

Erin O’Connell
Project Scientist



Expertise

- Field work skills, including collecting of soil samples and evaluating field site conditions
- Lab and communication skills, including extraction of lead from samples consistent with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines and compilation of vegetation and wetland-boundary data into reports
- Research skills, including in-field and remote research, historical document compilation, regulatory document compilation, and document analysis and summary
- Project management skills including financial and budget tracking, schedule development and management, client communication and coordination, and resource management
- Technical writing skills, including development of technical and expert documents for litigation support and engineering reports
- Technical oral communication skills including formal presentations of findings for client groups and informal client strategic discussions

Summary

Ms. O’Connell is a project scientist and project manager with experience in environmental investigations, remediation, and litigation projects. She has expertise in preparing technical deliverables, including stormwater and source control engineering reports, technical expert reports, evidence summary memorandums, sampling and analysis plans, and health and safety plans. She has conducted historical and property research in association with due diligence and litigation support; identified contaminant sources and pathways; and designed, planned, and managed stormwater sampling field activities for urban and industrial properties. She has also managed the scope, schedule, budget, resources, and clients on an upland remedial action project as well as an in-water cost allocation project.

Professional Experience

Technical Support of Cost Allocation (2014–Ongoing)

Confidential Client, Seattle, Washington

TIG Environmental provides expert technical support to a private property owner participating in a Superfund site allocation. The Superfund sediment site consists of five miles of an urban and industrial estuarine waterway. Working with the property owner’s attorney, TIG Environmental evaluated potential sources of PCB contamination in sediments adjacent to the property and has developed an allocation strategy based on forensic chemistry and sediment transport modeling.

Ms. O’Connell is a part of the technical team and provides research support to assist in the identification of potential sources of PCB contamination, as well as allocation strategy. Since 2021, Ms. O’Connell has served as the project manager for the project by managing resources, schedule, budget, financial tracking, and client communications for the overall scope of work. She also attends all stakeholder and community meetings for the site and provides strategic direction to the project team and client based on the meetings.

South Park Marina Remedial Action (2017–Ongoing)

South Park Marina Limited Partnership, Seattle, Washington

TIG Environmental assists the owner of a recreational marina site in the South Park neighborhood of Seattle, Washington. This site is the subject of remedial action under an Ecology-Administered Agreed Order. Soil and groundwater at the site are contaminated with PCBs, petroleum hydrocarbons, volatile

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organic compounds, pesticides, and metals requiring cleanup under the State of Washington's MTCA. TIG Environmental's work includes investigation of historical sources of contamination both on- and off-site. As a result, TIG Environmental identified and nominated additional potentially liable persons (PLPs) for release(s) of hazardous materials affecting the Site to Ecology. These PLPs are now involved as participants under the Agreed Order. TIG Environmental, on behalf of South Park Marina Limited Partnership, and the other PLPs are working in partnership to oversee the completion of the tasks required to be performed under the Agreed Order: RI work plan, RI field activities, source control evaluation, and RI Report. TIG Environmental has completed several source control, RI, FS, and preliminary engineering design tasks supportive of efforts under the current Agreed Order and/or future formal program designations.

Since 2019, Ms. O'Connell has served on the technical team conducting detailed analysis of site operations and stormwater best management practices (BMPs) to assist the client in adhering to the chemical effluent limitations outlined in the state stormwater pollution prevention permit. Since 2021, Ms. O'Connell has served as the project manager for the project by managing resources, schedule, budget, financial tracking, and client communications for the overall scope of work.

Technical Consultation and Allocation/Litigation Support (2019–Ongoing)

Confidential Client, Multnomah County, Oregon

TIG Environmental provides technical expert support for environmental liability assessment and cost allocation for the remediation of sediments at the Portland Harbor Superfund Site and for the associated Natural Resource Damages claims. The harbor has been the site of numerous manufacturing, shipbuilding, petroleum storage and distribution, metal salvaging, and electrical power generation operations for more than a century. Development of expert reports has included research and forensic analysis to determine the specific contaminant nexus to the sediments for each upland PRP. Specific forensic analysis has included evaluation of potential historical contaminant sources, chemical fingerprinting of PAHs, PCBs, PCDD/Fs, and contaminant fate and transport. Key issues revolve around potential contributions from state-maintained roads, bridges, and other right-of-way properties and supporting facilities. This effort has included collection and evaluation of sediment, stormwater, and bridge paint samples. TIG Environmental is also responsible for evaluating the potential relationship between activities on state-owned submerged lands and the contamination in the river.

Since 2019, Ms. O'Connell has served on the technical team conducting detailed analysis of environmental documents, lease agreements, deed transfers, and historical photographs. The findings of this research have been summarized in reports that evaluate the potential relationship between activities conducted on sites of interest and contamination in Portland Harbor. She has also served as task manager by coordinating and managing resources, budget, and schedule for discrete pieces of the overall scope of work. She has also attended all community and stakeholder meetings for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site since 2019 and provided strategic information and recommendations to project teams and clients based on meeting outcomes.

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Technical Consultant for Environmental Liability Assessment (2019–Ongoing)

Confidential Client, California

TIG Environmental is providing its client technical expert support for environmental liability assessment at the San Fernando Valley Superfund Site. TIG Environmental is investigating PRPs relevant to contaminant discharges to groundwater at the site. In addition, TIG Environmental is assessing and prioritizing all PRPs at the site. To support these efforts, TIG Environmental is identifying and reviewing relevant historical, technical, remediation, regulatory, and prior PRP investigation documentation and investigating operations in the area of the site associated with the client. TIG Environmental is producing documentation summarizing its findings and identifying high-priority PRPs and sites associated with priority contaminants that may warrant elevating those PRP cases to regulatory agencies. Findings from this investigation and review are anticipated to support future cost allocation for remediation at the site.

