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PIER 66 UPLAND SOIL REMEDIATION Central Waterfront Alaskan Way Seattle, Washington

Submitted to
Duncan Kelso
Port of Seattle Facilities Development
by
BAZ STEVENS ASSOCIATES
September 21, 1995

Pier 66 Upland Soil Remediation

Site Description

This site was the former location of the Seattle Auto Freight Depot and is located on the east side of the 2100 block of Alaskan Way between the Metro trolley tracks to the west and the Burlington Northern Railroad and a steep embankment to the east. Elliott Bay is across Alaskan Way to the west. To the north and south are vacant lots currently used for construction parking. The site is relatively level, surfaced with a sandy gravel, and currently occupied by several construction trailers.

Background

In November 1991, a 10,000-gallon suspected gasoline underground storage tank was removed from this site by B&C Equipment Company, Inc. under contract to the Port of Seattle. Appropriate notification was sent to the Washington state Department of Ecology. Sidewall samples from the excavated area contained concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline (WTPH-G) above the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) Method A Cleanup Level.

In February 1992, EMCON conducted a subsurface environmental assessment near the former tank excavation to document soil and groundwater quality with respect to petroleum hydrocarbons. Seven soil borings were advanced to depths ranging from 5 to 15 feet bgs. Three of these were completed as 2-inch diameter groundwater monitoring wells. Soil and groundwater samples contained combinations of gasoline-, diesel-, and oil-range hydrocarbons exceeding MTCA Method A Cleanup Levels.

In October 1993, EMCON conducted further soil samplings in the vicinity of the former UST in attempt to characterize the soils in both the vadose and saturated zones. Thirteen test pits at depths ranging from 9 to 11 feet bgs were excavated and soil samples were taken at depths from 2.5 to 10 feet bgs. EMCON concluded that an estimated 1,000 cubic yards of soil with TPH-G concentrations exceeding MTCA Method A Cleanup Levels were present in the unsaturated zone approximately 20 feet around the former UST. Further, it was estimated that an additional approximately 2,000 cubic yards of soil in the unsaturated zone were impacted by diesel- and oil-range hydrocarbons (WTPH-D and WTPH-O) in concentrations exceeding MTCA Method A Cleanup Levels at least 45 feet from the former UST.

The suspected storage of gasoline in the former UST and the location of the gasoline impacted soil suggested that the TPH-G concentrations detected resulted from releases associated with the former UST. On the other hand, both oil levels detected at significant distances from the former UST and the coal, wood and metal debris found in the fill material from the surface to approximately 9 feet bgs suggested that background hydrocarbon concentrations in the fill itself were responsible for the TPH-D and TPH-O concentrations rather than releases from the former UST.

Field Activities

Based upon 1993 test pit information (EMCON), a rough outline of the gasoline contaminated area was demarcated for excavation by PCL, the prime contractor for this work. Health and Safety plans and sampling services were provided by the subcontractor AGRA Earth and Environmental. Excavation commenced on June 12, 1995 at approximately 12:40 pm beginning with the northeast corner of the designated contaminated area. No stockpiling occured throughout this operation; all excavated soils were loaded via trackhoe into either 18 cu. yd. trucks or trucks-with-pups and hauled to the Rabanco facility at 3rd and Lander Streets.

In the top 7 to 8 feet of the excavation brick, asphalt, cement and construction debris were commonly mixed amidst variable brown sandy/gravelly/silty soil. Occassionally plastic pipe was evident as the digging moved westward. Digging continued southward on June 13 and required excavating to the depth of the groundwater interface (approximately 12 feet). Asphalt, tile, and other building debris continued to be evident. As expected, a 14-inch storm water pipe was encountered at a depth of approximately 8 feet bgs and initially left in place. However, olfactory indications required the excavation of the clays and silts below the pipe, which necessitated the destruction and removal of those sections of storm water pipe residing in the excavation zone. Both horizontal pilings (presumably placed for railway bed reinforcement) and vertical pilings were removed as they were encountered. Also a stormwater catchbasin, a storm water manhole, and the three monitoring wells associated with the former UST were destroyed in the excavation process.

