

# Stormwater Pollution Testing with ERM

Emerson Gifford

## Background

My internship was and continues with Environmental Resources Management, an environmental consultancy firm based in the UK. ERM has hundreds of projects all around the world, but a major part of their company is environmental standards testing. External companies, such as Amazon and UPS, hire ERM as a third party to test their sites for environmental compliance in order to meet EPA regulations. The work is on-call field testing, and I'm responsible for testing the central Ohio area Amazon sites.

## Finding the Job

This job did not start out as an internship. In fact, I applied to ERM through Indeed in late 2020, along with many other open positions in the central Ohio area. I began this position with ERM in early 2021, and I continue to this day. I received permission from my supervisor at ERM to count my work as an internship credits at Ohio State.



These are examples of what stormwater samples may look like. Collected at multiple sites around the facility, they all may have different hues of color to them. Color is most likely just soil, pollen, or other natural runoff, but sometimes it could be man-made pollution instead.

## On the Job

My work as a "Stormwater Sampling Technician" is remote, but on-call at all times. I'm responsible for covering 5 Amazon sites around central Ohio, which includes a quarterly visual inspection and stormwater sampling.



Many sites have generators like the one pictured here. As generators contain diesel and oil, it is very important to examine them during quarterly visual inspections to make sure there are no leaks.

The visual inspection can be done at any time, as long as I let the Amazon site managers know that I am coming beforehand. Visual inspections just include exploring the facility and making sure that there are no obvious signs of pollution or potential EPA violations.

Stormwater sampling is on-call, as soon we see rain on the radar. I am required to sample stormwater in multiple places around the sites no more than 15 minutes after the rain begins. These samples are analyzed and discussed with the site managers afterwards.

## Reflection

I'm learning a lot in this position, and I'm glad that I can stay on staff even after my internship experience is over. Although I'm not entirely sure if this is the field, I want to continue my career in, this is a great step to gain experience. In discussions with my supervisor, I have shared my hope to continue with ERM once I graduate, but potentially in another role.

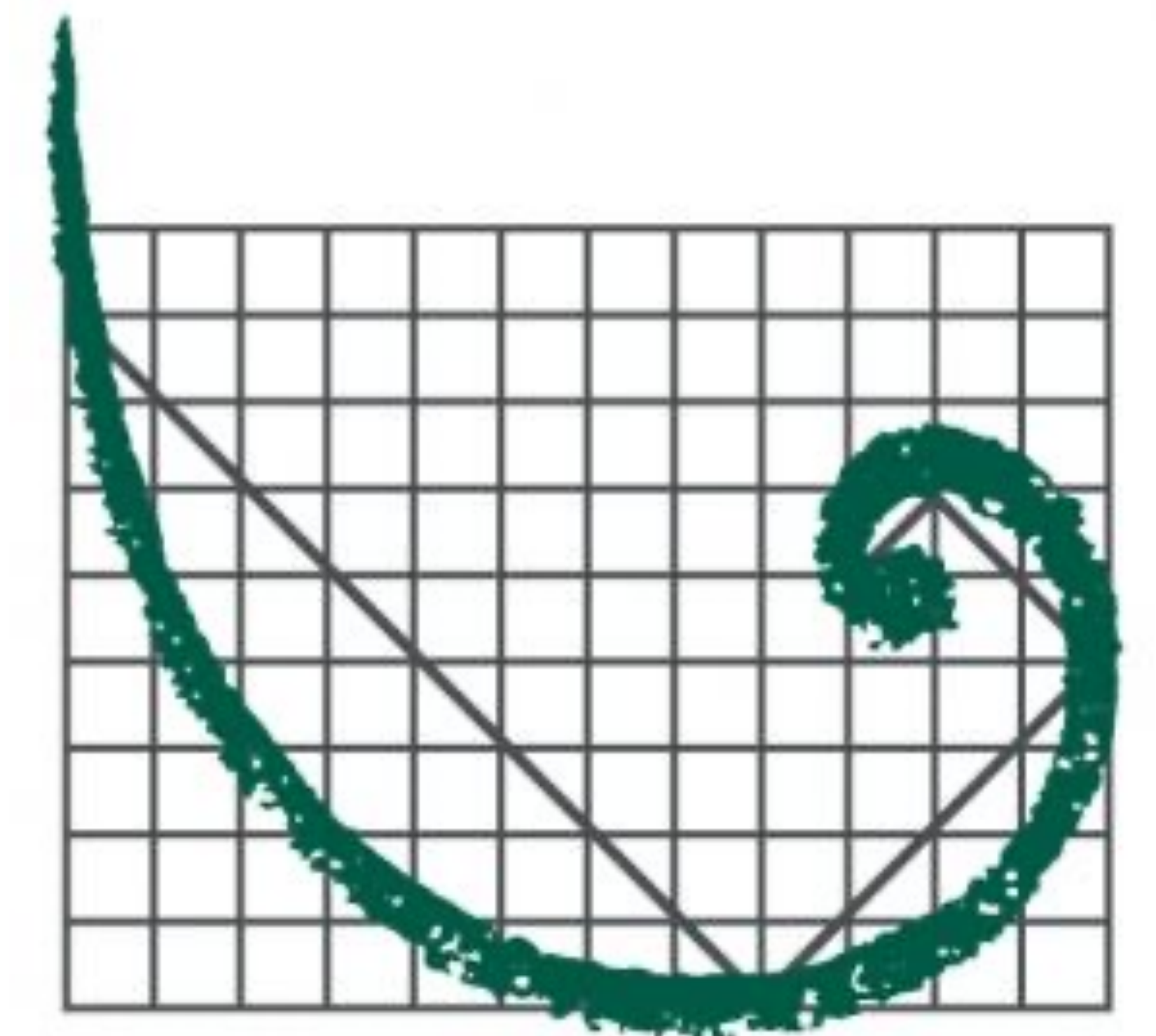
If another student is interested in this role or something similar, I can't recommend it enough. The work is easy but engaging, you get a chance to travel and have fuel reimbursed, and ERM supplies you with some cool gear to get you in working order.



Dumpsters and trash compactors can also be major sources of stormwater pollution. Part of my job is assuring that every waste area is well-kept and under cover as to meet Ohio EPA compliance.



This is a dried-out stormwater catch basin. When it rains, this valley-like area is where most of the water from the facility drains to. When it starts raining, the spouts are where I collect the water for testing.



# ERM



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