing, administration, human resources and accounting.

We're on the Web! See us at:  
[www.envirotestltd.com](http://www.envirotestltd.com)



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