



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Troy Remington

Purchasing Specialist



Q. How did you become employed at ATL?

A. In the summer of 1987, I was looking for a job in Business Management. At that time there were no jobs available. I was told that Atlantic Testing had some job openings in the Canton Testing Division. It was only going to be a temporary job until I found something in the business field. However, I really enjoyed testing soils and concrete in the field and the lab, so much that I never left. So here I am 35 years later. I was in Canton Testing for 18 years. Then a new position was opening for Purchasing and due to health issues at that time, I applied for the Purchasing position and have been doing that ever since.

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

A. I had two mentors. One being Judy Ames. I learned so much from Judy. Everything from Soil Classification, Limits, Specific Gravities, to CBR's and Permeabilities and so much more. My second mentor was Tom Hunter who trained me in the field for Concrete and Soil Testing.

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

A. Knowing all the tests and the equipment used in the company and the mechanics behind it really prepared me for the Purchasing Specialist position.

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

A. Back in 2005-2006, I had health issues that required brain surgery (I am much better now) and I was not going to be able to do the manual labor and lifting heavy items to do my job effectively. At about that same time, the Purchasing position became available. Having all the experience, background, and knowledge of all the equipment we use, where we use it, and how it works, I applied for the position, and the rest you know.

Q. What project that you worked on is the most memorable, and why?

A. As far as projects, I was at the St. Lawrence River Remediation project in the late 90's and early 2000's. I did numerous jobs/projects while I was there, including testing compaction at the landfill, concrete testing, PCB air monitoring, and sampling river water. After the remediation was complete, I was a Project Manager for the St. Lawrence River Bottom Sampling on one of the barges which consisted of soil classification and sampling for certain parameters to monitor the clean up, then transferring the samples to the lab for analysis. That is a project that I will never forget. It was a lot of work but very enjoyable.

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

A. Yes. When 9/11 happened in 2001, I was out at the St. Lawrence River Remediation site. One of our employees was air monitoring and was parked under the bridge going to Canada, taking air quality readings. We were trying to get ahold of him on the radio however we couldn't contact him. I was asked to go check on him and ask him to come back to the job trailer. Mind you, I was driving a full-size van under the bridge to Canada, then turning onto a dirt road. As I am approaching the bridge I look up and notice that the people that were in cars on the bridge were watching me with their mouths open. I said to myself, "well that's not good". I got ahold of our tech that was taking the air quality readings and we headed back to the job trailer. When we got to the end of the road we were swarmed by FBI, State Police, and Border Patrol Agents. I just about crapped my pants.

Long story short, I had the Density Gauge chained down in the back of the van. At the border, they could see me go under the bridge on a monitor and the gauge, with the radioactive live source was basically glowing on their monitor. They asked me what was in the back of the van that was radioactive. I was very careful NOT to say the Nuke Gauge. I said it is our Density Gauge that we use to test the compaction of soil and handed

them the notebook that had all the gauge paperwork including our license. After about a half an hour being detained while they looked through the paperwork and I had to open the case up to show them the density gauge, they let us go. The lesson all technicians can take from this story is to always have your gauge paperwork right next to you, so you have it to hand over if you ever get stopped and are asked to see the paperwork and license. Also, an extra pair of underwear might not be a bad idea as well.

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

A. I have learned so much working in field testing and I have learned an equal amount of the business on the accounting side of ATL as well. All that knowledge has helped me to be a better Purchasing Specialist at ATL, and also helped me outside of work. It's amazing what I have achieved even outside of work using my knowledge of testing and purchasing.

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

A. I always watch any of our seminars that we have internally to help me learn more about the new services that we have here at ATL so it will help me expand on purchasing equipment and supplies. It's amazing how things have progressed since I started in 1987.

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

A. Yes. When you were hired at ATL, you may have been hired to either test concrete, soils, or monitor asbestos. And this is also for Admins, HR, or Accounting; be open to be cross trained doing other positions or tasks. It will open you up for other opportunities here at ATL.

Q. What do you like to do outside of ATL?

A. I love the outdoors. I enjoy being in the woods whether it is hunting, fishing, or cutting wood for the winter. I like to go 4-wheeling. I would say about 50% to 60% of the time that I'm not at work, I'm in the woods. Most importantly I love spending time with my wife, daughter, and son-in law.