

Challenges of Conducting Environmental Investigations in the Canadian Arctic

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The Canadian Arctic presents numerous challenges to those undertaking environmental investigations, assessments, and remediation in this unique environment. Environmental consultants and clients are required to understand the major differences in working in the arctic compared to southern jurisdictions. The shortened field season, permafrost conditions, complicated logistics, lack of resources, and an often intricate regulatory/permitting process leads to additional planning and costs when completing projects in this region. This presentation will discuss the challenges, solutions, and rewards of completing environmental projects in the Canadian Arctic.

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Mr. David Wells received a B.Sc. in Environmental Science and Master of Applied Science (M.A.Sc.) in Environmental Engineering from Memorial University of Newfoundland. Mr. Wells is an Environmental Scientist with AMEC Earth and Environmental in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. He has experience in a wide range of projects relating to soil science, reclamation, remediation, and environmental site assessment in arctic environments. Mr. Wells has lived in the Northwest Territories for the past six years and has worked on projects in the oil and gas, military, and government sectors in all three of Canada's northern territories.