

# RCRA PART B TERMINATION: A GEORGIA CASE STUDY

# Facility Background and History

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- Former crude oil refinery located on 40 acres west of Atlanta metropolitan area
  - Refinery operated from 1950s until 2004
  - Since then, property leased to third parties as an asphalt terminal (principal products are paving and roofing asphalt)
- Surrounded by a mix of industrial, commercial, and residential properties



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# Facility Background and History

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- On-site oil/water separator and four ponds used for treatment of process wastewater and stormwater
  - Two ponds served as primary oil recovery units
  - Two ponds were aerated and served as biological treatment and polishing ponds
- Primary soil and groundwater contaminants from operations were BTEX compounds and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons



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# Site Layout

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Google

0 245 490 980  
Feet



# Regulatory History

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- Long history of consent orders for multiple media dating back to the mid-1990s
- Plan to close ponds submitted to EPD in 1996
  - Management of process wastewater in ponds discontinued
  - Pond bottoms excavated and consolidated into Pond 1, which was closed in place as a Hazardous Waste Management Unit (HWMU)
- RCRA Post-Closure Care Permit for HWMU Issued in 2001
  - Ultimately, fourteen Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs) covered

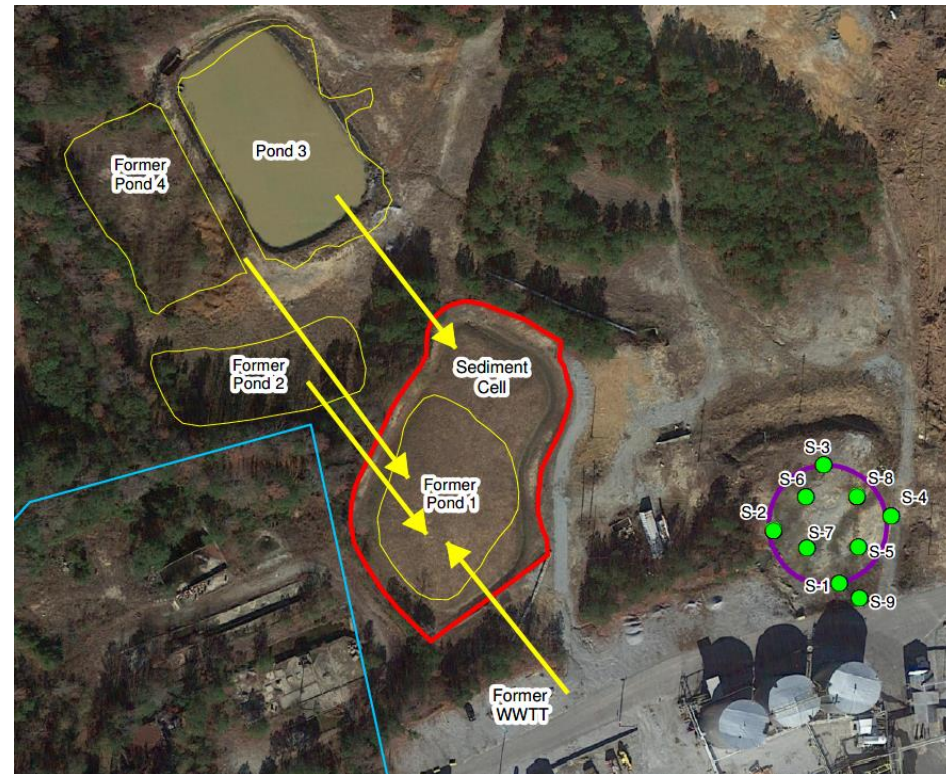




# Regulatory History

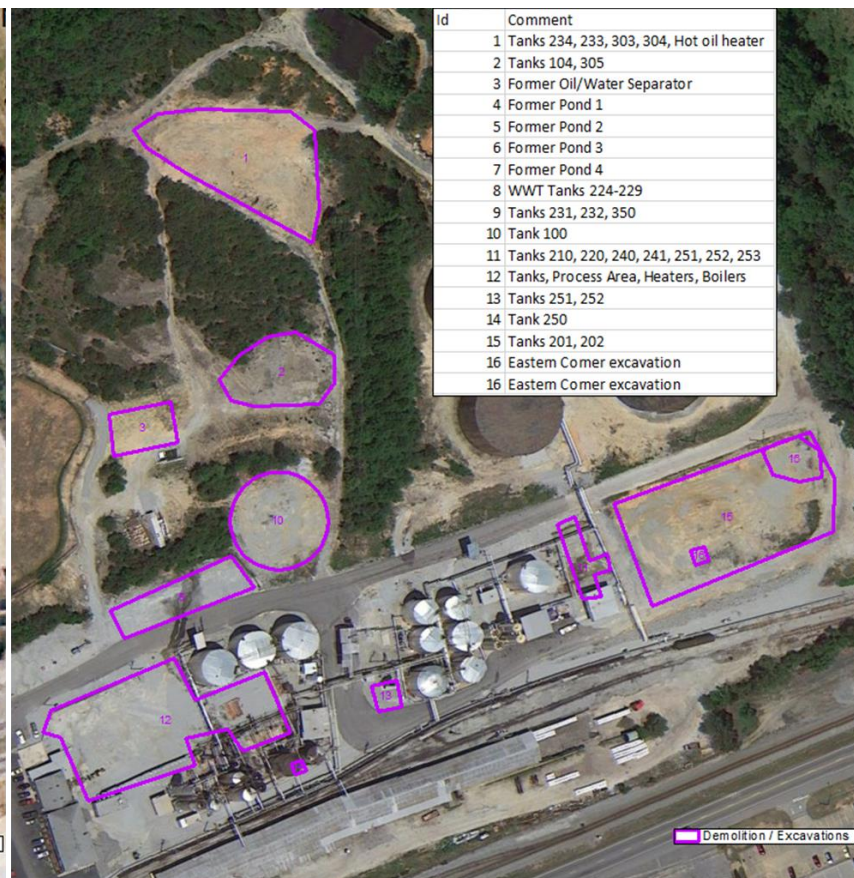
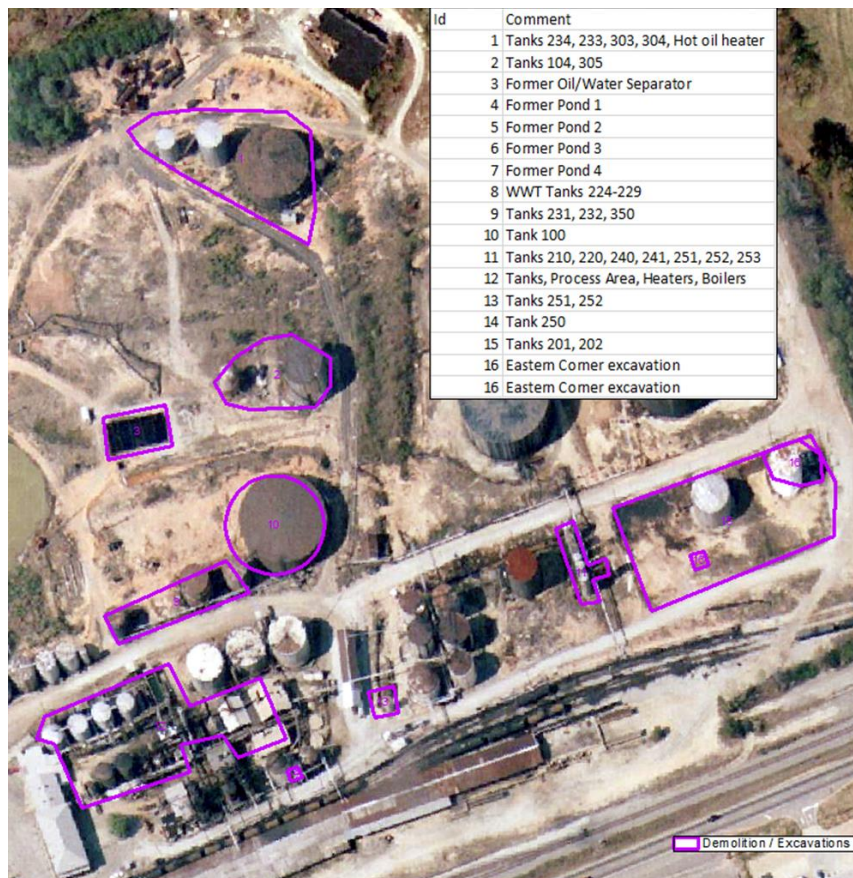
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- Pond closure activities occurred between 1996 and 2007
  - Consolidation of sludges and/or soils from other 3 ponds into Pond 1
  - Bioremediation followed by stabilization with fly ash
  - Capped with 12 inches of compacted soil, a low permeability geosynthetic liner, and two feet of final soil cover
- Wastewater treatment tanks closed in 2007
- Other tanks and equipment demolished/closed in 2011-2012
  - Sediment and heel from one tank (Tank 100) considered a listed hazardous waste (K169)



