

George F. Coto Jr. | Senior Industrial Hygiene Advisor

New Orleans Field Office

Mobile Phone: 504-554-4565

george.coto@efiglobal.com

Professional Summary:

George F. Coto Jr. is an experienced environmental professional with over 26 years in work experience as an senior industrial hygienist and environmental specialist. He has been involved in high-risk investigations involving post-explosion assessments at industrial facilities, large scale assessments in food production facilities, hospitals, oil/gas sector facilities, marine and commercial projects. These assessments included asbestos inspections and abatement oversight, mold and water damage losses, fire damage assessments, environmental assessments, industrial hygiene assessments, and remote sensing. George has worked as an environmental consultant for the past 26 years in an array of roles that pertain to environmental and personnel exposure assessments for projects involving federal and state governments, insurance, and private industry.

Areas of Expertise:

- Industrial Hygienist and Environmental Specialist
- Medical Facilities and Food Production Environmental Assessments
- Asbestos Inspections
- Mold and Water Damage Losses
- Oil & Gas Facilities
- Federal, State, and Local Governments
- Wetland Delineation

Licenses and Certifications:

Mold Assessor, Florida (AC#6116637)

Texas Mold Consultant (MAC1275)

Asbestos Designer, Management Planner, Inspector, and Contractor/Supervisor -

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) (AI#115209)

Tennessee Department of Environmental Quality – Asbestos Project Designer

Project Experience:

Industrial Hygiene/Environmental Health & Safety

Environmental Assessments Conducted in 40-U.S. States, Colombia, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Bahamas.

Heartland Catfish Company Inc

West Itta Bena, Mississippi

An ammonia leak from a refrigeration potential impacted 4 million pounds of product at the Itta Bena Facility on July 22, 2024. Heartland estimated that approximately twenty (20) pounds of

ammonia leaked with subsequent ammonia vapors potentially impacting product. The purpose of EFI's assessment was to investigate the claimed impact of the reported ammonia exposure to the frozen catfish filet packaging and the catfish tissue that would render it adulterated, as defined by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). According to 21 U.S. Code § 3432, adulterated food generally consists of food products that are defective, unsafe, not shown to be safe, filthy, or produced under insanitary conditions. The final determination indicated that the vast majority of the product was not impacted, thus the product can continue to the market for sale.

Tyson Meat Production Facility
Oklahoma

Post fire assessment of the facility to determine the impacts to the facility and product impact. USDA standards were considered during the assessment and was evaluated by the USDA inspectors that are assigned to the facility. The assessment resulted in the determination that the facility can be restored, and product can be salvaged.

Quaker Oats Facility
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Provided daily industrial hygiene oversight of the remediation of over 300 flood water impacted grain silos, which included confined space entry and permitting, vertical/high elevation entry, waste disposal, and combustible gas monitoring.

Kraft Foods Plant
Cali, Colombia

Assessed and developed mold remediation plans with post remediation air clearance sampling.

ExxonMobil's SHE Department, Chalmette Refining
Chalmette, Louisiana

Employee exposure assessments and reporting as per OSHA Title 29. NORM Surveys. Emergency response to chemical releases and spills. Safety advisor. Assessment of SARA reportable inventories. Product Stewardship Information Management System Administrator.

Asbestos Designer

Asbestos inspections and design in various projects in accordance with EPA Reg 2015-part 61 subpart M (NESHAP), EPA Reg 2003-part 763 subpart E (AHERA-ACM in Schools), EPA Reg 2003-part 763 subpart G (OSHA Worker Protection)

Entergy Louisiana.

An emergency response - air sampling assessment for Chlorine gas was performed, in the surrounding areas after the Bio-Chem fire was extinguished in Westlake LA. This assessment was critical to document the air quality prior to the mobilization of the Entergy line scouts responders, post Hurricane Laura.

Texas Petroleum Chemical (TPC Group)
Port Neches, Texas

Post explosion damage assessments at a refinery producing butadiene. The refinery incurred catastrophic damages to the production facility and multiple office buildings, which resulted widespread structural damages to the production facility and the office buildings. The explosion released asbestos fibers from the thermal systems insulation and the release of butadiene.

BP Oil Spill, Safety and Health Manager for the St. Bernard Fishing Fleet

Hopedale, Louisiana

Managed the BP Safety and Health Program for the chartered 1,400 local fishermen, to include: workman's compensation reporting, OSHA 300 log-injury reporting, drug testing, and accident/incident investigations.

Plaza Towers

New Orleans, Louisiana

Provided daily oversight, during an asbestos abatement project in a 44-story building containing an estimated 6,000 cubic yards of asbestos containing material. A range of 50 to 70 abatement personnel were on site daily, and the project lasted approximately two years.

