

Jennifer H. Benthin

Senior Researcher



Expertise

- Proficient in complex corporate research and analysis
- Experienced in information management
- Skilled at locating unique information sources
- Specializes in historical research and corporate succession

Summary

Ms. Benthin is an investigative researcher and analyst with 22 years of experience in environmental investigations, toxic tort, and litigation support projects. She has expertise in documenting corporate succession of historical site operators in support of potentially responsible party (PRP) liability investigations; identifying, locating, and interviewing witnesses; and managing investigative and technical support for identification of PRPs associated with specific contaminants in specific water bodies.

Ms. Benthin is adept at identifying unique sources of information, performing analysis, and synthesizing the data found into actionable intelligence specific to client needs. She has a demonstrated aptitude for utilizing a variety of open-source research techniques to investigate industries, companies, and individuals. Ms. Benthin has developed intelligence for clients in a wide variety of industries for varied applications through the review of historical site records, media, proprietary database records, regulatory filings, library and archival collections, and litigation records. She has particular expertise in the utilization of online databases, comprehensive internet research and techniques, and the acquisition of unique and/or historical documentation.

Professional Experience

PRP Identification and Allocation Support (2015–Ongoing)

Confidential Client, Ontario, Canada

TIG Environmental provides investigative and technical support for identification of PRPs associated with specific contaminants in a river system. TIG Environmental's initial investigation identified approximately 300 PRPs, including current and historical industrial operators, power plants, and publicly owned treatment works. Subsequently, TIG Environmental prioritized specific PRPs for additional investigation that included retrieval and evaluation of public records, regulatory documents, civil litigation records, and relevant online media. Ongoing efforts include continued technical support to identify and investigate PRPs that may contribute to cleanup costs in the area of interest.

Ms. Benthin has served as project manager and on the technical team collecting and conducting detailed analysis of environmental documents, lease agreements, deed transfers, and historical documents. The findings of this research are summarized in reports that identify current and historical industrial operators and evaluate their potential contribution to pollution in the subject water body.

Technical Consultation Source Identification, Allocation and Litigation Support (2006–2019)

Confidential Client, New Jersey

TIG Environmental investigated historical operations conducted at a former industrial facility where the owner faced a multi-million-dollar groundwater cleanup of chlorinated solvents that were driving the need for remediation. Through the course of investigation, TIG Environmental identified multiple significant historical operations at the site, several operations at neighboring facilities, the entities

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responsible for those operations, and evidence of raw material use, spills, and disposal. To aid in the allocation process, TIG Environmental also conducted extensive investigative research to identify successors-in-interest to the three historical owner/operators of the site. The investigative findings led to a successful recovery for the client. During litigation, TIG Environmental's testimony regarding successorship overcame a summary motion for dismissal made by one of the defendants, a Fortune 500 company.

In addition to her service as managing researcher, Ms. Benthin investigated to identify current day successors-in-interest to former operating entities. She retrieved and analyzed official corporate filings, historical records, and performed library research, and witness interviews. Findings were presented in an expert report used in litigation to prove that a defendant seeking dismissal was the successor in interest to the site operator that likely caused the contamination.

Asbestos Litigant Background Investigations (2018–2019)

Confidential Clients, Nationwide

TIG Environmental performed numerous investigations on various plaintiffs in Asbestos Toxic Tort claims to assess the veracity of the claims made and to identify potential alternative asbestos exposure routes. TIG Environmental consulted public records, proprietary database records, and open source records to develop information about the plaintiffs including residential profiles, personal reputation, professional accomplishments, education, civil and criminal litigation histories, corporate affiliations, and financial interests. TIG Environmental findings provided the clients with the information they needed to develop appropriate deposition questions and to develop appropriate litigation strategies. When additional investigative steps were identified, TIG Environmental performed more focused investigation relying on classical investigative techniques, including the review of former operating records, developing witness pools, locating and interviewing witnesses, and identification and analysis of other potentially relevant historical archives.

Ms. Benthin served as project manager and lead investigator. In addition to identifying the relevant sources of information and overseeing a research team consisting of more than a dozen researchers, she developed a reporting template and managed all client communications.