A 2 to 4 foot thick horizontal clay and silt band existed throughout the excavated area beginning at a depth of approximately 8 feet bgs. Gasoline aroma was primarily associated with this band in both the center and the southern perimeter of the excavation area.

Please refer to AGRA Appendix A for soil sampling, quality assurance, and health/safety plans. Also refer to AGRA Appendix C for laboratory soil analytical results. Appendix D is a copy of the Port's submittal to the Washington Department of Ecology of a Notice of Intent to Decommision three monitoring wells. A summary of all analytical results is presented in AGRA Table 1.

The first round of confirmation sampling occurred on June 15, 1995 (please refer to AGRA Figure 2) which indicated that the central area and the southern perimeter of the excavation continued to have soils with TPH-G in excess of MTCA Method A criteria. Additional excavation ensued on June 19. Confirmation samples as well as test pit samples were taken subsequently (June 19) and results confirmed that all soil with gasoline concentrations above MTCA guidelines had been removed from the excavated area with the exception of an approximate 3-4 foot wide section along the storm drain pipe, which appeared to be associated with the clay band about 8 feet below ground surface (bgs), on the south central sidewall.

Further excavation occurred on the southern perimeter/sidewall on June 22. Limited amounts of contaminated soil were consistently only found in the clay layer immediately under the storm drain piping. Excavation ceased later that day. Confirmation sampling indicated that all the gasoline impacted soil was fully removed from all locations but one (AGRA Table 1, EX-6/23-2). Copies of area photographs appear in Appendix E.

In total, approximately 1800 cubic yards (2930 tons) of contaminated soil were removed and properly disposed (please refer to AGRA Appendix B for copy of Bills of Lading). The excavated area was backfilled with clean pit run and compacted according to Port specifications (Appendix F). Storm sewer pipe, catchbasin and manhole were replaced in the process.

Discussion

Existing data (EMCON, 1992 and 1994; SCS Engineers, 1994) indicate that there was no off site problem caused by this gasoline contaminated site. Presently, after much excavation the only remaining area of concern appeared localized to the storm drain piping vicinity. Based on field observations it appears that historically released product likely originally travelled through a more highly permeable pathway (sandy soil used as backfill for the storm water pipe) to reach the low permeable clay layer. Because the remaining contamination is now only found in the clay indicates that this is likely from an "old" source, i.e. product naturally degraded in the more permeable layer, but the contamination was slow to enter the less permeable strata and equally slow to degrade. Also, inherent to the clay layer is a large surface area to pore water volume which would mean greater product adsorption along with the potential for decreased ground water flushing.

Because of the impeding presence of an existing construction trailer and its associated utilities, the clay band's continued association with the storm water piping which required replacement if undermined, and the amount of "clean" soil required to access the contaminated soil now solely 8 to 12 feet bgs, it was practical and cost effective to cease chasing the relatively small amount of gasoline impacted soil left remaining on site. In addition, this decision was supported by the recognition that the minor amounts of remaining contamination would likely move out of the clay at very low rates and then be naturally degraded close to the source. Further, this is a tidally influenced site - a non drinking water aquifer - from which the pathway of potential concern is to Elliott Bay. No adverse effect from this site to the Bay was noted prior to the soils excavation; even less of a concern is appropriate now that nearly all of the contamination has been removed. Finally, the planned usage for this site is as a covered commercial facility.

Conclusion

Based upon test pit data obtained in 1993 and again in 1995 and evidenced by the proper disposal of 2930 tons of material, it appears that the vast majority of the gasoline impacted soils were removed from this site. What remains is isolated in a clay/silt layer 8 to 12 feet bgs approximately 3 feet wide and extending southward for an indeterminate distance estimated to be less than 10 feet. Due to the presence of utilities and construction offices, the chasing of this contamination was discontinued. Because the gasoline concentrations appear bound in the clay, water permeability there will likely be small. Therefore, the rate of contaminant loss from the clay will be small and the overall environmental impacts minimal.

