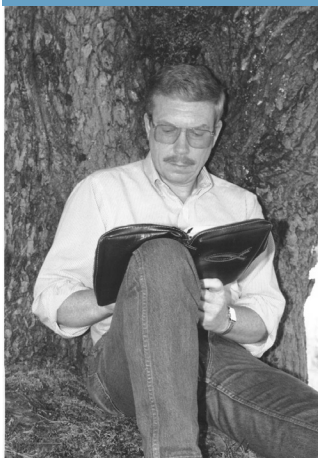


# Athey Consulting Services

Indoor Air Quality Consultation

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When Dr. Miles Athey's mother became ill in 2000, he put his consulting business on hold and moved back to his hometown of Ritzville in Eastern Washington to care for her. When she passed away in 2001, he was faced with a choice. He could return to Lake Stevens in Western Washington and resume his business there, or stay in his small, rural hometown and re-invent his business in a very different environment. His business foundations were located in Everett, and his four children live in Western Washington, but his personal roots were in Ritzville. The quality of life he re-discovered there made the decision for him. He stayed in his hometown, and four years later, Athey Consulting Services is thriving. Dr. Athey, whose passions include golfing, fishing, writing, and theater, says, "The advantages of Ritzville over a large community far out weigh the disadvantages: no traffic jams, quiet and peaceful living conditions, lower stress levels, reasonably priced real estate and inexpensive recreational amenities."

Dr. Athey founded Athey Consulting Services (ACS) in 1993 to investigate and solve complex environmental problems with a particular focus on indoor air quality issues. ACS has helped hundreds of facilities (schools, medical, industrial complexes, office buildings, government and residences) identify and resolve adverse indoor environmental conditions. The ACS customer base encompasses all of central and eastern Washington. Although Ritzville is strategically located in the center of this territory making travel to investigation sites no more than 2 hours away, Dr. Athey knows that the Internet is a critical part of his business. All investigations, analyses and solutions are computerized and most reports are sent to clients via email. He frequently relies on the Internet for additional technical information on scientific, engineering and medical issues pertinent to his work. Finding the technical support he needs to effectively manage his business is not a problem. As Dr. Athey puts it, "All of the primary support structure necessary for my business (telecommunications, computer equipment, supplies and service) is available in Ritzville."

Dr. Athey is a "lone eagle," which means he operates his business remotely with no employee support. To help facilitate larger projects, Dr. Athey occasionally subcontracts with other Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) professionals. These experts are located in Yakima, Tri-cities, Pullman, and Spokane. He also belongs to an informal Internet group comprised of IAQ colleagues worldwide who consult with each other daily. Dr. Athey says, "The Internet has become a primary resource for all of us to confirm our individual findings and keep us current with relevant research. It's an important means of continuing education in all of the scientific and engineering disciplines that we must understand to be professionals in our business."

*"All of the primary support structure necessary for my business (telecommunications, computer equipment, supplies and service) is available in Ritzville."*

- Dr. Miles Athey  
Athey Consulting Services

As a sole operator, Dr. Athey can expect solid support from his chosen home base. The Ritzville Public Development Authority is renovating a historic building that will include business suites for small businesses, entrepreneurs, lone eagles and teleworkers who want office space instead of working from home. When asked about plans for the future, Dr. Athey is clear, "I don't intend to expand my business in any way other than new clients which are within my business territory. I will remain a lone eagle."