



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Emmett Dwyer

Project Manager



Q. How did you learn about ATL to become employed here? (Recruiting event, ad, friend, etc.)

A. Eric VanAlstyne (Business Development Manager) is my cousin. He told my Dad about openings at ATL. I was only 19 years old, and I had no idea what I wanted to do at that point in my life. I didn't have any construction experience, but the desire to learn. In my interview, Steve Moore asked me what I knew about asbestos. At the time, I didn't know anything about it. They hired me anyway, and the rest is history! I've been at ATL for over 10 years.

Q. Who were your mentors ATL when you started out?

A. For asbestos, my mentor was Joe Grabowski (Asbestos Services Manager). I also spent valuable time with Bob Field (Albany Lab Manager) and learned a lot.

Q. What technical skills did you acquire that helped make you an expert in your position?

A. I took advantage of lots of in house training, and received many certifications. When I started at ATL, new employees were trained to be a jack of all trades. I learned concrete, soils, lead inspecting, asbestos, concrete, soils, and NETTCP. But when you go out to jobs, you take that training to the next level. That's where I gained most of my knowledge and experience. When you are out on a job, you have to be a problem solver. The biggest force of knowledge is getting out there.

Q. Did you make decisions that helped you move forward in your ATL career?

A. When ATL needed a lab manager for the Tappan Zee Bridge project, I thought about applying for it. I was hesitant at first, because I liked field work and was comfortable doing it. I decided to step out of my comfort zone, and I went for it. By going for the job, I learned so much more, such as figuring out specs, how to manage people, and problem solving. I always want to improve my knowledge overall, and I continue to get any certifications I can that will keep me moving forward.

Q. What projects that you worked on are the most memorable?

A. Tappan Zee Bridge, Bennington Bypass in VT, and the Gilboa Dam jobs. I like working on high profile jobs.

Q. Do you have a memorable experience at ATL you would like to share?

A. Our tanks need to be kept at a temperature of 73 degrees. In summer and winter, sometimes the tank temperatures get too hot or cold. I didn't know what I was looking for exactly, so I just started Googling for equipment that would heat or cool at precise temperatures that you can calibrate. I did some research and found that brewing equipment did this. It works really well, and takes the guesswork out of it.

Q. What do you like the most about the path your ATL career has taken?

A. I like all the different things I have learned at ATL, and about how all the different trades work together. It's crossed over into work I do outside of ATL also. An example is that I learned the right way to put in a foundation.

Q. What area of knowledge or experience are you looking to expand?

A. I've always wanted to get into sales, and will upsell to customers whenever I see an opportunity. A lot of times, supervisors or foremen don't know what kind of test they need. If I think another test will be needed, I let them know and ask that they think of ATL when the time comes.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to add that would help others at ATL to get to the next level

A. Never be afraid of a new opportunity. Go for it! Don't be too scared or get too comfortable.. Listen to others out there and remember to listen and learn. Be part of the conversation.

