

David Twedell's Employment at JRB

Mr. Twedell was hired in December of 1979. He represented himself to hold a Ph.D. in Geology from Houston University and was hired through and a fee paid to a recruiting firm, which asserted that Mr. Twedell's references had been checked.

Throughout his employment Mr. Twedell worked as a staff member in JRB's Waste Management business area. In late June of 1981 an individual outside the firm speculated that Mr. Twedell had not received any academic credentials from the University of Houston. In response to our inquiries, the University confirmed that Mr. Twedell was awarded a bachelor's degree in physical sciences by their Clear Lakes campus (see July 13, 1981 letter attached). Initial discussions with University personnel involved in the post-graduate geology program included recollection of Mr. Twedell, but nothing specific on his work and doubts on his having achieved a Ph.D. On August 13, 1981 the University advised JRB that he had not been granted a Ph.D. in Geology. Prior to this time, Mr. Twedell announced that he would be leaving the firm in the fall to work on his own as a consultant, which he has done.

A question has been raised on whether Mr. Twedell's participation in the site investigations done in the summer of 1980 at Love Canal should cast doubt on the accuracy of the results obtained from that site investigation. JRB believes that the role Mr. Twedell performed was consistent with his actual training and experience and that the overall project structure precluded Mr. Twedell's having a negative impact thereon.

On the Love Canal project, JRB was a subcontractor to GCA, Inc., which was under contract to EPA. JRB was responsible for about 3 percent of the total effort of the site investigation and was not responsible for interpretation of data collected at Love Canal. Mr. Twedell was a member of a team of eighteen JRB professionals and he was responsible for supervising drilling crews in the field. Decisions on where to locate wells were made jointly by a team that included Mr. Twedell and geologists from both GCA and EPA. Similarly, he participated as a team member with EPA and GCA staff in well-logging and recording core sample data. Throughout, the project was structured in such a way that, in addition to the cross-checking provided by other scientists present, there was a formal quality assurance program in effect to ensure the accuracy of the procedures followed and results obtained. Mr. Twedell made inputs to JRB's initial draft report, but the report itself underwent several formal reviews by senior scientists.

In sum, Mr. Twedell's individual work activities were at a level consistent with his actual academic training, were subject to a close and repeated scrutiny by more senior scientists, were not associated with interpretation of data, and were not of sufficient importance in the overall conduct of the project to jeopardize the accuracy of the findings.