

XIV. Case Study

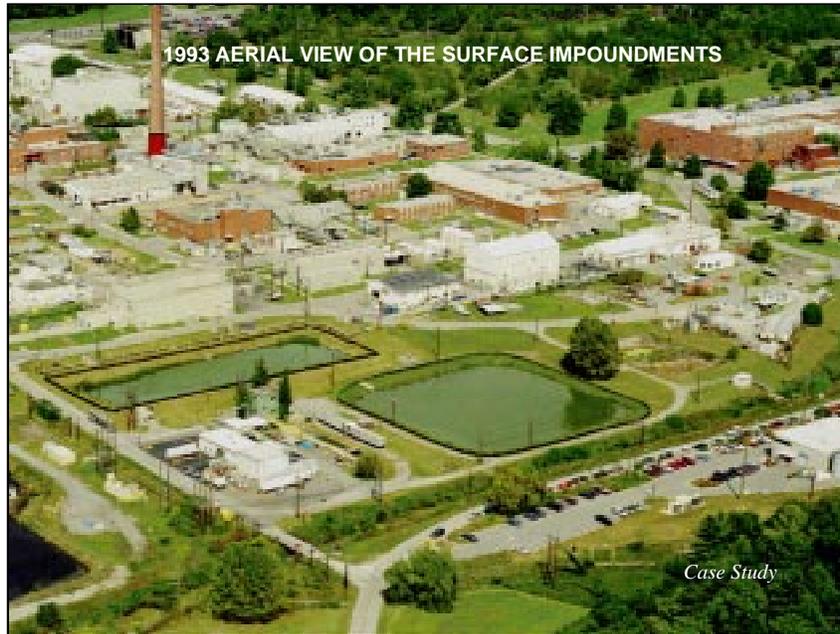
Notes:

Case Study Ground Rules

- Format
- Roles
- Negotiate/avoid dispute

Case Study

Notes:



Notes:

CERCLA remedial action addressed four surface impoundments: 3524, 3513, 3539 and 3540. The impoundments were used as part of Oak Ridge National Laboratory's waste management system.

Impoundment 3524: 95x275 ft., 1 mill. gal. capacity w/ 6.7 ft. avg. water depth

Impoundment 3513: 200x200 ft., 1.8 mill. gal. capacity w/ 3 ft. avg. water depth

Impoundment 3524, part of original facility construction in 1943 which served as backup storage for wastewater for the Gunitite Tanks.

1944-1949: Impoundment 3513 added as a settling basin for wastewater before discharge to WOC. (wastewater with higher levels of radioactivity were sent to 3524 for storage to allow further decay).

1949-1954: Evaporator added at the Gunitite Tanks and the concentrated condensate was sent to the impoundments.

1954-1957: In 1954 the impoundments ceased receiving wastes from the Gunitite Tanks. Began receiving process wastewater from the facility with subsequent discharge to WOC.

1957-1976: Wastewater treatment plant added to the treatment system and operated.

1964: Two smaller impoundments built (3539 & 3540).

1976: Impoundment 3513 removed from service. 3524 used as equalization impoundment for new the treatment plant until 1990.

Most recently the impoundments were used as backup overflow capacity for the process waste storage tanks during storms. In June 1996, the Surge Tank Project was completed which eliminated the need for the impoundments.

Site Description

- Fractured limestone
- NHPA historical district
- Lower impoundment borders White Oak Creek
- No wetlands, floodplains or T&E species
- Never RCRA-permitted

Case Study

Notes:

Bedrock is approximately 8-12 feet from the subsurface soils. Although the bedrock is fractured, no major karst development has been identified.

No seismic considerations are present at the site (e.g., faults).

Bentonite clay was added to the southern berm in February 1994 and January 1995 to plug seeps which had developed in the berm. The seeps were draining into WOC and triggered a CWA NOV by the state. The state chose to address this under the CWA, but could have addressed it as a CERCLA removal or interim remedial action.