References

AGRA, 1995 B&C Equipment Company, Inc., 1989 EMCON, 1992 EMCON, 1994 SCS Engineers, 1994

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APPENDIX D
Notice of Intent to Decommission Three Monitoring Wells



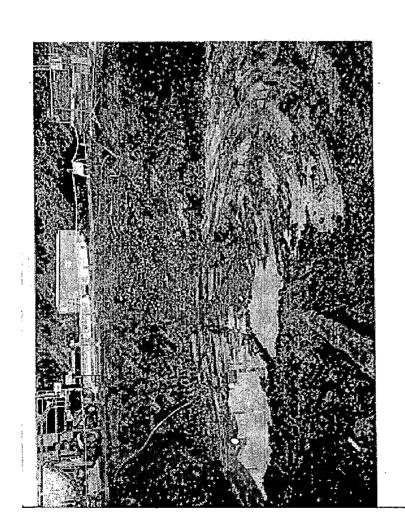
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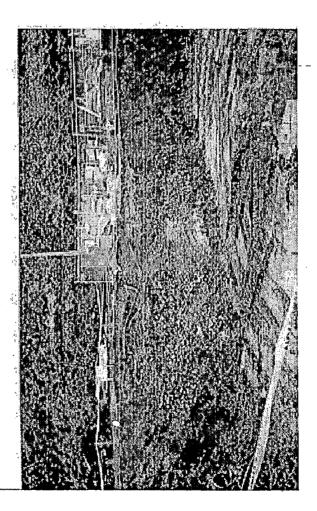
This form must be received by the Department of Ecology three days before you decommission a well. Complete both sides of this form. Submit one form for each job site. Mail this form to Department of Ecology, Water Resources Program, Well Drilling Unit, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600. Instructions for filling out this form are printed on the back.

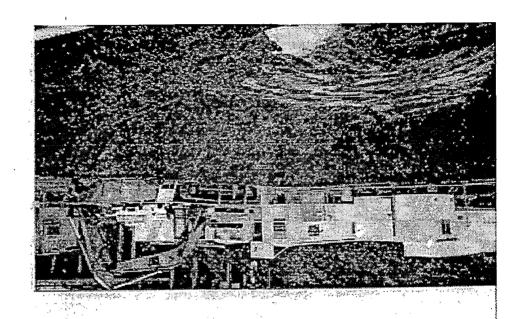
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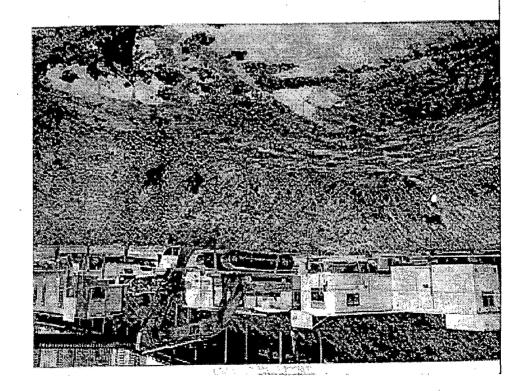
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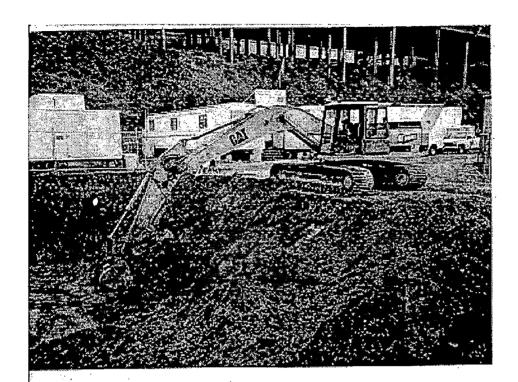
APPENDIX E
Copies of Area Photographs











1.

APPENDIX F
Soil Compaction Test Results

7 Port of Seattle

FAX

Central Waterfront Project

Number of Pages Including Cover Sheet: 9

DATE

August 16, 1995

FROM:

Kan Hedlund

Port of Seattle

TO:

Baz Stevens

Port of Seattle

PHONE:

FAX:

RE:

Agra Soil Compaction Tests

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