# Demolition/Cleanup (2008-2014)

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# Barriers to Regulatory Closure (2015-2017)

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- HWMU and Tank 100 were not considered clean-closed – locking the Site into RCRA's regulatory scheme, meaning:
  - Delineation to background (soil and groundwater)
  - SWMU-based assessments
  - Remedial goals of Residential  $10^{-6}$
  - Groundwater protection based on conservative leachability values
- Outstanding investigatory and financial assurance obligations from decades-old consent orders





# Path Forward (2017-2022 and beyond)

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- EPD and Permittee agreed that 1998 Cotsworth Memo might provide a path towards clean closure of HWMU and Tank 100
  - Closure standards for Constituents of Interest changed in 2017 as compared to 1998 (HWMU) and 2006 (Tank 100).
- Permittee agreed to an environmental covenant prohibiting drinking water wells on the entirety of the property and limiting current and future use to commercial/industrial
- EPD and Permittee agreed to a Master Project Plan to govern the path forward:
  - Investigation
  - Risk Evaluation
  - Risk Report & Clean Closure Report
  - Corrective Action (if any)
  - Permit Termination, Consent Order, and Environmental Covenant



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# Investigation and Risk Evaluation (2017-2018)

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- Three Areas of Focus
  - Site-wide investigation (soil & groundwater) based on identified data gaps
  - Sediment from creek (on-site and off-site)
  - Groundwater at the true or hypothetical reasonable exposure
- Risk Evaluation
  - Constituents of Potential Concern (COPCs) Determined
  - Chemicals of Concern (COCs) Identified
  - Remedial Levels (RLs) (if any) Calculated
- No COCs in Soil Identified ( $HI < 1$  and  $ELCR < 10^{-6}$ )
- BTEX identified as COCs in Groundwater but Met RLs and MCLs at Property Boundary



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# Risk Report, Closure Report, Corrective Action, & Permit Modification & Termination

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- Closure Report (HWMU and Tank 100) submitted (2019) and approved (2020)
- Risk Report submitted, revised, and approved (2019-2020)
- Corrective Action Plan submitted and revised (2020-2021)
  - Limited to groundwater monitoring and environmental covenant (fully executed Feb. 2022)
- RCRA Permit Modification (noticed in 2021; issued Mar. 1, 2022)
- Consent Order (Mar. 1, 2022) and Financial Assurance funded (Mar. 4, 2022)
- Corrective Action Completion (Mar. 11, 2022) & RCRA Permit Termination (Apr. 19, 2022)



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# Questions?

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