

# ***Statement of Qualifications***



Phone (830) 626-7575

Fax (830) 626-7576

*Mailing Address*

11 NAFTA Circle

New Braunfels, Texas 78132

*Physical Address*

11 NAFTA Circle

New Braunfels TX 78132

**[www.GrueneEnviro.com](http://www.GrueneEnviro.com)**

*STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR*

**Gruene Environmental Companies**

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## Introduction

Gruene Environmental Companies, known as **GEC**, are a Texas based, privately owned full service environmental contracting and management firm. **GEC** provides a wide array of industrial and environmental services throughout Texas. We have made a commitment to provide our clients with safe, cost effective, and environmentally sound solutions to their environmental projects. Our personnel have the necessary expertise, technical knowledge, and the capabilities to provide our clientele with programs that are consistent with federal and state regulations. **GEC** takes pride in strictly adhering to health and safety procedures at all times.

With years of combined experience amongst our personnel, **GEC** brings a great deal of knowledge and expertise to our clients whilst continually establishing this organization as a regional leader in the waste management industry. Our experiences allow us to manage a variety of jobs including in-depth remediation of hazardous and toxic waste sites, as well as complete waste management services for various entities and numerous fortune 500 companies. We have spent innumerable hours completing environmental projects for all sizes of industrial, institutional, and governmental clients by providing sampling, profiling, transportation, and disposal of a vast assortment of wastes. During this time we have developed an enviable knowledge of EPA, DOT, federal, and state regulations governing the remediation, transport, treatment, and disposal of hazardous and industrial wastes and materials.

**GEC** can provide turn-key services for virtually any type of project. Due to the complexity of current regulations, we recognize that an integral part of meeting our customer's needs may require the development or use of specialized services; we have advanced key relationships with this

understanding so that we may achieve the requisite service needed by our client. Our company is built on a philosophy stressing safety, professionalism, compliance with applicable regulations, and quality service. We provide a complete program for environmental site remediation, hazardous materials, and hazardous waste management, including appropriate treatment and disposal of waste generated.

**GEC** maintains high quality assurance and quality control standards. Through our extensive quality assurance checks and balances, we ensure compliance with company policies and site analysis plans. We continuously strive to exceed requirements. In accordance with our company philosophy, our operations are in strict compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Transportation, the Toxic Substances Control Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, State Regulations, and local statutes. We continuously explore potential regulatory trends, changes, and modifications in order to ensure compliance with current and upcoming legislation.

Our personnel must successfully complete extensive training. This training includes forty hours of HAZWOPER, forty hours of OSHA health and safety training (29CFR 1910.120), eight hours of specialized instrumentation training, Confined Space Qualified Supervisor training, Mine Safety and Health Administration training, and other pertinent training modules. We attend seminars and implement continuous training in order to enhance and maintain personnel's skill and knowledge levels. Since the health and safety of our clients' personnel, as well as our own personnel, is of great concern to our company, a Health and Safety Plan is implemented before a project begins on a job site. This health and safety plan is for both the regulatory compliance, as well as for safety. In addition to the site-specific contingency plan, we conduct a daily project safety meeting with all relevant on-site personnel.

**All treatment, storage and disposal facilities utilized by GEC have met or exceeded our stringent compliance requirements. This stipulation enhances each of our clients' ability to minimize their liability in a cost-effective manner.**

## **GEC– Divisions and Services**

**GEC's** structure consists of 2 operational divisions: Gruene Environmental Services, and Gruene Transportation. With this specific structure, GEC is positioned to be a complete environmental services provider to our clientele. GEC's branches work together to provide a number of specialized services to a vast and varied clientele.

### **Overview of divisions' services:**

**Gruene Environmental Services (GES)** is a division that manages all aspects of waste disposal and remediation projects at your facility, from line-side pickup to final disposition at top waste and recycling vendors across the country. GES combines 40hr HAZWOPER trained field crews with an extensive array of waste management skills to assist a project through its completion. GES can provide the full range of services that support activities necessary for various specialized environmental projects. From large scale on-site projects requiring access to large and diverse equipment and resources to small scale cleaning, GES has the expertise and personnel to provide our clients the proper tools to complete projects in a safe and cost-effective manner.

### **Some specific services of GES include:**

- **In-Plant or On-Site Services** – This service has **GES** providing dedicated personnel within your site to handle essentially any waste management need for a plant customer; i.e., drum management, lab packing, soil excavations, decontamination of industrial equipment, etc. Our goal for the In-Plant or On-Site Services customer is to provide answers to the complex world of waste management, and manage any or all of the waste

within a facility.

