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**New laws increase costs and complexity to manage
1,000s of leaking petroleum storage tanks in Texas**

***New software from Southlake-based H₂A Environmental helps companies
clean up, cut costs and expedite state reports***

SOUTHLAKE, Texas – Nov. 11, 2003 – The cost of environmental management just increased exponentially for hundreds of Texas businesses, thanks to new state laws that beef up reporting requirements from petroleum storage tanks “releases,” which includes leaks and spills.

Thousands of these tanks sit both in and above the ground at gas stations, convenience stores, airports, industrial facilities, governmental agencies and private businesses. Releases from petroleum storage tanks (PSTs) – which occur commonly – are reported to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), based in Austin, Texas.

“In the past, a release from a PST was reported on a simple, fill-in-the-blank form of around 10 to 20 pages,” said Kay Hawthorne, who heads H₂A Environmental Ltd., based in Southlake, Texas. “But under the new rules, these reports have expanded to cover hundreds of pages. In cases where contamination is severe, the reports could span multiple volumes and be several inches thick.”

The complexity of the newly required reports will force most companies to spend thousands of dollars for extensive testing, data modeling and risk assessment, Hawthorne said. PST owners and consultants across the state are deeply concerned that the costs of new reporting will be financially devastating. The average environmental spill in Texas already costs between \$10,000 and \$100,000 to clean up to governmental standards, with larger sites costing as much as several million dollars.

To help mitigate these exploding costs, H₂A is offering its TRRP *Commander*[™] software, which automates the management of risk assessments and reports required by TCEQ. Whether they use the services of environmental consultants or have a staff dedicated to environmental issues, companies should insist that TRRP *Commander* be used to create reports, Hawthorne said.

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“By using TRRP *Commander*, and its companion software called DATA *Commander*TM, our clients have generated cost savings of between 30 and 60 percent,” Hawthorne said. “Plus, they improved the technical quality of their work. In September, TCEQ itself purchased 100-plus licenses of TRRP *Commander*.”

When Texas land or water is contaminated by a spill, leak or other emission of hazardous material, the environmental impact must be thoroughly assessed. This information must be reported to TCEQ, along with a risk-based plan for cleanup. TCEQ requires a bevy of extensive, detailed reports, including complex calculations and reams of data, in the form of an Affected Property Assessment Report (APAR). Under the new rules, this exhaustive information will be required of every site, whether its environmental impact is severe or simply incidental.

In Dallas County alone, there are more than 5,000 registered PSTs. According to TCEQ, nearly 2,400 leaks have occurred in the county since the state began to require reports of such incidents. The numbers are similar in other large Texas counties: Tarrant County has nearly 3,600 registered PSTs and more than 1,400 reported leaks; Collin County has almost 700 registered PSTs and more than 200 reported leaks; and Harris County has more than 8,200 registered PSTs and more than 3,400 reported leaks.

TRRP *Commander* already is used by environmental consultants at refineries, energy marketing terminals, pipelines, airports and other sites. It establishes a database standard for TCEQ’s Texas risk reduction program (TRRP), enabling easier analysis and reporting of information between the commission and the companies that must report to it.

In the past, environmental information was entered into homemade spreadsheets, which often led to inaccuracies. The process also required up to hundreds of hours per assessment, since the chemicals involved number in the hundreds.

“Environmental scientists should spend their time doing valuable analysis and field work, not typing numbers into a spreadsheet,” said James Mosley, risk assessment services manager for H₂A and the designer of TRRP *Commander*. “Our software automates the grunt work and helps in the decision-making process.”

After reporting a release, environmental scientists obtain samples of nearby soil, groundwater, surface water and air. These samples are analyzed, generating data on the

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chemicals that are involved – from one to hundreds. This information is fed into DATA *Commander*, which generates detailed data reports. Lab sample reports can be imported electronically, eliminating manual entry of data.

These data then are uploaded automatically into TRRP *Commander*, which is a database with an easy-to-use interface. The user simply enters site-specific characteristics, such as depth to groundwater. The software then automatically calculates the maximum amount of each chemical that can be left in the soil before remediation is needed.

“One of the best features of TRRP *Commander* is its ability to automatically generate APAR report tables,” Mosley said. “This automated reporting can lead to dramatic time and cost savings. Some of our clients have been shocked at the speed with which we can generate very high quality technical TRRP reports.”

