Envirocon’s Experience Grows with the Closure of the D-Area CCR Facilities at the Savannah River Site

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With the shift in the energy industry and the aging out of old power generation facilities, many clients are faced with the challenge of remediating the land for future use. One particularly challenging contaminant is coal combustion residuals (CCRs). The geotechnical properties of CCRs vary greatly within each CCR unit and from plant to plant. The material properties are affected by the coal type, conveyance method, plant processes, and age, to name a few. Envirocon has been actively working at the Savannah River Site (SRS) in southwestern South Carolina for the past several years assisting in the closure of their D-Area facilities.

The D-Area Power Generating Facility was the largest energy generation facility at the SRS with a capacity of 20 megawatts, approximately one half of the electrical demand at SRS. The co-generation facility operated for nearly 60 years, from 1953 to 2012. Through its operational life, CCRs were managed onsite in landfills and surface impoundments. As part of the retirement and closure of the overall facility, Envirocon started closure of the D-Area CCR facilities in March 2015, and the project is scheduled for completion in August 2018. Closure of the D-Area CCR facilities included closure of a 24-acre landfill; 14- and 46-acre surface impoundments; and a 13-acre coal pile runoff basin. Closure methods included dewatering the CCR materials, consolidating CCRs into two facilities to reduce the overall footprint, and capping the facilities with engineered cover systems.

Closure of the facilities occurred in two phases. Phase I included the 24-acre landfill and 14-acre surface impoundment. Envirocon closed the 12-acre coal pile runoff basin and 46-acre surface impoundment as part of Phase II.
Project Success at Otsego is Measured in More Ways than One

In March of 2017, Envirocon began the programmatic cleanup and restoration of the riverbanks and channels along the Kalamazoo River as part of the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) supervised Otsego Township Dam Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA). Historic paper manufacturing activities along the river deposited polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination along the banks and in sediments, which requires removal, stabilization, and disposal offsite at approved landfill facilities. The purpose of the project is to remove contamination that has the potential to migrate into the river, and restore the river habitat for wildlife and community residents to enjoy.

As part of Envirocon’s scope of work for the 23-month project, crews will remove over 120,000 cubic yards of impacted riverbank soils and in-river sediments through traditional mechanical excavation methods; install cofferdams to allow river sediment excavation under dry conditions; hydraulically dredge sediments to establish a new channel alignment; remove a temporary steel sheetpile water control structure; install natural river structures to prevent future erosion of newly established banks; and provide bank stabilization and restoration through backfill, root wads and stone armoring, and native seeding/planting of over approximately 3.4 miles of riverbank.

Experts Host “Lunch & Learn” to Share Project Experience

This spring, Envirocon kicked-off a new education program to share knowledge gained at project sites and allow our Technical Services group to highlight innovative successes across the company. The first “Lunch & Learn” session discussed Envirocon’s recent Otsego Dam Township Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) project and the ecological restoration techniques implemented. Presented by Operations Director Pat Davidson and Project Engineer Jedd Smith, the 30-minute session was open to all Envirocon employees and offered an educational look at the methods implemented onsite that contributed to this effective ecological restoration task following remediation of soil and sediment from the river and riverbanks.

The Otsego site was designated a Superfund site in 1990, with PCB contamination in the sediment and riverbank soils along approximately 80 miles of the Kalamazoo River. Envirocon’s scope of work focused on 3.4 miles of riverbank remediation over 23 months, and included construction of a sandbag cofferdam; soil and sediment excavation; installation of root wads, coir fabric, and riprap; backfill and placement of topsoil, including final grading; and final revegetation including seeding, mulch application, and planting of live stakes, trees, and shrubs. The project site came with a unique set of challenges, such as limited work space along the riverbank; construction of narrow access roads in the flood plains; and multiple high-water events.
President’s Annual Awards Showcase Project Leaders

Each year, Envirocon recognizes the hard work and dedication of our project leaders through the President’s Award. This year, Kyle McFerrin received the President’s Annual Project Management Recognition Award; Bert Sparks received the Superintendent Recognition Award; and Reginald Lee received the Health & Safety Officer Recognition Award.

These project leaders embody Envirocon’s core values and capabilities through the safe and successful management of their projects. While all our project teams uphold our values of safety, quality, integrity, and service, these three gentlemen showed outstanding commitment and leadership to their project teams.

Envirocon Welcomes Jeff Thompson

Envirocon, Inc. is pleased to announce that Jeff Thompson is joining the company as the Senior Vice President for Environment, Safety, and Health. Mr. Thompson brings 25 years of diverse experience in the development and implementation of environmental remediation, decommissioning and demolition, and site closure programs at government, energy, and industrial facilities. He has extensive experience developing and implementing corporate and project-specific health, safety, compliance, and quality programs for the execution of environmental cleanup projects at industrial sites, former United States Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear weapons facilities, Department of Defense (DoD) locations, Canadian and UK nuclear facilities, national laboratories, research facilities, commercial nuclear stations, and fuel cycle facilities.

Envirocon Demolition Expert Receives Prestigious Appointment

David Sinclair, Envirocon’s resident decommissioning and demolition expert, was recently appointed as a Director of the National Demolition Association (NDA). Mr. Sinclair has over 50 years of experience in the Demolition and Recycling industry, and is one of the industry’s most decorated individuals.

In his long career, Mr. Sinclair has seen success worldwide. Most recently, he was appointed as the Demolition Engineer to the United Nations, and holds the title Honorary Life Vice President to both the National Federation of Demolition Contractors and the European Demolition Association.