

Atomic City Auto Parts Environmental Cleanup Project



American Environmental & Construction Services, Inc.

History

Atomic City Auto Parts (ACAP) is located at 129 Belgrade Road in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. This site was formerly used as an automobile salvage/repair and scrapyard facility from 1954 to 1989. The property is approximately 5 acres in size and the surrounding land use is predominantly industrial and commercial properties.



Atomic City Auto Parts site before cleanup began in 1992

Prior to 1942, the site was undeveloped agricultural property. The United States government acquired the property in 1942 as part of the Oak Ridge Reservation. The site was operated by the Manhattan Engineering District/Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) as a coal distribution center. The property was purchased from the AEC by a private citizen in 1954, and used for salvage operations for materials and equipment purchased from the AEC Oak Ridge Reservation facilities and other sources. Activities conducted as part of this salvage operation included a mercury recovery process, uranium smelting, and salvage of electrical capacitors and transformers. Contaminants related to these salvage operations potentially included polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), uranium, heavy metals, and solvents. In 1961, the

ACAP property was sold to another private owner. However, the previous owner continued to use the site to store salvage materials purchased from the Y-12 Plant, other government facilities, and other parties. During this time, the equipment acquired by the owner/operator included a number of capacitors and transformers, some of which contained PCB oils. In 1968, the owner was issued a Radioactive Materials License, allowing him to receive, acquire, possess, and transfer radioactive material. Radioactive materials were stored and processed onsite and a uranium fire also allegedly occurred at some point prior to 1983. In 1986, a third party leased the property from the private owner to establish an automotive salvage facility (Atomic City Auto Parts, Incorporated). The property is now privately owned.



Radioactive soil awaiting transport for safe disposal

Cleanup

ACAP is a Tennessee State Superfund Site. In 1989, the Department of Energy (DOE), two private owners/operators of the site, and the owners of ACAP Inc. were named as responsible parties and for removal and remediation of all

hazardous materials on the site. In 1992, DOE entered into an Agreed Consent Order with the state and began performing investigative activities at the site. Plans to remove environmental contamination were begun in two phases. In 1993-1994 the removal, packaging, and transport of readily accessible contaminated equipment and materials of DOE origin was undertaken which followed in 1995 a determination on the nature and extent of contamination in soil, surface water, sediments, and groundwater. In the summer of 1996, contractors to the Tennessee Division of Superfund removed over 200 automobile carcasses that were surveyed clean and removed from the property and in the fall several tons of surface scrap and automobile tires were surveyed, decontaminated as necessary, and removed from the site. In late 1999 and 2000, state contractors removed several tons of waste soil and debris. From 2002 to 2004 approximately 35,000 cubic yards of soil was safely transported and placed into the DOE Environmental Management Waste Management Facility (EMWMF) on the Oak Ridge Reservation.



Site at field work completion in 2004

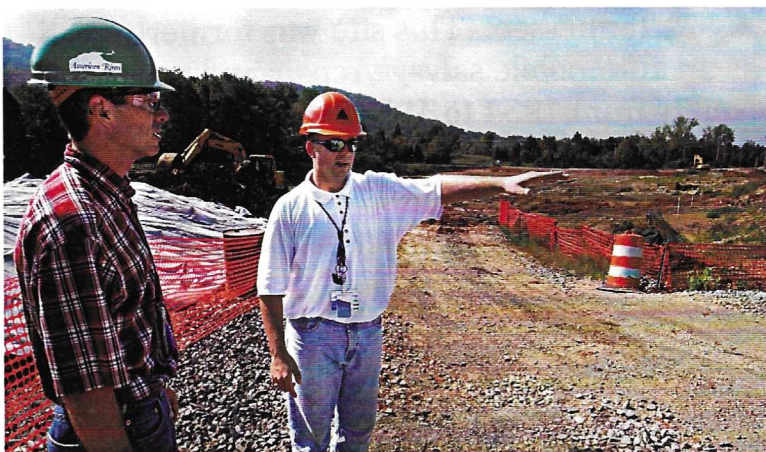
Cost

The project cost for Atomic City Auto Parts is \$5 million. Field work was completed on schedule and within budget in September 2004 by

American Environmental and Construction Services, the project contractor to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

Safety

Field work was safely completed with no lost time workdays. 2,265 dump truck loads of soil were safely transported without incident to the EMWMF.



Jason Darby of DOE and Kevin Owens of AECS discuss cleanup progress at the site.

Leadership

Teamwork and cooperation between state, federal and contractor leadership allowed field work to reach completion. Chris Anadel of the TDEC Division of Superfund's Knoxville Office has been the project manager for the Atomic City Auto Parts Project. Jason Darby and Cissy Perkins have served as project managers from the DOE Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program. Kevin Owens of American Environmental and Construction Services has been the contractor project manager at the site.

Future

Radioactive soil and debris have been removed from the site. Clean fill material is being placed and seeded with grass. The site will be returned to the private owner for commercial development upon completion of final environmental documentation.

October 2004