



Conestoga-Rovers & Associates Project Summary

KEY PROJECT ELEMENTS

- Dewatering Design and Installation
- Cofferdam Design and Installation
- Permitting
- Sampling Activities
- Riverbank and Bed Restoration

LONDON COAL TAR CLEANUP LONDON, ONTARIO



CLIENT: LONDON HYDRO
ELECTRIC COMMISSION
DURATION: 1999 - PRESENT

The London Hydro Electric Commission (now Public Utility Commission or PUC) retained CRA Contractors to design and implement a coal tar remedial works on the bank of the Thames River. Across the road from the site is the location of a former Coal Gasification Plant that has been demolished. A decade ago, coal tar was observed “seeping” from a section of the Thames River, which was initially isolated and removed.

In 1998, citizens observed “coal tar-like” material seeping from the riverbank area near the original “cleaned” area. This prompted a study to quantify the coal tar contaminated area. The findings from this report formed the basis of the design-build contracted to CRA.

CRA was responsible for the design and implementation of the remedial activities, which included:

- Cofferdam design and installation
- Dewatering design and installation
- Permitting from the MOE, OMNR, and Upper Thames River Conservation Authority
- Design and installation of riverbank and bed restoration activities

Construction works commenced in January 2000 with access, cofferdam installation, and removal of contaminated bed material. Materials were excavated into a hopper, craned over the flowing river, and loaded directly into double-lined trailers. All material was trucked off site for secure disposal.

During excavation, contamination was observed in a greater area and to a greater depth than estimated by the previous consultant. During excavation of this area, excessive seepage from the bank was observed, prompting a series of test pits on the river bank to identify the source. Tests pits revealed a “seam” of gravel heavily contaminated with coal tar, as well as abandoned culverts full of free product.

Subsequently, CRA was contracted to undertake investigation and design activities to determine where the material was coming from and how to keep it from entering the river. Investigations indicated that the coal tar was originating from the historic gasification works.

Remedial design was completed by August 2000 and construction commenced under the oversight of CRA in September 2000. The remedy includes a media collection trench and impermeable barrier, and a water collection system. This work was substantially completed in January 2001. CRA continues to work with the London PUC in various project roles.

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