

Project Profile



Demolition/Dismantlement & Asset Recovery

Location	Pope Air Force Base, North Carolina
Client	Weston Solutions, Inc.
Contract Amount	Confidential
Date of Performance	2007

Description: In late 2007, SWS Environmental Services was awarded a large-scale remediation project to remove, clean, and dismantle eighteen 50,000-gallon underground storage tanks (USTs) previously filled with JP-8 jet fuel and located between active runways. Pump houses connected by over 12,000 lineal feet of 8-inch & 10-inch diameter piping, which fed the USTs, were also slated for demolition and removal.

Phase one was initiated with the “pigging to clean, dismantlement, demolition, and removal of all above ground piping, valves, control boxes, and equipment from each pump house, as well as the three pump houses themselves. Where fuel service lines crossed under the active runway, the lines were abandoned in place by high-pressure grouting with concrete. In order to expedite the demolition portion of this phase and to alleviate less efficient hand work, a hydraulic shear-mounted excavator with a thumb was utilized for the dismantling and demolition of the block framework and roofs. Larger items were cut into smaller sections and loaded into roll off boxes for recycling at a scrap metal facility.

For the second phase, removal and dismantling of the 80’-long USTs required cleaning and emptying. Each tank was vapor freed with positive ventilation and LEL meter testing to confirm a safe atmosphere prior to the cleaning task. A confined space entry team was assembled to high pressure clean the tank interiors. Vacuum trucks then extracted the rinseates from the tanks in preparation for lifting and removing. Using a track mounted excavator, each tank was lifted and staged on asphalt parking areas where the demolition was performed.

Project Highlights

- SWSES initiated the project with the dismantlement, demolition, and removal of all above ground piping, valves, control boxes, and equipment from each pump house, as well as the three pump houses
- An excavator was utilized to rip wide holes in each tank to maintain a vapor free environment
- Quality work performance and superior attention to detail lead to a six week ahead of schedule project completion status.

An excavator was utilized to rip wide holes in each tank to maintain a vapor free environment. Over a five week period, the tanks were cut with acetylene torches into steel sheets 3-feet long by 20-feet wide. The sheets of metal were then staged and recycled for scrap, eventually totaling over 50 tons.

The final phase encompassed backfilling the excavation area. Approximately 7,000 tons of clean soil was transported to the site, bulldozed into place and compacted.

Subsequently, it was later discovered that some of the soil surrounding the USTs was, in fact contaminated with JP-8, JP-4, or both, and should not have been used to backfill any of the

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excavation area. Approximately 14,000 tons of staged, contaminated soil required transportation and disposal, with an additional 8,200 tons of clean soil was needed for backfill.

The combination of strategic planning, operational experience and a continual safety-oriented mindset, all lead to a six week ahead of schedule project completion status, including change order initiation, submittal, approval, and implementation.