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 complex urban river Superfund site in northern New Jersey. Investigative services performed include acquisition of historical records, conducting witness testimonies, reviewing environmental data, and developing expert technical reports for the identification and assessment of PRPs who's contributed to the contamination of the Superfund site. Contaminant source identification involves evaluation of the historical operations of hundreds of PRPs at upland sites, fate and transport analysis, and investigation and mapping of historical direct and indirect sewer discharges. TIG Environmental manages a database and client accessible data visualization platform encompassing all historical sampling data collected at the Superfund site.

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Ms. Benthin has been actively involved in this project in various ways since 1999. In addition to collecting and analyzing historical and environmental documents, establishing corporate succession histories of PRPs, and performing witness interviews, she has managed the compilation and execution of a PRP and third-party defendant database used by an extensive environmental litigation team to develop intelligence regarding the various sites and parties involved.

Technical Consultation and Litigation Support (2006–Ongoing)

Confidential Client, New Jersey

TIG Environmental provides technical and litigation support for environmental liability assessment related to sediment remediation in the Newark Bay Study Area (NBSA) - a large Superfund bay estuary complex, part of the larger New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary. The area hydraulically connects to the Passaic River Superfund Site and includes portions of the Hackensack River, Arthur Kill, and Kill van Kull. TIG Environmental performs investigative services including the acquisition and evaluation of historical records, conducting witness testimony, assessing environmental data, and preparing technical reports for identification and assessment of PRPs associated with the site. TIG Environmental develops deliverables providing detailed information regarding direct and/or indirect discharges to the NBSA from industrial, manufacturing, commercial, public works, and other potential sources. TIG Environmental personnel provided technical support on the remedial investigation and feasibility studies (RI/FS) activities on the NBSA. Such support included identifying and characterizing stormwater and combined sewer overflows that have affected sediments in the NBSA. TIG Environmental also acquired, compiled and evaluated information on publicly owned treatment works (POTWs), including their upstream collection system networks and their role as potential contaminant sources.

Ms. Benthin is managing the investigation to identify significant industrial users potentially responsible for the pollution of this estuary. Information compiled from public sources is being used to identify and prioritize current and historical users based on potential contribution.

Technical Consultation and Allocation/Litigation Support (2016–2019)

Confidential Client, New Jersey

TIG Environmental provides technical support for environmental liability assessment and cost allocation on an accelerated schedule for an upland Superfund site involving soil and groundwater. Development of a proposed cost allocation strategy, on behalf of the client, included evaluating environmental data and technical reports, witness testimony, and historical records. The effort included research and forensic analysis of potential historical contaminant sources, other PRPs' contaminant contributions, industrial archeology/chemical processes, and contaminant fate and transport. TIG Environmental used allocation modeling, calculations, and statistical analyses based on the data generated from this research to assist the client in decision-making on numerous allocation scenarios among the approximately 60 PRPs. TIG Environmental authored position papers to support the client in both offensive and defensive positions.

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Ms. Benthin reviewed, analyzed, and summarized historical documents provided by the client to determine potential historical contaminant sources and PRP contaminant contributions, providing support to the allocation team.

Technical Support of Cost Allocation (2013–Ongoing)

Confidential Client, New Jersey

TIG Environmental provides technical support on investigative identification of PRPs in a tidal tributary system with contaminated sediments for remedial cost allocation purposes. The evaluation includes research and forensic analysis to determine the nexus from investigated upland PRP sites to the tributary system for specific contaminants. The results of this investigation were used to develop a comprehensive allocation strategy and supporting expert reports for sediment and marsh cleanup cost allocation.

Ms. Benthin serves as managing researcher regarding a complex Superfund tributary and estuary site in northern New Jersey. She is involved in the investigation and identification of PRPs to determine liability for overall site remediation costs.

Technical Consultation and PRP Identification (2015–Ongoing)

Confidential Client, New Jersey

TIG Environmental provides technical support on investigative identification of PRPs in a tidal river system with contaminated sediments. Evaluation includes research and forensic analysis to determine the nexus from investigated upland PRP sites to the tidal river system's specific contaminants; results are being used to prepare internal fact reports to transmit detailed, referenced research to the client and counsel.

Ms. Benthin serves as a managing researcher in the investigation and identification of PRPs.