- Lab Pack Services – Our qualified chemists and technicians provide proper segregation, packaging, and labeling of all waste materials so they are acceptable for highway transportation to approved treatment, storage, and disposal facilities. Unknown and trade-named wastes are characterized in the field, and composite samples are obtained for possible analysis so as to secure the appropriate treatment for the waste. Due to the unique packaging requirements of small containers, **GES** provides all requisite containers and packing media necessary to properly manage waste according to current regulations. Treatment and disposal methods available to our lab pack clients include incineration, neutralization, recycling, stabilization, oxidation/reduction, reactive treatment, land disposal, along with other special waste treatments.
- Drum Management Services – We are a universal waste handler that can provide economical and personalized waste management services to clients through either our full load (FTL) or less than truckload (LTL) containerized waste program. These services include sampling, analysis if required, profiling, approvals and documentation, over-packing when necessary, transportation, and disposal. Treatment and disposal options through our approved network of TSD facilities, using our endorsed and fully permitted transportation fleets, allow for economical waste management.
- Tank & Vessel Clean-Outs – Includes the clean-out of hazardous waste, which require physical entry by trained personnel, and subsequent disposal of the material. Regardless of the type of waste or its consistency, **GES** will clean all types of sumps, clarifiers, oil water separators and storage tanks. This service can also include decontamination, if required. Our group has the necessary experience to utilize the appropriate equipment, from small pumps to large tankers, to correctly and efficiently manage this type of project.
- Site Remediation – Includes the removal, transportation, disposal, and/or recycling of contaminated soils or other onsite debris. All types of site clean-up projects can be handled from the initial design phase, to remediation work, and finally site closure. We have successfully completed a number of large site remediation projects including pit closures and soil remediation projects. Facilities of all sizes and decontamination

requirements of all types can be managed by **GES**. Our staff has experience ranging from disassembly and removal for proper disposal of small facilities to mandated clean-ups of large manufacturing facilities. These services also include sampling and analysis to ensure that all standards have been met.

- Confined Space Entry – Due to the complexity of OSHA regulations, many companies have elected to outsource confined space entry projects to **GEC**. At **GES**, *safety is always our priority*. This philosophy allows our personnel to complete projects safely, on time, and within budget.
- UST Removal – **GES** has the certified personnel to provide complete project management for Underground Storage Tank (UST) removals. When UST's are discovered during construction the material inside the tank has to be identified, and there are specific steps that need to occur to remove the UST properly. From sampling the soil around the tank to proper techniques for backfill, **GES** has the expertise and proven track record to complete a UST removal safely.

**Gruene Transportation (GT)** owns, operates, and enlists a diverse fleet of vehicles including 70 BBL and 130 BBL vacuum trucks, 18-wheelers, box trucks, vacuum boxes, roll offs, drum trailers, box trailers, and a variety of specialized construction vehicles. Each of these vehicles has been incorporated into our fleet for the purpose of providing a wide range of options to our client; GT's responsibility is to efficiently and safely ensure the proper transportation of any waste stream that **GES** may dispose of.

## Training

**GEC** provides all employed personnel with health and safety training as required by 29 CFR 1910.120. This includes an initial 40-hour training for new hires, as well as an 8-hour annual refresher training. After classroom training, personnel must complete a three day on-site supervised training requirement. During this time, new staff will work with the project supervisor, lead chemist, and other management to refine their on-the-job skills. Supervisory personnel

receive additional training for their specific roles. Any personnel utilized by **GEC** are also required to have training and must produce documentation stating such.

On-going refresher training is also provided. This training focuses on many items, such as new DOT regulations, changes in treatment/disposal standards, project pre-planning and management, project proposals and tracking, Federal Motor Carrier Safety regulations, site-specific packaging requirements, incident reporting, reactive handling and management, sampling techniques and sample management.

All training is documented and updated per event. Training records can be reviewed upon request.

## **Health & Safety**

### ***General Requirements***

All personnel are required to undergo forty-hour OSHA-approved health and safety training as mandated by 29 CFR 1910.120 before beginning work on a client's site.

This training includes the following components:

- Recognition of chemical and physical hazards
- Selection of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment
- Fire fighting
- Red Cross First Aid and CPR
- Emergency response
- Development and implementation of Health and Safety Plans
- Confined space entries
- Quantitative respirator fit test

Medical monitoring is provided to the employees pursuant to 29 CFR 1910.120 (f). Prior to employment, each potential employee must pass a complete physical exam, including medical history, x-rays, fitness testing, and blood and urine profiles to screen for heavy metals, PCB levels, pesticide and chloro-organic compounds. This is to ensure that all employees are medically able to work in a hazardous waste environment and wear respiratory equipment. This physical is repeated on an annual basis. Projects requiring further medical monitoring are planned so that it is an on-going integral part of the operational plan.

