

Making History at Success

While the TransGas Success Compressor station remains in operation, the Gas Plant which used to process the natural gas moving through Success has been out of commission for twenty years. Dismantling the plant was not a large job, but it did present some unique challenges.

“Historically, we’ve done much bigger cleanups,” says Russell Roy, Manager of Environmental Services. “We’ve done cleanups before that involved about 17,000 tons of impacted soil.” Russell explains that these bigger jobs usually involve cleaning up “big and bad oil pits . . . a relic of the past” – not something involved with this phase of the Success decommissioning project.



Recycling concrete and steel

TransGas’ focus during this phase was on the recycling aspect of site remediation. At the success station, this meant “recycling about 240 tons of steel and 400 tons of concrete, along with the disposal of 900 tons of hydrocarbon-contaminated soil and 155 tons of waste dangerous goods,” according to Roy.



Crushing concrete

Among the most challenging aspects of the job was the removal of two 70 ton bullet tanks, once used to store 30,000 US gallons of refined gas condensates. “Those were fun,” Russell remarks, with a hint of a knowing smile. “To transport them we needed to cut them into manageable pieces with a plasma torch but, to do that, we had to attach air movers to each tank for a couple of days to remove

any combustible gas vapours.” He describes a number of safety procedures and monitoring techniques employed over those few days to make absolutely sure the tanks were safe to cut into, and his smile reappears when he recounts: “That first tank was exciting. I mean, we knew it was perfectly safe at that point, but we’d never done something like that before, and so starting to cut those tanks was an achievement for us. It was fun.”



The first of many cuts made to the bullet tanks

“There are some other sites at Success that will need to be treated eventually. To fully decommission it, we’ll have to remove the site’s historic contaminants, but recycling and reducing our environmental footprint – a history we are proud to carry forward into the future.

