



COSTAIN

SHE Newsletter

News In Brief

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Costain Commended for Environmental Excellence



Costain has once again received recognition from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) for excellence in environmental management, as well as health and safety. In May 2009, at the ROSPA award ceremony in Birmingham, Costain was commended in the RoSPA International Dilmun Environmental Award. This is the second time we have received recognition in this award category, achieving Highly Commended at the 2007 awards.

In addition to the Dilmun Award, Costain received 1 Order of Distinction, 1 Presidents Award, 7 Gold Medals, 57 Gold Awards, 3 Silver and 1 bronze.



Bioremediation in action on the Stublach Gas Storage Project

GDF Suez Storengy have selected Costain Oil and Gas as EPCM Management Contractor for the Stublach Gas Storage project in Lach Dennis, Cheshire. One phase of the project involves creating 10 wellhead drilling sites and interconnecting pipeline for connection between the well-heads and the solution mining compound (SMC). The outline scope also includes design and construction of site roads, provision of connection to 18 future wellheads and mechanical and electrical provision to support the wellhead drilling sites and SMC.



During the construction activities at one of the well sites an unknown substance, believed to be hydrocarbon based, was discovered on a contained area of hard standing, which is in close proximity to a brook running through the site. The area had recently been vacated by the client's drilling contractor who had performed well drilling to a depth of approximately 500m. Any residue was dispersed across the concrete surface and a sheen had formed on the surface of the water inside the dugwell (see below) – note that these areas are enclosed by secure fencing and entry into these areas is controlled by a permit system.



To ensure excessive amounts of contaminated material did not have to be removed from site, a more sustainable option of managing the spill was devised. Bioremediation products for cleaning hydrocarbon contamination from Spillaway were used to remediate both the soil and water. Firstly, Liquid Remediate was mixed with water in a bowser and sprayed into the surface all over the wellhead using a jet washer (as shown below left). Liquid Remediate should solve water & soil hydrocarbon contamination problems. It will bioremediate most hydrocarbons, in deep water or soil, with a minimum amount of equipment, labour and cost. Liquid Remediate has a very high concentration of live synergistic micro-organisms, in a special remediation liquid that quickly, efficiently and effectively starts and completes the bio-remediation process.



The standing water was pumped into a double settlement tank arrangement. OWS-200 from Spillaway was added to the skip to treat the water. This breakthrough product & technology allows cleaning not achieved by any other means. These biological hydrocarbon digestive microbes are specifically designed for oil-water separators. When used in a regular maintenance program OWS-200 will eliminate hydrocarbon build-up that leads to back-ups or frequent pumping. The result is the elimination or lowering of expensive disposal costs. This product can be used in industrial sumps as well.



Once added to the skip, the sheen on the surface of the water immediately disappeared and the water became visibly cleaner. The Spillaway family of products are biologically based solutions of microorganisms that turn hydrocarbons in soil and water into carbon dioxide and water. An oil-water interceptor was added to aid the process and hydrophobic imbibebeads were placed around the discharge points of the skip to adsorb any remaining hydrocarbons (see above). This remediation resulted in the water being clean enough to be able to discharge it across the grass in the adjoining field.



As a final measure, potentially contaminated material was excavated and placed on visquine in windrows and then sprayed once more with Liquid Remediate using a pressure washer. The windrows were then turned using an excavator to allow the product to treat the maximum surface area possible.

The traditionally expensive method of managing both the water and the land contamination would be to pump the water into a tanker for off site disposal and to excavate the areas effected by the spill and dispose of at landfill (subject to a Waste Acceptance Criteria test – see SHE Procedures and Guidance, Section 4, Waste - Landfilling). The cost of purchasing the materials was approximately £2,000 and this is estimated to have saved many thousands of pounds. The client has been very happy with the treatment and is confident that it has saved the project a significant sum of money.

Rob Little (Graduate Environmental Advisor)

Double Gold for S3JV at Shell Green



This design and build project is a joint venture between Costain Ltd and Veolia Water & Solutions (UK) Ltd, titled S3JV, undertaken on behalf of United Utilities Special Projects at their Mersey Valley Processing Centre (Shell Green), situated near Widnes, Cheshire. The work consists of extending the current plant capacity with upgrade modifications of streams 1 & 2 and the construction of a 3rd Incineration stream complete with additional specialised waste water treatment works.

In spring 2009 the site was acknowledged with two gold awards in one week, a 2009 ROSPA Gold Achievement Award and a Considerate Constructors 2009 National Gold Award and what made this even more exceptional is the fact that both gold awards were achieved with their first ever submission.

The S3JV Board stated that “To gain a gold award at RoSPA demonstrates S3JV’s commitment to Safety; Health and Environment (SHE) and to win the highest award at the first attempt is rare. Gold CCS awards are an even rarer accolade and a reflection of that S3JV’s understands their responsibility to their neighbours and those people affected by the project.”

Dermot Finnigan (Project SHE Manager)