



Site cleanup for location of Department of Transportation HQ Washington DC, USA

The Client's Objective:

JBG, a DC-based developer, needed to perform a risk assessment and cleanup at a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) corrective action program site. The site was formerly used by the US Navy for manufacturing gun barrels and warships and the client wanted to construct the new Headquarters for the Department of Transportation there.

The Client's Challenge:

The site needed a thorough investigation and risk assessment as well as a remediation strategy. The client recognized that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) review and approval process often results in delays and were keen to quickly cleanup the site to enable construction of the new building.

Our Work:

WSP prepared and implemented various work plans to complete additional investigations for the design and prepared a risk assessment. EPA accepted the risk-based closure strategy, which is somewhat unique for a RCRA corrective action site.

WSP worked closely with various contractors to implement the site remedy, which involved remediation of petroleum, metals, and polychlorinated biphenyls in soil and petroleum in groundwater. The remedy involved development of an "ice cube" drawing classifying soil types within excavation grids and treating extracted groundwater. Over 250,000 cubic yards of soil were managed. Perimeter air monitoring was conducted throughout the project implementation.

We used a novel bioremediation approach by enhancing the naturally occurring decay of petroleum constituents around and under the foundation of the DOT building.

The Outcome:

WSP, in cooperation with both the U.S. General Services Administration and JBG, successfully solidified a partnership-type relationship with EPA that resulted in a delay-free site cleanup.

After the full cleanup of the site, the construction of the Department of Transportation building was completed and is now fully occupied.

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