



SUCCESS PROFILE INNOVATIVE CONTRACTING METHODS

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Situation

When Fort Belvoir was converting from an operating training base to a military office park, there were hundreds of very small contaminated sites, all managed under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act? With the Corps of Engineers managing remediation efforts, each site was treated with the same design, testing, contracting and monitoring processes as Super Fund hazardous landfills. This was extreme overkill, enormously time consuming and expensive to the point that Fort Belvoir was facing having to quarantine many areas from new development.

Core Assessment

With the exception of one landfill, all of the hazardous waste sites were very small, usually only a few feet in diameter and where there had been a documented accidental spill of contaminants or credible suspicion of the presence of contaminants. If the times and costs needed for studies, design, remediation and monitoring could be reduced to a level appropriate to the size of these small sites, monetary savings for the Army would be huge.

Solution

Over a period of one year, EIPCI managed a contracted effort for Fort Belvoir, proving that small sites could be remediated at a fraction of current expenditure levels. Tied to this was a new design for indefinite quantity contracting for remediation work so that task orders to environmental contractors could be issued swiftly and for only the quantities of work that each site required. This innovative approach was brief to and was accepted by both the Environmental Protection Agency and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. The Corps of Engineers resisted the change because they were accustomed to receiving large funding levels for the work, however, once proved unnecessary and accepted by environmental regulators, the Corps acquiesced to the new procedures and protocols.

Results

The implemented processes were proved over a year to reduce Fort Belvoir's hazardous site remediation costs by 85%. Furthermore, the time needed for each site's end-to-end remediation effort was reduced by 75%. Based on this success profile, the new contracting methods developed initially for Fort Belvoir were subsequently adopted by the Army across the country and were accepted by the Corps of Engineers as nationwide standard.