

Laura J. Siwik

Chemistry Consultant



EXPERIENCE

Chemistry Consultant

2020-Present

Environmental Technician Perdue Agribusiness

2018-2020

Field Technician, EA Engineering, Science and Technology, Inc.

2006-2007

EDUCATION / CREDENTIALS

Roanoke College

B.S. Biology and Spanish

Ms. Laura Siwik joined STPA in August 2020. Her work has included boiler steam drum, condenser, deaerator and waterbox inspections at five different power plants in the U.S., two of which she has revisited several times. The objectives of the inspections were assessing the success of the water treatment program in controlling water side corrosion and deposition, checking for signs of mechanical carryover and identifying mechanical defects requiring repair or abnormal conditions requiring additional investigation. She has also assisted with two chemical cleanings, one an HCl cleaning at a sugar mill in South America and the other an EDTA cleaning at a U.S. power plant. Work during the chemical cleaning projects consisted of participation in the planning and onsite monitoring of the chemical cleaning process and analyses. Ms. Siwik has also spent considerable time monitoring and maintaining sample panels and online analytical instrumentation during the commissioning of 8 HRSGs at 5 combined cycle plants. The objective of this work was to ensure that the steam/water cycle chemistry sampling and monitoring systems were performing reliably and providing accurate chemistry data. Ms. Siwik also routinely reviews steam/water cycle chemistry data to assess the accuracy of the analyses and compliance with water treatment program limits and to identify indications of possible contamination. In addition, she works in the chemical laboratory performing chemical cleaning simulations to evaluate the ability of proposed chemical cleaning solvents to remove deposits and in the metallurgical laboratory assisting with report preparation.

Her previous position was as an Environmental Technician for Perdue Agribusiness at one of their Soybean Crush facilities. While there, she performed daily inspections of the grounds and the extraction building, informed Management of findings, worked with Maintenance and Operations personnel to resolve problems, and maintained records required by air and stormwater permits. In that capacity, Ms. Siwik also assisted with both writing and revising environmental reports, standard operating procedures (SOP), and the site's spill prevention plan. To comply with the in-house spill prevention plan, she ordered and maintained all spill clean-up supplies in addition to arranging for and monitoring the disposal of various waste streams in accordance with Federal and State regulations. Ms. Siwik is experienced in the daily use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and other safe work practices. She often trained her associates on environmental awareness topics as well as advising new co-workers on how to perform the duties of an Environmental Technician.

The inspections performed by Ms. Siwik as an employee of STPA were not her first experiences at a power plant. After graduating college, she worked for EA Engineering, Science and Technology, on EPA 316b - contractual work for Constellation. While there, she regularly visited three of their power plants for 18 months to perform fish and ichthyoplankton sampling at their intakes.

Ms. Siwik graduated college with a double major in biology and Spanish. While in college, she completed a month-long course in Chile. She is looking forward to refining her skills in the Spanish language and putting that skill to greater use in service to STPA clients in South America, Central America, and the Caribbean.