Three TRRP *Commander* products (TRRP Commander PST, TRRP Commander IND, and TRRP Commander PRO) are offered to meet the technical requirements of various users and are immediately available with prices starting at \$3,995. To learn more about TRRP Commander, visit www.h2altd.com, or call 817-251-9466.

For more information, contact Roy Miller at 972-716-4070 x235, or via e-mail at rmiller@transsynergy.com.

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Editor's Note: High-resolution images of TRRP Commander screen shots and examples of HiVac remediation are available. Contact Roy Miller at rmiller@transsynergy.com, or call him at 972-716-4070, or at 903-422-5117(mobile).

H₂A Environmental Ltd. Fact Sheet

Company: H₂A Environmental Ltd. helps companies and governmental agencies control their environmental liability with technology products and services that manage all stages of environmental compliance, from risk assessment to clean-up of hazardous materials. The firm specializes in risk assessment and high-vacuum remediation services. Headquartered in Keller, a city in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, H₂A also maintains offices in Houston; Corpus Christi, Texas; Loveland, Colo.; and Jal, N.M. The company was founded in 2000.

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Leadership: The H₂A management team includes in-depth expertise in high-vacuum remediation and risk assessment, as well as other environmental engineering and geology projects.

Executive	Title
Kay Hawthorne	Managing Partner CEO and co-founder
Michael Hawthorne	Principal geologist and co-founder
James Mosley	Risk assessment services manager and co-founder

Revenue: As a privately held company, H₂A places high value on the confidentiality of its financial information.

Target markets: H₂A provides environmental services for a broad spectrum of governmental agencies and commercial firms in sectors including energy, transportation and manufacturing. H₂A specializes in service to airlines, industrial facilities, engineering and consulting companies, refineries, and pipeline and energy marketing companies.

Clients (partial list)	
Allied Aviation	American Airlines
Caldwell Engineering	Citgo
Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport	Eagle Construction & Environmental Services, LP
El Paso Corporation	ExxonMobile Pipeline Company
Shell Oil Products US	Southwest Airlines
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Valero Energy Corporation
Valero Refining - Texas	

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Products/services: High-Vacuum Remediation Services. When a site is contaminated by a leak, spill or other emission, hazardous liquids must be removed from the affected land and underground water supplies. H₂A designs, constructs, installs and operates customized High-Vacuum Remediation Services (HiVac) to remove toxic and hazardous materials from contaminated land and water. With HiVac, H₂A can complete the job three times faster than competing technologies.

Commander Series Software. The Commander series is a software suite of proprietary database programs. Data Commander and TRRP Commander automate data management and streamline reporting for state environmental compliance programs – the Texas Risk Reduction Program and its associated Affected Property Assessment Reports. These programs are used by environmental consultants, as well as large firms that conduct their own environmental risk assessments and reports. The Commander suite generates cost savings for clients of between 30 percent and 60 percent, while simultaneously improving the technical quality of their work and providing the foundation for electronic reporting to the state. Plus, these solutions enable users to create what-if scenarios, helping them to determine ideal levels of remediation and to perform complex cost-benefit analyses.

Environmental Assessment Services. By examining a site's specific geological characteristics, as well as its associated water supplies, H₂A develops sophisticated assessments of contamination. The company then helps clients decide what levels of cleanup are needed, as well as what course of remediation will be most effective.

Market need: Accidents happen every day. As a result, toxic and hazardous materials frequently are spilled onto land and into water supplies. When this happens, the responsible company or governmental agency must act quickly to clean up the site to specific legal standards. Such remediation can be expensive and time-consuming. Responsible parties not only must pay for cleaning up the spill, but sometimes also must close access to the site until remediation is complete. Expert environmental consultants such as H₂A are called in to evaluate the damage done to the land and water, and then to recommend and implement a course of action for cleanup. H₂A applies its market-leading HiVac technology to minimize time and costs for its clients.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has made the collection and management of environmental data one of its top priorities. The agency uses such data to set priorities, guide legislation and rule-making and provide reports to federal environmental agencies. As a result, companies conducting environmental assessments and remediation must provide extensive, complex information to the state. H₂A addresses these challenges through its Commander software suite, as well as risk-based remediation services. By

automating the data collection, analysis and reporting process, H₂A saves both time and money for its clients.

More Info:

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Industry Overview

Leveraging technology to break new ground in risk-based environmental cleanup

The Texas Risk Reduction Program (TRRP) may not have an exciting name. But in the world of environmental management, it has caused a revolution. Under TRRP, Texas became one of the first states in the union to develop a comprehensive environmental cleanup program based on risk. This was intended to make cleanup of contaminated land, water and air more cost-effective and reasonable, resulting in a healthier environment overall.