**GEC** provides all required and necessary personal protective equipment to employees, so that they may safely fulfill their responsibilities. Written explanations of equipment selection, use, maintenance and storage are incorporated into our Health and Safety Program as well as the site-specific health and safety plan that is developed for each remedial project.

**GEC** and their personnel support the corporate policy of a drug and alcohol-free work environment and the pro-active substance abuse program requiring initial pre-employment and random testing that is also prescribed by 49 CFR Parts 40 and 382.

### **Project-Specific Requirements**

Before mobilizing for a given project, the Project Supervisor completes a site-specific health and safety plan. Additionally, for every project, a site-specific contingency plan is completed for work at the location. Emergency planning and responsibilities are clearly delineated in an easy-to-read format. The contingency plan is reviewed each day by all on-site personnel before beginning work.

Staff that are working on a given site also attend a daily *"tailgate safety*

*meeting*" presented by the Project Supervisor. This meeting is intended to alert personnel to any changes in procedures as well as to emphasize safety concerns.

Clients and their representatives are encouraged to read the health and safety plan, contingency plan, and attend tailgate safety meetings with **GEC** personnel.

## Spill Prevention and Response Plan

Spill prevention is a primary concern while at a client's location, or on a project. However, in the unlikely event that waste material should start to leak or a laboratory bottle is broken, the Project Supervisor has been designated as the Emergency Coordinator of the spill response unless the generator has an applicable procedure to be followed. The following is a list of the Emergency Coordinator's immediate responsibilities:

- Note what has spilled or leaked, the amount involved, and the nature of the chemicals involved.
- Determine what the material has come into contact with.
- Determine if people need to be evacuated from surrounding areas.
- Determine if company personnel need special equipment to contain and clean up the spill.
- Note if fire (or the potential for fire) is involved.
- Contact the company management and the generator's Designee. **GEC** personnel and generator's Designee will follow the generator's emergency response procedures, if applicable.

Once these determinations have been made, the Emergency Coordinator will direct the efforts of the spill response. The room or area will be closed off to prevent the release of any potential gases. Personnel will wear proper protective clothing and respiratory protection for the involved chemical

hazard.

In general, a *liquid spill* will first be contained by surrounding the spill with walls of absorbent. Every effort will be made to prevent the spill from entering surface water or sewer drainage systems. Then an appropriate absorbent will be poured onto the spill to absorb it. Once the spill has been thoroughly absorbed, the contaminated absorbent will be shoveled up and placed into a non-leaking approved container for proper disposal. Spill residue must be packaged separately from other containers and/or packaging absorbent material. The spill residue container may be packaged in a lab pack drum using the same packing rules and logged as the waste it represents. Acid and caustic spills will be neutralized with an appropriate neutralizer. After the neutralization, or if the spill was not a corrosive material, the area may be thoroughly rinsed with water if the waste is compatible with water. If the spill was from a bottle, the broken bottle must be placed in the same container as the spill residue to assure its proper disposal. If the spill was from a drum, the hole causing the leak must be sealed, and the drum over-packed into a recovery drum.

For a spill of a *solid material*, the spill will be shoveled up with a non-sparking shovel and placed into an approved container. The broken container will also be placed in this container for proper disposal. If the solid material is corrosive, the spill area will be neutralized as described above.

## Permits and Registrations – Attachment A

Authority	Description	Gruene Environmental	Gruene Transportation
IRS	Tax ID Number (EIN)	45-3593556	45-3593337
Tx Secretary of State	File #	803672907	803672897
USDOT	Motor Carrier Number	None	2284499
FMCSA	HM Safety Permit	None	US-2284499-TX-HMSP
FMCSA	Interstate Operating Authority	None	MC 787576
PHMSA	Registration	070219 550204BD	070219 550211BD
MSHA	Contractor ID	W736	None
TX DMV	Motor Carrier Registration Number	None	006640293C
EPA	Site ID	TXR000079404	TXR000080576
TCEQ	Solid Waste Registration #	88727 (generator, transporter)	91034 (transporter, transfer facility)
TCEQ	Sludge Registration	None	24525
TCEQ	Used Oil/Oil Filter Handler Registration	None	A86146 (Oil: Transporter, Transfer Facility Filter: Transporter)
TCEQ	Scrap Tire Transporter Registration	None	6201029
TCEQ	UST Contractor License	CR0000126	None
TDHS	Asbestos Transporter	None	400465
City of San Antonio	Solid Waste Hauler Permit	None	32582
City of Houston	Solid Waste Hauler Permit	558	None
EPA	TSCA ID # (PCB Activity)	None	TWX000068882
RRC of TX	Waste Hauler Permit	None	PENDING

