

LAURA M. BEHRER

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SUMMARY

I am an experienced environmental compliance manager with a career focused on risk mitigation and pollution prevention. Knowledgeable in an array of legal and procedural details, I am an influential communicator experienced in shifting corporate culture and aligning projects to strict environmental compliance goals.

I've overseen environmental elements of the construction of over \$2.62 billion of work, including work on global critical facilities [GCF]: hospitals, data centers, and government buildings. I look forward to putting this unique industry expertise to work on new and exciting challenges in stormwater management, flood mitigation, storm surge mitigation, compliance planning, and sustainability.

EXPERIENCE



Environmental Compliance Manager

Turner Construction Company
11413 Isaac Newton Square
Reston, VA 20190

March 2016 - Present

Designated Pollution Prevention Subject Matter Expert [SME] for Turner Construction's metro-D.C. and Baltimore regional operations, I'm responsible for developing and implementing my compliance program to manage environmental risks for complex construction projects – through pre-construction, active construction, and post-construction – with a keen eye towards sustainability, resource protection, and human life safety. Responsibilities for compliance and plan writing currently includes:

- Developing standard operating procedures for CWA and CAA compliance
- Processing and filing paperwork for NPDES, and state NPDES variant permitting
- Assisting with multidisciplinary permitting – USACE 404 / JPA / Generator Emissions Permits / DOT Permits / E&SC, Grading or LDA Permits, etc.
- Developing and writing site-specific plans: EPP, SWPPP, SPCCC, etc.
- Writing guides for comprehensive Environmental Health and Safety [EHS] field implementation
- Creating and implementing disaster plans for hurricane, high wind, and flood events

With a keen understanding of industry drivers and design concepts, I regularly assist with pre-construction efforts, including stormwater constructability reviews, generator source reviews, and reviews of environmental risk reports (soils tests results, Phase I/II reports, or Environmental Impact Statements [EIS] for NEPA compliant projects). I'm comfortable advising clients on the impact of design decisions as relates to environmental and risk goals.

Accomplishments include:

- The successful management of over 57 projects; totaling over \$2.62 B in construction contract value.
- Named BEST SUSTAINABLE COMPANY of 2018 by the Association of General Contractors [AGC] in Washington, D.C.
- Contributing to success of sustainability programs: In 2018 Turner Construction was once again named by Engineering News-Record [ENR] as the #1 Green Builder in the United States. Our company has held this position at #1 for a decade, since 2008.



Environmental Engineer

Turner Construction Company
11413 Isaac Newton Square
Reston, VA 20190

January 2013 - March 2016

Joined the Turner team in newly created position within the Risk Management Department with goals to adjust culture and environmental compliance trajectory for Turner projects in the DC area. I successfully implemented and managed a program for compliance, sustainability, and future corporate solvency:

- Refined and edited existing Turner policies
- Created environmental protocols for EPA Region III area (DC/MD/VA/DE/PA/WV)
- Wrote and implemented environmental action plans to address training gaps with operations staff:
 - Trained 184 operations team members in the initial year (2013)

- Continued with classroom training for new hire orientations
- Developed field inspection training and SWM training
- Completed jobsite audits and oversight inspections to ensure compliance
- Inspected and monitored installation of post-construction stormwater best management practices [BMPs] and urban flood controls

Worked closely with Risk Management, Insurance, and Safety department professionals to develop project specific plans for sustainability, stormwater constructability, and operational excellence.

Laboratory and Field Assistant

Coastal Research Associates
1924 Meadowbrook Road
Charlottesville, VA 22903

January 2008 – May 2012

Connected through academic avenues, I took an assistant role at a consulting research company with Professor Robert Dolan, Ph.D. working with stakeholders, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE] and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS], for a project involving beach nourishment on Pea Island, Outer Banks, NC. The arc of the project intended to examine the geological and ecological environmental consequences of a risk mitigation plan to protect North Carolina Highway 12 [NC-12], which is the primary evacuation route for the Outer Banks population.

Prone to flooding and damage from hurricanes and storm surge, NC-12 was – and remains – a vulnerable artery requiring risk mitigation. The research team was investigating the feasibility of beach nourishment and dune building construction, using “nature-mimicking”, softer engineering techniques to adjust coastal geomorphology to protect the roadway.

I was responsible for the analysis of natural sand and nourish fill dredged sand samples. Samples were collected at strategic locations on Pea Island, and off-shore where fill would be sourced, and returned to the geohydrology lab at the University of Virginia for processing. There, I washed, dried and examined the sand, using calipers, sieves, and a microscope to determine grain size and mineral composition. The scope of my research intended to:

- 1) Identify significant differences in sand grain sizes;
- 2) Determine the significance of difference in sand grain mineral compositions, and;
- 3) Analyze relevance of differences on known mole crab (*Emerita talpoida*) and coquina clam (*Donax variabilis*) populations.

These data were also used by others to create sediment transport models to determine:

- 4) The effect any significant size variance would have on beach geomorphology re: erosive forces and erosive potential, and;
- 5) The cost efficiency of beach nourishment as the primary risk mitigation practice for the protection of the hurricane evacuation route, NC-12.

My technical paper, “The Relationship Between Mean Grain Size and Population Size of Both *Emerita talpoida* and *Donax variabilis*: Potential Impacts of Beach Nourishment” examined the third point, above, in greater depth. The mole crab and coquina clam populations form a portion of the food web foundation at Pea Island, and overall ecological health can, in part, be attributed to this keystone species. Therefore, this research was particularly relevant to our USFWS stakeholder.

However, nothing conclusive was determined. Though the ecological research supported the existing hypothesis that the keystone species preferred grain sizes between 0.17 – 2.68 mm, but a linear population relationship could not be established.

The data showed significant differences between grain sizes and mineral composition, with substantially smaller grains comprising the offshore fill samples. This increased the overall erosive potential of the beach, meaning the risks of beach face shrinkage and exposure of the NC-12 road may be exacerbated when using off-shore nourish fill.

This experience taught me a great deal about disaster plan engineering, and the unforeseen consequences (environmental, cost, efficiency) of engineered solutions.

