

Earth Day 2012



Career Profile

Name: Randy Farmerie
Job Title: Professional Geologist Manager
Location: Northcentral Regional Office
Years with DEP: 22 ½

What kinds of activities do you perform on a daily basis?

I oversee a group of environmental professionals that are responsible for the oversight of the investigation and remediation of contaminated sites, especially brownfields sites that may be redeveloped. The work involves conducting field inspections of spill sites, collecting environmental samples, overseeing soil boring and monitoring well installations, interpreting groundwater data, monitoring remediation systems, and reviewing reports that demonstrate that the cleanups have been completed.

What kind of educational background do you have?

I have a bachelor's and master's degree in geology from Penn State and Kent State, respectively.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

It is difficult to work with people from both the regulated community and private citizens that have strong opinions. Sometimes, citizens have a belief about what should be done even though the regulations and science may not back up that opinion. It can also be difficult to explain complicated environmental issues in Lehman's terms so that citizens can understand.

What got you interested in working in an environmental field?

It was actually the first geology job I was offered, which had been my primary interest. Once I got the job, the opportunity to try to clean up the environment and provide a safer environment for everyone is what kept me in the environmental field.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Observing sites that are severely contaminated being cleaned up to safe levels and returned to productive use is very rewarding.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about a career in environmental science?

A broad background in a science, especially chemistry, geology and engineering is useful. Consider your surroundings, there is a good chance that there is an environmental project nearby; ask questions about what is going on and why.