

Continental Steel Superfund Site

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Overview

- Background
- Site History
- Clean-up Summary
- Coordination of Reuse Considerations and Remediation
- Site Reuse Outcome
- Lessons Learned

Background

- Site is located in Kokomo, Howard County, IN
- 183-acre Site – Divided into 6 OUs
- Produced nails, wire fence from scrap metals
- Soil, sediment, sludge, and groundwater contaminated with VOCs, PCBs, PAHs and Metals

Site History

- 1896 – Kokomo Fence Machine Company
- 1901 – Kokomo Steel & Wire
- 1927 – Merged with Superior Sheet Steel Co. & Chapman Price Steel Co. to become “Continental Steel”
- 1980 – Chapter 11 Bankruptcy
- 1981 – Re-emerged as “Continental Steel”
- 1985 – Final Bankruptcy

Site History Continued

- 1990 – EPA listed the site on the National Priorities List
- 1996 – EPA site analysis found: Lead, Arsenic, PCB, Chromium, Cadmium, Trichloroethylene, Asbestos, Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH), Various metals
- 2010 – Clean-up completed in October, ahead of schedule!
- 2013 – Implemented ICs, City took over ownership
- 2014 – Duke Energy Indiana Issues RFP for Solar Projects
- 2017 – From “Brownfield” to “Clean Energy!”





image: Howard County Historical Society

Photograph prior to demolition of Continental Steel



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Clean-Up Summary

- EPA launched a 20-year cleanup, costing about \$66 million upon completion
 - Remedial Action is complete except for the groundwater
 - Dredged contaminated sediments and drums from Creeks and the Quarry
 - Excavated contaminated soils and installed soil cover at the Main Plant, Slag Processing Area, the Acid Lagoon Area, and the Quarry
 - Implementation of required ICs

Coordination of Reuse Considerations and Remediation

- Since 2001, the EPA worked with the state of Indiana and local counterparts to redevelop and return the site to productive use
 - EPA gave the City of Kokomo a \$100,000 Superfund Redevelopment Pilot grant to create the solar park
 - Due to collaboration with the state, city, and local partners, this project was successful
 - The City of Kokomo is now leasing this once highly contaminated property to the solar company and generating revenue

Site Reuse Outcome

- Completed installation of 21,000 solar panels on 26-acres of the Main Plant
- This \$10 million energy project is expected to produce about 9,000 megawatts of electricity, enough to power 1,000 homes
 - One of the largest photovoltaic arrays in the State of Indiana
- This renewable energy project cuts greenhouse emissions and air pollution and helps diversify Indiana's energy supply



Lessons Learned

- This project was highly successful due to great cooperation, coordination, and execution
- Start reuse planning early in the remedial process
- Stay the course
- Reuse and remedy protectiveness
- Brown Fields liability

Thank You

- Tom Krueger- EPA ORC
- Tom Bloom- Superfund Reuse Coordinator
- Jessica Fliss- IDEM
- The City of Kokomo
- Inovateus Solar
- Alterra Power
- Heartland Energy
- 1st Source Bank
- Green Alternatives

Videos

- Video - Kokomo Solar Array Construction Time-lapse
- Video - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Solar Array

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