

Long Island Business NEWS

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CHARLES A. RICH, PG, CPG, CSBA, EP

CA RICH Consultants

Charles A. Rich, PG, CPG, CSBA, EP is founder and president of CA RICH Consultants, Inc., a full-service environmental consulting firm in Plainview. Rich directs CA RICH and oversees the firm's operations. He specializes in minimizing business liabilities through environmental due diligence, forensics, effective risk-based environmental remediation, stewardship, and dispute resolution to enhance bottom-line efficiencies for the firm's clientele, which include Fortune 50 corporations, developers, law firms, municipalities and not-for-profits.

Rich remains on top of industry issues and new developments, including Geologist Licensure.

"As of last November, a geologist is duly licensed to practice in the State of New York," Rich said. "Licensure of geologists defines the distinction of what a trained geologist does. Simplistically, geologists apply scientific concepts to solve subsurface problems. For example, relative to water quality here on Long Island, hydrogeologists will define chronic aquifer degradation where the configuration and distribution of plumes of contamination slowly migrating down-gradient toward potable water wells, and how long it takes for such a commingled plume 'front' to arrive at a well, and what can best be done to arrest it cost-effectively (e.g. Bethpage, and elsewhere), are critical considerations that must be accurately evaluated to ensure wise investment and long-term public protection."

"In addition, the qualified input of a 'licensed' geologist brings value when answering questions such as, what is the best alternative remedial solution to cleaning up an aquifer?; is there more than one?; and at what cost? Or, is the public better served with a management policy that simply focuses on 'treatment at the well head' instead?," Rich noted.

"The vulnerability of the public to rely on so-called 'experts' underscores the importance of properly qualified 'hydrogeologists' to address complex groundwater conditions 'below ground,'" Rich said. "This need is on par with the importance of civil and chemical engineers designing and sizing the best treatment systems 'above-ground.' It is not yet clear whether Geologist Licensure will 'raise the bar' for the profession over the coming years, but it will provide the means



WHO'S WHO

*in Property: Environmental,
Engineering & Real Estate*



to guarantee, to concerned parties, that there is a professional level of education and experience – precluding those unqualified or unfit 'experts' to practice from doing so. In and of itself, that is a worthwhile justification for Licensure."

Rich's 44-year career began in 1973 as a hydrogeologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Water Resources Division where he drilled observation wells, monitored aquifer conditions, answered public inquiries, and updated and published groundwater reports on Long Island. In the mid-1970s, he coauthored the groundwater section of the widely-publicized Federal Long Island '208' Study identifying sources of groundwater pollu-

tion on Long Island, and he was first to conceive and map Long Island's important aquifer "re-charge zones" for land-use planning issues.

During the 1980-1990s, Rich investigated numerous Fortune 500 industrial sites nationwide, and was a principal Investigator at Love Canal (the first Superfund Site in the United States), and at Mitchel Field (Garden City) for the NY State Attorney General. He delivered the invited keynote address to one of the first National USEPA Symposia on Aquifer Restoration, and he helped develop the nation's first "Phase I" Standard Practice for Environmental Due Diligence.

In the 2000s, CA RICH was called upon to design/perform important interior air quality testing in buildings adjacent to Ground Zero immediately following 9/11; and Rich was called to serve as the justice department's expert witness on behalf of the USA versus an international oil company in a civil action suit resulting in one of the largest hazardous waste settlements in history.

Recently, in 2016, Rich was invited to serve as the professional mentor for a team of students representing "Engineers Without Borders" (EWB) that travelled to Melawi, Africa to locate, drill, and install water wells in response to a long-term drought.

Rich received degrees in geology from Syracuse University and Queens College. He publishes editorials and articles on brownfields, groundwater contamination and successful cleanup, and regularly contributes to his firm's Newsletter, The Environmental Bulletin. Rich is active on several boards, including AIPG/NE (a past-president); Real Estate Institute (former chair), and NYS Council of Professional Geologists (vice-president). His career accomplishments have earned him inclusion in Marquis' current editions of Who's Who in Science & Engineering, Who's Who in America, and Who's Who in the World.

CA RICH Consultants is a full-service environmental consulting firm providing strategic consulting and on-site support to help business owners manage all their environmental issues. Independently-owned since 1982, CA RICH provides environmental consulting; Phase I & II Assessments; compliance audits; investigation; remediation; groundwater resource management; storage tank, indoor air quality & hazardous waste management; soil vapor intrusion mitigation; brownfield redevelopment; property acquisition; sustainability, expert testimony; strategic thinking & dispute resolution; and all other professional services related to evolving regulations and client needs.