Ms. O'Connell has served as the primary researcher for the environmental liability assessment and PRP investigation. She has identified and reviewed digital and physical documents and conducted a detailed analysis of large amounts of historical information and data. The findings of this research were compiled into documents that identify high-priority PRPs to support future cost allocation and remediation efforts.

Expert Consultant for Sediment and Uplands Cleanup Cost Allocation (2019–Ongoing)

Confidential Client, New York

TIG Environmental provides litigation support to a private client participating in a Superfund site allocation. The site includes nearly two miles of waterway in a heavily industrialized area of New York state. Contamination at the site includes PCBs and other chemicals. PCBs are the primary chemicals of concern. After an initial remedial design phase was completed, regulatory agencies required additional investigation of the study area. Findings from the investigation increased the estimated remedial cost nearly seven-fold. A comprehensive assessment of the watershed is necessary. The client has retained TIG Environmental's services for PRP identification and investigation, sampling and data analysis, and expert witness testimony. TIG Environmental has evaluated and investigated documents for PRP sites to gather evidence of historical releases related to operations, developed recommendations for site sampling, and developed a preliminary conceptual site model of the relationships between PRP operations and the contaminated waterway. TIG Environmental has also overseen additional site sampling and data forensic analysis to determine the deposition of PCBs and other chemicals that could be indicators of historical PCB use. TIG Environmental provided a data analysis report, final conceptual site model, and data visualization tools to assist the client in strengthening the connection between contamination in the waterway and adjacent PRPs, identified PRPs that may not be responsible for contamination, and identified additional discharge points that may be associated with additional PRPs.

Ms. O'Connell is a member of the technical team that conducted detailed analysis of historical regulatory and remedial documentation for sites within an industrialized area of New York. This analysis of priority sites has helped to delineate the extent of contamination in the area and will assist in future cost allocation and liability assessments.

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Technical Consultation and Litigation Support (1999–Ongoing)

Confidential Client, New Jersey

TIG Environmental provides technical and litigation support for environmental liability assessment related to sediment remediation at a large Superfund bay estuary complex, part of the larger New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary. This is hydraulically connected to the Passaic River Superfund Site and includes portions of the Hackensack River, Arthur Kill, and Kill van Kull. TIG Environmental is performing investigative services including the acquisition of historical records, primary witness testimony, environmental data, and technical reports for identification and assessment of PRPs associated with the site. TIG Environmental is developing information on industrial, manufacturing, commercial, public works, and other potential sources with direct or indirect discharges to the Newark Bay Study Area (NBSA). TIG Environmental is helping its client comply with an Administrative Order on Consent and is compiling and developing information on potential sources and associated outlets of potential concern potentially affecting the NBSA sediments.

TIG Environmental personnel were heavily involved in leading RI/FS activities on the NBSA. Activities focused on technical support as it related to investigation and remediation of the NBSA. TIG Environmental personnel were engaged in the support of NBSA RIs/FSs, particularly regarding identification and characterization of stormwater and combined sewer overflows that have played a role in effects to the NBSA sediments. TIG Environmental also actively acquired and compiled information on publicly owned treatment works (POTWs), including their upstream collection system networks and their role as potential contaminant sources.

Since 2019, Ms. O'Connell has served on the technical team conducting detailed analysis of historical records, primary witness testimony, environmental data, and technical reports. The findings of this research are being summarized in reports that evaluate the potential relationship between activities conducted on sites of interest and contamination in the larger New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary and the Passaic River Superfund Site.

Corporate Health & Safety Program (2019–present)

Due to the nature of its work on hazardous waste sites, TIG Environmental has a thorough Corporate Health & Safety Program compliant with the terms set forth in OSHA's HAZWOPER standard. Since 2021, Ms. O'Connell has managed and directed the Corporate Health & Safety program for TIG Environmental, and prior to this she served as the program coordinator from 2019–2021. Her work directing this program includes holding biannual all-company Health & Safety training events, managing the overall corporate health & safety training program and ensuring all staff training remains current, as well as preparing and reviewing site specific health & safety plans and coordinating regular program audits. She also coordinates monthly health & safety committee meetings where representatives from each regional office meet to review policies, programs and discuss any incidents or near misses and disseminate program information out to each regional office.

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California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) Data and GIS Intern (2017–2019)

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Los Osos, CA

Ms. O’Connell worked on a variety of tasks, including compiling watershed, soil, and vegetation data on a team creating a Vegetation Management Plan; creating data for the City of Santa Maria in county road data for use in resource dispatching; digitizing building information in Carpinteria and Montecito for use during the Thomas Fire; and updating and verified symbology and labeling in county pre-fire attack plans in ArcGIS Pro.

**Academic
Qualifications**

BS in Environmental Earth and Soil Sciences, California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, 2018

**Professional
Training**

- 40-Hour OSHA Hazardous Waste Operations (HAZWOPER) Safety Training
- 8-hour OSHA Site Supervisor Safety Training
- DOT Hazardous Materials Transport training
- CPR and First Aid Training

Presentations

O’Connell, E., Lasseter, K., Dittman, J., and Spadaro, P. “Efficient and Effective Community and Stakeholder Engagement at Superfund Sites.” Presentation, Battelle - Eleventh International Conference on Remediation and Management of Contaminated Sediments, Austin, TX, January 2023.