

## Wrong place, wrong time!

Be ready when life happens. These public entity situations illustrate the variety of environmental exposures that could affect your customers!



A city was directed by the Regional Quality Water Board to detect the source and extent of Perchloroethylene (PCE) and Trichloroethylene (TCE) contamination in sewer piping which was detected under several major roadways. The city conducted a

costly environmental site investigation and provided a report to the Water Board about a likely historic source from a dry cleaner nearby.



The insured was a state turnpike commission. The turnpike was undergoing a highway expansion project and throughout the course of the project rainwater runoff diverted to property owners, allegedly causing sediment and debris to damage to natural spring water. In addition, the pumping of fly ash and grout

into abandoned coal mines to provide adequate foundations for bridge support resulted in well water contamination. As a result, multiple claims involving nearby homeowners were filed against the state turnpike commission.



A city was involved in investigating and incurring defense costs over the past decade from a superfund site which was listed on the National Priorities List (NPL) – the priority list of hazardous waste sites in the United States eligible for long-term remedial investigation and action. An airport, a quasi-public entity, located

within the city is being required to contribute to past hazardous concerns and participate in future remedial site costs.



A manufacturing company performed routine drum washing operations. Over time, solvent laced wash water migrated through cracks in the concrete and into the subsurface soils and groundwater. The plume of solvents traveled off site and contaminated a nearby municipal water supply well. Costly

remedial technology had to be implemented to provide safe drinking water. The municipality filed suit against the manufacturing company for cleanup costs and property damage.



Workers in a municipal building, located near a solvent recycler, started to notice a suspicious odor. After investigation, it was determined that the vapors were caused by solvent contaminated groundwater underneath the recycling facility as a result of improper historical practices of storage disposal. The workers

claimed the solvent vapors were both fire and health hazards. Claims against the recycling facility for perceived bodily injury and diminution of property value were made.

AM Best rating affirmed December 3, 2021. The above claim scenarios are provided to illustrate the variety of potential environmental exposures faced by your clients. The facts of any situation which may actually arise and the terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations in any policy in effect at that time are unique. Thus no representation is made that any specific insurance coverage applies to the above claim scenarios. Coverage description is summarized. Refer to the actual policy for a full description of applicable terms, conditions, limits and exclusions. Policies are underwriten by Great American Insurance Company, an authorized insurer in all 50 states and the DC and Great American E&S Insurance Company, an OH domiciled surplus lines insurer eligible to underwrite surplus lines insurance in all 50 states and the DC. This is not intended as a solicitation or offer to sell an insurance product in a jurisdiction in which the solicitation, offer, sale or purchase thereof would be unlawful.

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## **Public Entity**

Claims Scenarios



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