Enter H₂A Environmental Ltd., a team of experts devoted to environmental assessment and cleanup for corporations and governmental agencies. H₂A developed new technologies – both in the field and on the desktop – to take the state’s risk-based approach one step further. Now, H₂A offers organizations the unprecedented ability to effectively take both cost-effective and environmentally friendly approaches to remediation – simultaneously.

A fine balance

From pipelines and underground storage tanks to refineries and airline hangers, spills and other environmental contamination are virtually inevitable. For many Texas companies, protecting the environment has become an important part of their business plans.

The challenge comes in restoring the environment to a healthy state, without bankrupting the industry.

“No matter how careful these companies are, accidents do happen,” said Kay Hawthorne, chief executive officer for H₂A Environmental. “Accurately assessing the damage, and figuring out the most cost-effective way to clean up the area, are important both for the environment and for the financial health of companies involved.”

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During the late 1970s and early '80s, as environmental awareness skyrocketed in both the public and private sectors, a new breed of service firm was born. These environmental consultancies typically excavated, transported and found disposal locations for contaminated soil and other substances. Their approach was low-tech and often known as “dig and dump.”

As scientific understanding of soil and groundwater contamination grew, environmental firms became multi-disciplined organizations. They used the skills of geologists, engineers, hydrologists and others to clean up sites by applying technology. This led to new options, including cleaning up contaminated soil and water without moving it to an offsite location.

Yet as these environmental consulting firms developed new methods of cleaning up contamination, the costs for such remediation projects mounted. Funding requests spiraled out of control at government agencies, especially the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which spearheaded cleanup efforts at thousands of sites around the country. Plus, cleanup requirements literally bankrupted many companies found guilty of polluting the environment. In some cases, even innocent firms were harshly penalized simply because of past ownership in a now-contaminated site.

These consequences prompted government officials to move to another stage of environmental management, this time based on risk. This approach – often dubbed risk-based corrective action – is based on determining the risks associated with a particular contamination, and then determining what remediation is necessary. For example, chemical tests might be performed on the soil or water, with final clean-up standards based on the results.

At a majority of contaminated sites, risk-based remediation requires cleanup only to meet the standards of not harming the environment or human health. This means that more contaminants are allowed to remain in place, resulting in cheaper, faster remediation. That way, clean-up dollars can be spread to more contaminated sites, leading to a healthier overall environment.

Taking dirt high-tech

When environmental accidents occur, companies now are more dependent than ever on high-tech solutions. First and foremost, environmental specialists must conduct an in-depth study

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of the contaminated area. This includes analysis of soil, water and air samples. With this information, analysts can determine the exact amount of cleanup needed to make the area safe.

At H₂A, such analysis is conducted using the firm's Commander Series software, a suite of proprietary database programs. DATA *Commander*[™] and TRRP *Commander*[™] automate data management and streamline reporting for state environmental compliance programs. These solutions enable users to create what-if scenarios, helping them to determine ideal levels of remediation and to perform complex cost-benefits analyses.

Once cleanup levels are determined, H₂A applies another breed of environmental technology: High Vacuum Remediation Services (HiVac). When a site is contaminated by a leak, spill or other emission, hazardous liquids must be removed from the affected land and underground water supplies. H₂A designs, constructs, installs and operates customized HiVac systems to remove toxic and hazardous materials from contaminated land and water. With HiVac, H₂A can complete the job more than three times faster than competing technologies.

In both cases, H₂A applies leading technologies specifically designed for risk-based remediation. By providing cost-effective, fast solutions for environmental cleanup, the firm has further advanced the causes of both business and the environment – simultaneously.

For more information, contact Roy Miller at 972-716-4070 x235, or via e-mail at rmiller@transsynergy.com.

Kay Hawthorne

Managing Partner's Chief executive officer and co-founder

As the managing partner's chief executive officer for H₂A Environmental Ltd., Kay Hawthorne manages multi-disciplinary environmental and hazardous waste projects for both industrial clients and government agencies.

Hawthorne launched her career as an environmental scientist with Augeas Corp., where she implemented environmental compliance programs for petroleum industry clients. Hawthorne then moved to Ebasco Environmental (now Foster Wheeler Environmental), where she served as manager of environmental services. In this job, Hawthorne developed her project management and staff supervision skills while overseeing large-scale environmental and hazardous waste projects.