Technical Support of Cost Allocation (2015–Ongoing)

Confidential Client, New York

TIG Environmental provides technical support regarding cost allocation for a Superfund site involving remediation of sediments contaminated with polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), non-aqueous phase liquids (NAPLs), and metals. The effort includes historical research to understand the operational history of various industries adjacent to the waterway since the late 1800s, including the specific processes used at each facility. TIG Environmental evaluates documents provided by PRPs and obtains other relevant information from historical media sources, archives, and a variety of records repositories. This research focuses on the specific processes used at each facility, including types and quantities of raw materials used, waste materials generated, and type and duration of discharges. TIG Environmental completed expert reports to detail each PRP's nexus with activities that caused releases of hazardous substances contributing to response costs and provided similar reports and rebuttal testimony regarding the client's historical operating facilities. TIG also assists in developing allocation strategies used to secure a favorable outcome for the client.

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Ms. Benthin serves as a managing researcher and author for technical memorandums in support of cost allocation for this remediation projects.

PRP Identification and Allocation Support (2009–2017)

Confidential Client, Wisconsin

TIG Environmental provided PRP identification and allocation support relative to the former operations at a 46-acre coke and manufactured gas production site and its associated commercial use waterway. Investigative services included identification and assessment of corporate succession and financial viability and case building on PRPs associated with the site. Case building and document retrieval work included field research efforts, state and local Freedom of Information Act requests, and investigation of online resources. Investigation and forensic analysis associated with the anticipated cost allocation included evaluation of the municipal combined sewer system.

Ms. Benthin investigated to identify current day successors-in-interest to former operating entities. She took steps to retrieve and analyze official corporate filings, historical records, library research, and witness interviews. Findings were presented in an interactive presentation linked to supporting documents.

Risk Management Support and Technical Consulting (2001–Ongoing)

Confidential Client, Sites throughout the U.S.

TIG Environmental provides risk management support through a biennial review and analysis of active remedial site case files to estimate costs for remediation and management of a portfolio of legacy sites across the nation. TIG Environmental evaluated the corporate client's numerous predecessors and the liabilities associated with those historical operations. TIG Environmental conducted internal assessments of the prioritized historical entities and facilities to develop an internal knowledge base of potential liabilities for management purposes.

Ms. Benthin manages the database research component of this recurring risk management evaluation.

Technical Consultant for Environmental Liability Assessment (2019–Ongoing)

Confidential Client, Former Air Force Base, Confidential Location

TIG Environmental is providing technical expert support for environmental liability assessment regarding groundwater contamination near an air force base. TIG Environmental's client is legal counsel to a party defending its potential liability for metal contamination in groundwater alleged to originated from a former air force base, where client was potentially a supplier of products containing the metal contaminant. To support its client, TIG Environmental is conducting historical research, using propriety technical databases, open source records, public archives, and locating potential witnesses who worked on the former air force base to identify uses of the metal at the base and to better understand the client's relationship as an alleged supplier.

Ms. Benthin is managing the research including the identification of potentially relevant sources, coordination with the online and field researchers, and compilation of information. Additionally, Ms. Benthin will manage the witness identification and location efforts for this task.

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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. Benthin is managing and performing research to clarify issues identified by the client post project scoping. These research requests are related to the issues described above, but came up after the initial engagement and include corporate succession, tenancy, and process research tasks.

PFAS Liability Investigation (2014)

Confidential Client, New Jersey

On behalf of the owner of a chemical manufacturing facility that was the focus of a state-led action to clean up per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) contamination in regional groundwater and surface water, TIG Environmental identified other current and historical site owners and operators near the facility that were potentially associated with the contamination. TIG Environmental used investigative teams to survey the industrialized target study area and inventory all high-value PRPs that were likely associated with PFAS contamination. Investigative and technical staff gathered historical documents, analyzed aerial imagery and historical mapping, and obtained regulatory documentation to build case files on the target PRPs.

Ms. Benthin served as lead researcher on this project collecting and analyzing historical and environmental documents and managing the compilation of an inventory of other potential contributors to groundwater contamination.

**Academic
Qualifications**

BA in English, Minor in Education, Utica College of Syracuse, 1993

**Professional
Training**

- Paralegal-Legal Assistant Certificate, American Institute of Paralegal Studies, 2001
- Advanced Internet Searching for Investigators, June 2009
- Get S.M.A.R.T. The Seminar (Strategic Multi-platformed Analyst Research Training), March 2010
- Social Network Investigations, February 2013
- Private Company Due Diligence, March 2013
- Open Source Intelligence Gathering, February 2014
- Dark Web Primer, September 2021