



Questions to Ask

When Selecting an Environmental Consulting Firm

“If you don’t have experience with Environmental Consulting firms, you may be at a loss when it comes time to assess a particular company. I’ve compiled this list of questions to give you an idea of what I would ask (as objectively as possible) when reviewing an Environmental Consulting firm. I hope you find it useful as you assess your options, and I hope that ECG is your final choice.”

David O’Dea
Principal, ECG

How long has your firm been in business?

Environmental Consulting is not something that comes easily; experience matters. You should look for firms that have been in business for at least 5 years. ECG has been in business for over 15 years.

Does your firm carry professional liability insurance?

You don’t want a firm working onsite dealing with potentially hazardous materials unless they have strong liability insurance to cover any accidents. You should look for a firm with at least \$1 million in general and professional liability insurance, and at least another \$5 million in “umbrella” coverage. Their insurance provider should have at least an “A-7” rating. ECG’s coverage meets and exceeds this criteria.

Who would be assigned to my account?

Even if a firm has been in business for a while, they could still staff your account with an inexperienced consultant. You should look for a firm that will assign a senior environmental professional with over 7 years of experience to your account (as your primary contact). At ECG, your account will be managed by a senior consultant with over 10 years of experience, and this consultant will be your primary contact with us.



Can you provide references where you provided similar services?

When dealing with new vendors, it's always a good idea to get references, ideally references that received similar services. Moreover, these references should be easily reachable so you aren't waiting a week for a call back. ECG will happily provide you with references that have experience with our work and are readily available.

Do you have a standard fee schedule?

You should ensure that the firm you work with is able to provide a standard fee schedule for their services. In the event the consultant must provide services on a "time and materials" basis, you should know their rates beforehand. ECG's fee schedule is available upon request and contains our labor rates and standard laboratory fees.

Can I see a sample report?

The quality of the consultant's reports says a lot about their services. If the consultant cannot effectively communicate their findings and recommendations, then look elsewhere. After all, the report is the consultant's final product and the only tangible product you will receive. ECG often provides prospective clients with sample reports (cleaned of identifying data).

Next Step: Call In the Experts

We hope you feel more informed after reading this document. Now, let the experts at ECG show you how we are your best option.

Call us at (866) 726-9485 or contact us through our website at www.ecgmidwest.com for a FREE estimate and proposal.