Next, Hawthorne took a position as a senior scientist and risk assessor for KEI Consultants Ltd., where she conducted risk assessments on sites contaminated by crude oil and refined fuels.

In 2000, Hawthorne formed H₂A with the goal of applying superior technology and service to the environmental remediation industry. At H₂A, she oversees the firm's financial management, personnel, technical operations and marketing.

Hawthorne earned a bachelor's degree in earth science from Baylor University, where she graduated summa cum laude and gained membership to Phi Beta Kappa. She then obtained a master's degree in environmental management and protection from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she earned the Environmental Science Achievement Award.

Hawthorne has been designated a registered environmental manager. She has undergone extensive technical training on environmental auditing, human health risk assessment, industrial hygiene and occupational health and safety, hazardous materials handling, and site sampling and analysis.

For more information or to arrange an interview, contact Roy Miller at 972-716-4070 x235, or via e-mail at rmiller@transsynergy.com.

Michael Hawthorne

Principal geologist and co-founder

Michael Hawthorne serves as principal geologist and co-founder for H₂A Environmental Ltd., where he oversees high vacuum and conventional remediation services.

Hawthorne began his career as a geologist and project manager for Groundwater Technology Inc., where he conducted site assessment and remediation projects. He then spent six years with Texaco Refining & Marketing Inc., as an environmental specialist. At Texaco, Hawthorne directed the assessment and remediation of more than 225 sites in Texas and Louisiana. He co-founded the Texas Mid-continent Oil & Gas Association's environmental subcommittee for petroleum distribution facilities and worked as an industry advisor for the development of state and federal regulations.

Hawthorne then took a position as regional manager for KEI Consultants Ltd. There he had sole management responsibility for the Dallas-Fort Worth regional office and oversaw comprehensive environmental cleanup and compliance programs.

In 2000, Hawthorne co-founded H₂A with the goal of applying superior technology and service to the environmental remediation industry. At H₂A, Hawthorne specializes in high-vacuum remediation, conventional remediation, multimedia compliance issues, litigation support, enforcement defense and management at facilities including refineries, pipelines, airports and industrial firms.

Hawthorne earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in geology from Baylor University. He then performed post-graduate work in groundwater hydrology at Wright State University. Hawthorne is a registered environmental manager and a licensed professional geologist.

He has undergone extensive training on environmental laws and regulations, air quality regulations and permitting, crude oil pipeline release response and statistical analysis of site sampling programs. Hawthorne also teaches training seminars on high vacuum remediation to regional and national companies and organizations interested in this leading-edge remediation technology.

For more information or to arrange an interview, contact Roy Miller at 972-716-4070 x235, or via e-mail at rmiller@transsynergy.com.

James Mosley

Risk assessment services manager and co-founder

A co-founder of H₂A Environmental Ltd., James Mosley acts as the firm's risk assessment services manager. He conducts human-health and ecological risk assessments and developed the firm's groundbreaking software programs.

Mosley has attained nearly two decades of experience in the environmental industry. He launched his career as a sales engineer, designing commercial solar products for Cole Solar Systems. Mosley then worked as a staff engineer for Espey, Huston & Associates, where he modeled and designed major utilities for subdivision development.

Mosley then moved into the public sector, where he developed in-depth expertise in the state's environmental programs. As a senior engineer for the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, Mosley worked in the agency's Petroleum Storage Tank Division. He managed all phases of investigative and corrective action at more than 200 sites, including more than 20 with direct impact on drinking water supplies or with explosive vapor conditions.

In 1995, Mosley joined KEI Consultants Ltd., as a senior risk assessor, where he conducted studies of sites in Texas and New Mexico.

Five years later, Mosley co-founded H₂A with the goal of applying superior technology and service to the environmental remediation industry. At H₂A, Mosley specializes in risk assessment, software development, and statistical data analysis. Mosley also provides engineering support to the firm's risk-based remediation programs.

Mosley earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and environmental studies from Princeton University, plus a master's degree in solar engineering from Trinity University. He is a registered professional engineer in the state of Texas, as well as a registered corrective action project manager. Mosley has undergone extensive training in risk assessment, accelerated site assessment techniques, remediation technologies and hazardous waste operations.

For more information or to arrange an interview, contact Roy Miller at 972-716-4070 x235, or via e-mail at rmiller@transsynergy.com.