



An Electronic Newsletter of  
EEA's Environmental  
Consulting Activities  
**April/May 2002**

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## *Environmental Consulting*

# INSIGHTS

### ***NOT JUST "A WALK IN THE WOODS"***

EEA staff from the Altamont office (Albany suburbs) have been walking through thousands of acres of magnificent undeveloped (and some developed) land in New York City's upstate watersheds (Delaware, Catskill, and Croton) west and east of the Hudson. Some of the land was formerly in agricultural use and most of it is in a natural undisturbed condition. For outdoorsmen, this is a dream come true – to be paid to spend days “hiking” through the Catskills, around lakes, and communing with nature. Well, it's not quite that simple and relaxing because there are environmental health objectives that are critical to New York City that have to be addressed.

#### **Protecting New York City's Water Supply**

New York City Watershed Management Acquisition Program's goal is to protect the City's water supply reservoirs from contamination through the acquisition of over the next 10 years of critical private properties that drain into the reservoirs.



**Delaware/Catskill and Croton  
Watersheds**

For the past six years, EEA has been contracted by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection to perform Phase I Environmental Site Assessments of properties the City plans to acquire within the upstate watersheds. To date, EEA has evaluated approximately two hundred parcels ranging from a few acres to almost 1,000 acres.

#### **Investigator Prerequisites: Brain and Brawn**

EEA's task is to not only to perform the necessary historical research on the properties' prior uses and agencies' records and review historical aerial photographs for potential contamination conditions, but to also conduct visual inspections for the presence of indicators of contamination. Conducting visual checks for signs of potential contamination on large, heavily vegetated sites in sometimes rough topography requires the skilled eyes of experienced environmental

EEA services include Phase I ESAs, Haz-Mat Testing and Remediation, Wetlands Delineation and Creation, Natural Resources Inventories, Marine Ecology Studies, Air Quality and Noise studies, and Environmental Management System (ISO 14000) implementation. *Visit our web site at [www.eeaconsultants.com](http://www.eeaconsultants.com)*

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**EEA, Inc. – founded in 1979**

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engineers, the use of a handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) to be sure of location (and returning to your truck) and the stamina of a physically fit hiker.

While encountering potential signs of hazardous materials (abandoned drums, etc.) is rare, the assessor must be alert to safety hazards. They include traversing steep slopes and encounters with wildlife, including bears, which can be much more hazardous to the investigator's safety than the hazardous materials. From the confines of sitting at a desk in Garden City reviewing the electronically transmitted digital photos and draft reports, it is tempting to proclaim that this work is "a piece of cake" or just "a walk in the woods" compared to EEA's investigating industrial chemical operations in Long Island City. However, when you receive that cell call from the field stating that in climbing over 100 acres of rough terrain, I just met a bear face to face, you quickly realize it is *NOT JUST "A WALK IN THE WOODS."*



**Bob and a less threatening bear**

In areas other than upstate watersheds, EEA, Inc. has performed Phase I Environmental Site assessments for over 5,000 parcels in the metropolitan area. Clients include most major lenders, New York State and New York City agencies.



**Phase II Testing of Former Runway at Flushing Airport**