



Conestoga-Rovers & Associates Project Summary

KEY PROJECT ELEMENTS

- Emergency Response Activities
- Site Assessment
- Remediation Activities
- Regulatory Response and Documentation

BNSF TRAIN DERAILMENT RESPONSE

GUNTER, TEXAS



CLIENT: BNSF
DURATION: 2004
COST: CONFIDENTIAL

CRA was retained to provide spill response management, regulatory liaison, site assessment, and closure reporting for a 31-car derailment in Gunter, Texas. A release of diesel fuel occurred on May 19, 2004, as a result of a train derailment. The derailment was a result of a head-on collision between a northbound unit with four locomotive engines and a southbound unit with three locomotives. In addition, 24 railcars carrying stone were derailed along with five empty railcars.

The emergency response objectives included:

- Implementing a safety program to ensure protection of personnel performing the emergency response tasks;
- Railcar damage assessment;
- Firefighting activities conducted by the volunteer fire departments to extinguish the fire caused by the derailment;
- Removal of approximately 2,000 gallons of diesel from the locomotives;
- Excavation and placement of diesel fuel affected soil in a plastic-lined, bermed containment area;
- Collection of initial soil samples and subsequent soil characterization samples for disposition;
- Installation of a "French Drain" for product recovery along the west side of the right-of-way (ROW); and
- Coordination of the transportation and recycling/fuel blending of recovered diesel fuel.

The assessment and remedial activities at the Site consisted of:

- Implementing a safety program to ensure protection of personnel performing the assessment and remediation tasks;
- Coordination of the transportation and disposition of the affected soil to an approved landfill;
- Placement of rock released as a result of the derailment in excavated areas;
- Placement of on-site backfill in the excavation areas;
- Site assessment and investigation activities consisting of the advancement of soil borings to assess the horizontal and vertical extent of diesel fuel affected soil;
- Collection of confirmation soil samples from excavation areas for analysis;
- Conducting activities in accordance with all applicable Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations; and
- Preparation of final Site closure documentation.

Response planning, abatement, remediation, and closure were completed under the TCEQ Spill Rules and TCEQ Risk-Based Affected Property Assessment Report (APAR) documents. Site-specific were compared against the corresponding category cleanup criteria. Response, remediation, and initial assessment activities were completed within two months following the release. Based on the results of the emergency response and remedial activities under TCEQ guidelines, the Site meets the closure requirements and no further action was warranted.

GENERAL INQUIRIES:
info@CRAworld.com

WEB SITE:
www.CRAworld.com