

MobyDick Helps to Control Working Conditions at Superfund Site

When Ahrens Contracting acquired the contract to demolish and remediate a St. Louis Superfund site in the US, they turned to MobyDick to contain the contamination.

by Benjamin Lodi

When Ahrens Contracting, Inc. accepted the remediation contract for the abandoned Carter Carburetor Site, they found themselves with quite the challenge. Known nationally, with a core market in Missouri and Illinois, Ahrens was taking on a Superfund site in their own backyard: St. Louis. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch called Carter Carburetor “one of the city’s most-polluted industrial properties.”

The Site

Carter Carburetor founded in 1909 and later acquired by American Car and Foundry Company, operated for over 75 years supplying carburetors for Willy-Overland Jeeps, Chrysler, and Buick, and even manufactured competitors’ designs when those companies could not meet demand from GM and European automakers. The plant stopped production in 1984 when the rise of fuel injection decimated the market for carburetors. Unfortunately, Carter’s important and successful legacy also included environmental impacts: the site of the shuttered Carter Carburetor foundry in the JeffVanderLou neighborhood of St. Louis, ultimately became an EPA Superfund Site. Among other chemical contaminants, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and trichloroethylene (TCE) impacted the soil and ACM was found in the buildings.



The EPA Superfund Site

HRP Associates, Inc. (HRP), the engineering company of record for the Carter Site, has been providing the Project Management, Construction Management and Environmental/Civil Engineering Services

required to direct operations the Carter Carburetor Site. HRP is a multidisciplinary environmental/civil engineering consulting firm with office locations throughout the U.S. and Global Consulting Services, which extends to more than 20 countries throughout the Americas, Europe, and Asia. The Carter Carburetor Site is privately funded under two Administrative Orders of Consent: an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) and Removal Action(s) (which is currently underway) at the former 10-acre industrial site which was comprised of a 450,000-SF, four-story manufacturing facility and associated warehouses, buildings, parking lots and former sites of underground storage tanks.

Suppressing Dust and Contamination with MobyDick

Work on a Superfund remediation is in many ways different from a standard demolition, cleanup and recycling. Factors, such as control of track out and suppression of fugitive dust, that on a normal job might simply be a case of compliance or neighborly good conduct, are public health and safety imperatives when dealing with the level of contamination of a site like Carter Carburetor. Vehicles exiting the established “exclusion zone” must be decontaminated by a well-defined EPA procedure. Air, water and soil sampling are conducted on and around the site over the course of the project to ensure no contaminated fugitive dust, soil or water has escaped. In addition to issues inherent to a Superfund site, Ahrens had to contend with the variable St. Louis weather. Ted Ahrens, purchasing agent and assistant project manager for the Carter Carburetor Site, described conditions ranging from freezing rain, ice and snow, to extreme heat that saw work cut to half-days for the safety of workers. Ted Ahrens also describes “gully-washers” that required the company to spend multiple days pumping out open excavations (and handling that now-contaminated water) before work could resume. Dust control was also a particular challenge on this project. In addition to dust generated during the buildings demolition, part of the process implemented by Ahrens involved crushing and recycling the existing concrete onsite, totaling almost 600,000 sq. ft.



MobyDick Dust Control Cannons in Action

The recycled concrete was used as fill for the significant quantity of extremely contaminated soil that was removed from the site and shipped by rail to be landfilled out of state. Through it all, however, Ted Ahrens said the company's choice of the MobyDick equipment was a great asset to achieving Ahrens' objectives "that no project dirt or dust gets past the fence. The wheelwash was the last stop. The roads were kept clean." The MobyDick dust control cannons "worked out really well containing the demolition and the concrete recycling crushing generated dust. Our operators really liked the wireless automated controls."



MobyDick Wheel Washing at the Ahrens Site

MobyDick offers a proved Product Range

When searching for equipment to help meet the strict EPA contaminant control guidelines for the Carter Carburetor Site, Ahrens Contracting turned to the world-market leader in wheel washing—the MobyDick brand from FRUTIGER Company AG.

FRUTIGER Company AG has been combatting dust and track-out problems for almost 60 years. Recently, the company has expanded its portfolio of market-leading MobyDick-brand wheelwashing systems, providing proven wheel and undercarria-

ge washing and demucking through over 4,000 installed systems worldwide, with the addition of a new line of dust control cannons that aim to bring the same level of quality and durability to airborne dust suppression.

FRUTIGER Company AG has 150 Employees and an annual turnover of \$50 million. FRUTIGER factories are ISO 9001 2009 certified.

The Carter Carburetor Site is in a residential area of St. Louis, and as part of the Scope of the Project, Ahrens needed to ensure no chemicals of concern left the Site on the wheels or chassis of trucks exiting the site. A simple knock-off grate might have removed some of the caked mud from the tires, but the truck would still require a thorough manual cleaning before being permitted outside the exclusion zone. The MobyDick ConLine Model 400MC surface mounted wheelwash system that Ahrens purchased automates that process. "The faster solution was a boon," said Ted Ahrens. "It saves us overhead on cleaning tires, and is safer for laborers than holding a fire hose." He added, "It frees [them] up for other work." Also important to Ahrens was the ease of assembly, use and factory support, "The MobyDick tire wash was assembled in two days. MobyDick sent a field service technician on site to supervise, train and assist."

As the project outgrew Ahrens' existing fleet of dust control cannons, the company again reached out to Frutiger to acquire two of the new MobyDick Dust Control Cannons. When asked why his company chose cannons from MobyDick, a relative newcomer in the dust control sector in the U.S. after years as a wheel washing leader, Ted Ahrens tagged a key feature of the product, "Automatic cannons with [wireless] remote control lets laborers and operators stand safely back from the demolition. Equipment operators like being able to move them from within the cab to handle rapidly changing wind conditions and work at varying elevations."

He also praised MobyDick as a whole, citing a high level of satisfaction with his company's MobyDick ConLine as a factor in Ahrens' purchase of the dust control cannons. "We had good results with the tire wash," he says, "It's nice to deal with one company that can offer multiple products and stand behind those products. The MobyDick Dust Control Cannon performs very well."

For more information about MobyDick Dust Control [click here](#).