Various Sites, State of Louisiana

New Orleans, Louisiana

Performed damage assessments of various large complex structures/facilities. Prepared detailed sampling plans for the monitoring of asbestos, lead, silica, and respirable dusts during demolition activities of structures that were damaged as a result of Hurricane Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Issac, Laura, Delta, Zeta, Ida, and Francine.

Helis Oil and Gas LLC

New Orleans, Louisiana

NORM radiation surveys of 200+ offshore oil production platforms in Texas and Louisiana. Benzene exposure monitoring on the Central Facility, Black Bay, LA to determine employee exposure potential and respiratory protection requirements.

Louisiana Offshore Oil Platform

Port Fourchon, Louisiana

Conducted IH assessments, noise surveys at the LOOP Marine Offshore Terminal, and various onshore sites.

Mold Assessments and Remediation Design

Superdome

New Orleans, Louisiana

Environmental Consultant for mold and water damage in response to Hurricane Katrina and Rita for the State of Louisiana. Assessment of the Superdome to determine the extent of water, fungal, and biohazard damage within the building substrates. Weekly assessment of Indoor Air Quality to establish and maintain the required PPE level for the Superdome remediation workers.

New Orleans Arena

New Orleans, Louisiana

Environmental consultant for mold and water damage in response to Hurricane Katrina and Rita for the State of Louisiana. Assessment of the New Orleans Arena to determine the extent of water and damage within the building substrates.

Entergy Louisiana

New Orleans, Louisiana

Environmental consultant for mold and water damage in response to Hurricane damages for Entergy. Moisture assessment of the buildings to determine the extent of water damage within

the building's substrates for remediation protocols.

Army National Guard Lakefront Airport

New Orleans, Louisiana

Environmental Consultant for mold and water damage in response to Hurricane Katrina and Rita for the State of Louisiana.

Environmental Site Assessments

Universal Form Clamp Company, Illinois.

Assessed a damaged chemical mixing room, as a result of a plant explosion in Belford, Illinois, which resulted in employee death and other personnel injuries. Work was performed to gain facility access and evaluate conditions for the design of clean-up of the facility. Coordinated all efforts with Federal, State, and Local Governmental agencies for access to the building and presented the remediation protocol to the agencies for final approval.

Wilson Sports Warehouse

Nashville, Tennessee

Assessed the warehouses' damaged clothing for water and mold damage, as a result of a rainstorm.

Seafood Warehouse/Dock

New Orleans, Louisiana

Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment of a two-acre storm damaged seafood warehouse/dock in New Orleans East.

Southern Scrap

Taft, Louisiana

Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment of a proposed salvage yard.

United States Environmental Services

Biloxi, Mississippi.

Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment of a proposed emergency response center.

Louisiana Environmental Research Center

Lake Charles, Louisiana

Conducted research on restored wetland creation, via dredge spoils from nearby dredging activities, specifically with the colonization and growth rates of *Spartina alterniflora* (Smooth Cordgrass) and the natural dewatering of the dredge spoils.

Thermography Site Assessments

Level 1 Thermographer. Numerous Locations throughout the United States and outside of the country. Assessed various buildings for cause and origin of moisture intrusion.

Professional Experience:

Gulf Environmental Science and Technology, Industrial Hygienist, 2001 – 2005

J.S. Held, LLC (Acquired U.S. Risk Management/U.S. Health and Environmental Management),

Industrial Hygienist, 2005 – 2022

Education:

BS, Environmental Science/Chemistry Minor, McNeese State University, 2000

Affiliations:

Asbestos Designer, Management Planner, Inspector, and Contractor/Supervisor-
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) (AI#115209)
Asbestos Inspector - Louisiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina, Nevada,
North Carolina, Tennessee, and Mississippi
Asbestos Designer - Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Nevada
Lead Risk Assessor and Inspector-LDEQ (AI#115209)
Mold Assessor - State of Florida (AC#6116637)
Texas Mold Consultant (MAC1275)
Certified Level One Building Infrared Thermographer
Oil Spill Response Management Training Program, LOSCO
40 Hour Coastal Oil Spill Control, Texas A&M
16 Hour Hazardous Material Emergency Response, STTS
First Responder, LA. Department of Health and Hospitals
Highway Emergency Response Specialists, TTCI, Pueblo, Colorado
NORM Radiation Supervisor, ARS, Inc.
Radiation Safety Officer, Engelhardt & Associates, Inc.
Fire Fighting, Mississippi State Fire Fighting Academy
Rescue Training, ExxonMobil at Louisiana State University

Honors and Awards:

U.S., Navy, Decorated Combat Veteran – 1st Gulf War