

SPOTLIGHT MICHIGAN BUSINESS LEADERS



Don McNabb, CEO

Cleaner Environment, Healthier Communities

Environmental consulting firm Triterra is a critical partner in revitalization and clean-up projects that have transformed brownfields and blight across Michigan.

Sixteen years ago, environmental consultant Don McNabb faced a major career choice. He could relocate from his home state of Michigan to Wisconsin, where his former company had a job waiting for him, or he could stay and start his own firm. He chose the latter, creating Triterra, which specializes in brownfield development, environmental consulting, and natural resource management services.

In the years since, Triterra has flourished: welcoming new clients, opening additional offices, and expanding its services to launch

the careers of many young scientists and geologists. Meanwhile, its list of revitalization and clean-up projects has grown from gas stations and commercial properties to apartment buildings that house thousands of Michiganders. The firm's growth is a testament to Triterra's core values and McNabb's sound choice to stay in his home state.

"For the most part, we're scientists and geologists, but there's also a human element to our work that's often overlooked," says McNabb, CEO and visionary. "By partnering with clients to generate strategic environmental solutions, we're helping create healthier communities."

Creating Solutions in the Great Lakes

While federal regulations change as administrations come and go, Michigan maintains a consistent approach to its environmental regulations. The state upholds robust liability protection for pre-existing property conditions,

as well as high due diligence requirements to ensure that buyers don't get bombarded with problems outside of their control. Triterra plays a critical role in this process—starting with an environmental assessment that uses historical research and on-site testing to identify red-flag issues and advise on due care obligations.

But the firm does more than just identify problems; it crafts solutions. Suppose a developer wants to build on a designated brown-field, Triterra not only evaluates the property to determine the extent of the environmental impact, but leverages its expertise to source funds for remediation and development.

"If we can utilize state and local incentives, we can go beyond our due diligence services to address complicated situations, including subsurface conditions and interior building issues," says McNabb. "In doing so, we can help make these projects easier to get off the ground."

McNabb and his team see themselves as a key component to revitalization projects happening across the state as developers and municipalities seek to reduce blight and transform unwanted, underused properties. On behalf of its clients, Triterra handles research, accounting, and the securing of incentives while also protecting clients from liabilities down the road.

"We look at their deals as if they were our own," McNabb says. "People know they can rely on us to give them an honest answer for their project."

The firm also sits on economic development and community boards and attends events geared toward building stronger Michigan communities. "We're building relationships within our communities and lending our expertise in order to help create places where people want to live, work, and play," concludes McNabb.



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