

PetroFix Estimated to Save \$1 Million Compared to Long-Term Monitoring

Successful Application Places Washington UST Site on Track for Closure



Background

Site Enters Voluntary Cleanup Program to Address Legacy Petroleum Release

The site is a former service station and bulk petroleum plant in Sunnyside, Washington, where petroleum hydrocarbons were discovered leaking from underground storage tanks (USTs) in the late 1990s.



West Central Environmental Consultants (WCEC), an environmental consulting company highly experienced in addressing petroleumcontaminated sites, investigated the site and observed light non-aqueous phase liquids (LNAPL or free product). In response, WCEC completed interim remedial measures, including excavating grossly impacted soils and installing a free product recovery system.

WCEC completed further remedial investigation over the next several years. *In Situ* remediation activities began in the early 2000s with the injection of oxygen enhancing amendments to stimulate biologically-mediated aerobic oxidation of petroleum hydrocarbons. Investigation and oxidation injections were expanded to address other impacted site areas in phases.

Although the oxygen enhancement injections reduced the hydrocarbon mass, soil and groundwater contamination remained, including MTBE (methyl-tert-buty-ether) concentrations exceeding the Washington Department of Ecology's action level.



The site entered the Washington Department of Ecology's Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) in 2018. Soon after, WCEC completed further investigation to define the contaminant plumes onsite and offsite. During this investigation, MTBE (i.e., methyl tert-butyl ether) was detected in groundwater above regulatory standards in an offsite well (MW-5). As a result, eliminating MTBE contamination offsite became the primary remedial driver for the site.

Based on the investigation results and the accumulated site knowledge, WCEC developed a Remedial Alternatives Analysis (RAA), identifying injection of PetroFix® Remedial Fluid as the most appropriate remedial approach to address groundwater contamination in the residual source zone and downgradient areas. PetroFix was estimated to be more costeffective while presenting a better chance of achieving the groundwater cleanup objectives for MTBE and the other petroleum hydrocarbon contaminants.

PetroFix Approach Saves Over \$1 Million

WCEC Remedial Alternative Analysis

Remedy Considered	Cost Estimate	Limitations	Determination
Excavation and Oxygen/Carbon Slurry Amendment Application	\$133,061*	Not likely to achieve remedial objectives (excavation would not address offsite impacted areas)	Excluded
Monitoring Only (35-year term)	\$1,244,545	High cost, may not achieve remedial objectives	Not Selected
PetroFix Injections	\$99,235*	Does not fully address potential impacted soils in vadose zone (but still likely to achieve remedial objectives).	Approach Implemented

WCEC performed a remedial alternative analysis evaluating three options:

*Includes two years of groundwater monitoring at an estimated cost of \$24,000/year

The excavation/amendment addition option was not likely to achieve the remedial objectives and was excluded from consideration. Monitoring only and PetroFix injections were the two remaining remedial approaches that could achieve these objectives.

Based on a monitoring period of 35 years and an annual 2.5% cost adjustment for inflation, implementing a monitoring only plan would result in a total life cycle cost of over \$1.2 million. In contrast, the PetroFix injection and associated performance monitoring costs for two years are under \$100,000. At only 8% of the cost of a monitoring only approach, PetroFix saves more than \$1 million for this project.



PetroFix Remedial Design Summary

Treatment Area	5,100 square feet	
Geology	Gravel fill material	
	over silty sand	
Application Method	Direct push injection	
Injection Points	126	
Injection Spacing	6 feet	
	(approximate average)	
Injection Interval	Ranging from 4 to 10	
	feet below ground	
	surface	
PetroFix Applied	4,620 lbs*	
Volume Applied	5,000 gallons	
	(approx.)	

*Includes 220 pounds of electron acceptor

Remedial Application

WCEC Completes Application Successfully Over One Week

WCEC designed the remedy using the PetroFix Design Assistant[™], backed by REGENESIS technical support. In total, three treatment areas were specified, encompassing approximately 5,100 square feet. The injection design comprised a grid array pattern with an injection point spacing of approximately 5 feet modified to accommodate the numerous underground utilities in the treatment area. The vertical target zone was in the upper 10 feet of the subsurface.

In late February through early March 2020, WCEC conducted the PetroFix injection. The injection slurry was prepared onsite in a 275gallon polyethylene tote using the prescribed mixing ratios. Approximately 40 gallons of PetroFix solution was injected into each boring using direct push injection tooling connected to a triple diaphragm pump. A total of 4,400 total pounds of PetroFix[™] and 220 pounds of electron acceptor were injected into 126 points.



Site Plan View Map Depicting PetroFix Treatment Area



Results

PetroFix Achieves Rapid and Sustained MTBE Reductions Below Cleanup Objectives

Within 30 days of the PetroFix application, MTBE concentrations were reduced below the 20 micrograms per liter (ug/L) regulatory cleanup level for MTBE at the property boundary (represented by MW-3) and offsite (MW-5) across the roadway. MTBE has remained below this level for two years. All other chemicals of concern, including benzene and total petroleum hydrocarbons, have also been maintained below their groundwater cleanup levels in site monitoring wells for six consecutive quarterly events. Based on these results, the site will soon be eligible for closure through the VCP.

With the site on track to achieve regulatory closure, PetroFix presents a clear business case to speed up remedial timeframes and reduce life-cycle project costs drastically.



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About the Consultant

WCEC



WCEC is a multidisciplinary environmental consulting firm incorporated in 1990 and employs over 70 persons in Missoula and Billings, Montana, Morris and New Hope, Minnesota, and Fargo, North Dakota. WCEC provides a full range of environmental consulting services, emergency spill response services, and industrial waste services. Offering a progressive approach to environmental consulting, WCEC merges traditional, professional services with contractual services to provide clients with all aspects of environmental solutions. WCEC's ability to complete contract services allows for lower cost, greater quality control and less liability for clients. As leaders in the industry, WCEC works aggressively to be a sole source provider and serve as a vital resource to communities.





Technology

Petrofix Remediation Fluid



PetroFix Remediation Fluid is a concentrated, water-based, activated carbon suspension specifically designed to treat PHC plumes stemming from bulk storage, gas station and UST spills. Safe, fast, effective and easy-to-apply, PetroFix is designed to specifically sorb and biodegrade petroleum hydrocarbons (PHC), diesel, BTEX, MTBE, and TPH-G. Composed of a mix of micron-scale activated carbon and electron acceptors to promote biodegradation, PetroFix offers an in-situ approach designed specifically for sites where PHC levels are above regulatory standards for complete remediation, at the lowest total cost-to-closure. PetroFix can also be applied to excavation sites.



We're Ready to Help You Find the Right Solution For Your Site





Global Headquarters

1011 Calle Sombra San Clemente, CA 92673 USA

Ph: (949) 366-8000 Fax: (949) 366-8090

Europe

Bath, United Kingdom Ph: +44 (0) 1225 61 81 61

Dublin, Ireland Ph: +353 (0) 9059 663 Torino, Italia Ph: +39 338 8717925

leper, België Ph: +32 (0) 57 35 97 28



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