

REMOVAL OF TAR-CONTAMINATED SEDIMENT

UTILITY—ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA

This project involved the removal of oil-based tar contaminants from the bed of Moccasin Creek in Aberdeen, South Dakota. The contamination was the result of ditch run-off from former oil refineries located along the creek.

The target area involved about 2,000 feet of river at a width of about 150 feet and a depth varying from 2 feet to 5 feet. Terra began by driving sheet pilings into the river bed at each end of the target area, then followed by setting up a storm water bypass and pumping system. After the target area was pumped dry, Terra crews built 1,200 feet of access road and 1,400 feet of roads right into the river bed allowing haul trucks direct access to the contaminated area. Using a long-reach excavator, operators loaded contaminated sediment into the trucks which was taken to a 300-foot by 300-foot staging area where it was drained, then mixed with straw as a drier. Solidified contaminated sediment was then hauled to a nearby landfill.

As part of the bypass operation, Terra set up a carbon plant to treat river water before returning it downstream. Solids were removed and the water was tested before releasing.

The project began in September and was completed in December. About 2,000 feet of river bed was remediated and the project proceeded smoothly. The contamination was not as deep as first projected, and had not spread to the banks. Approximately 12,000 tons of tar-contaminated sediment were removed to the landfill.

“The first time we came tot the site, we saw that all the roads were graded neatly, there was no litter, the operation was organized and professional.”

-Engineering Firm

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