Site Description (cont'd)

- Impoundments 3524 & 3513 are unlined
- Groundwater table
 - ⇒ 3524 - intrudes only during wet season
 - ⇒ 3513 - average depth - three feet above sediment level

Case Study

Notes:

Impoundments 3539 and 3540 are lined impoundments (5-ft compacted clay) with groundwater levels below the impoundments.

Site Conditions

- Water maintained to limit the airborne release of sediment and for radioactive shielding purposes
- Primary risk driver is Sr⁹⁰ releasing to groundwater

Remedial Actions

Notes:

After release to groundwater the contaminants migrate via WOC off-site over WOC dam.

WOC dam is located approximately 3000 yards from the impoundments operable unit.

These impoundments contribute 15-20 pCi/L to WOC.

Water shielding is not required for the two smaller impoundments (3539 and 3540).

Waste Characteristics

- PCBs > 50 ppm
- RCRA characteristic waste
- Low-level radioactive waste

Case Study

Notes:

Principle chemicals of concern:

n-Nitroso-di-n-propylamine

Mercury

Zinc

PCBs.

PCBs >50ppm

RCRA characteristic waste (cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, selenium, silver and 2,4-dinitrotoluene) based on operator knowledge (concentrations exceed 20 times the TCLP limit).

Principle radionuclides of concern:

Cs¹³⁷ (133 curies)

Sr⁹⁰ (36 curies)

Pu²³⁹ (6.6 curies)

Pu²³⁸ (0.3 curies)

Co⁶⁰ (1.3 curies)

Am²⁴¹ (3.1 curies)

also small amounts of Uranium

Description of Case Study FS Alternatives

Scope: Removal of sediments and soil

Alternative 1: No Action

Alternative 2: Multilayer Cap

Case Study

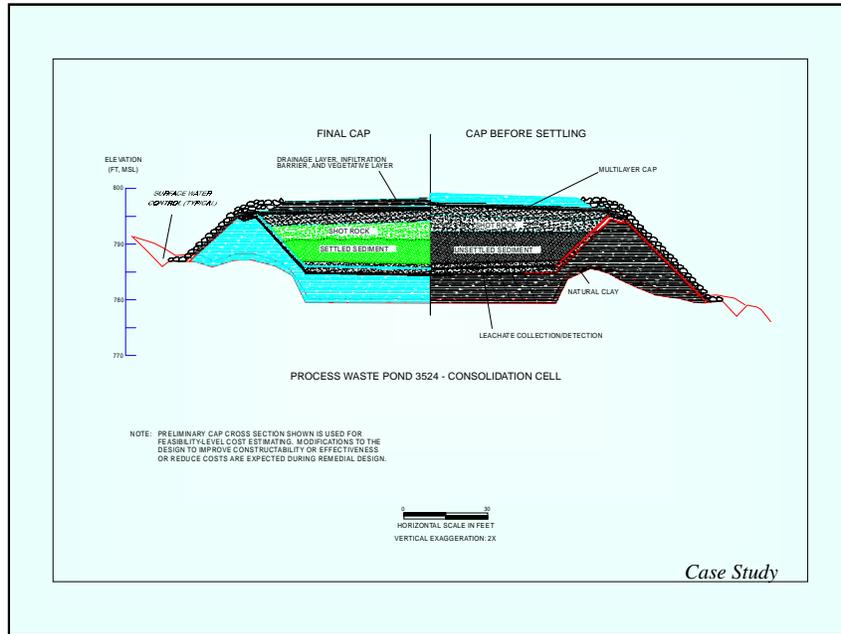
Notes:

Alternative 1 assumes maintenance of existing controls (i.e., maintenance of the water cover over the impoundments for 30-100 years). After 100 years the site is assumed to be abandoned.

Usually, in a true no action scenario, there are no ARARs. [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) Directive 9234.2-01/FS-4 (*ARARs Q's and A's*, June 1994)]

Alternative 2 Actions:

1. General site preparation activities.
2. Install multilayer cap (removing water as impoundments are backfilled).
3. Long-term monitoring/institutional controls.



Notes:

Description of Case Study FS Alternatives (continued)

Alternative 3: Consolidation with Simple
Dewatering

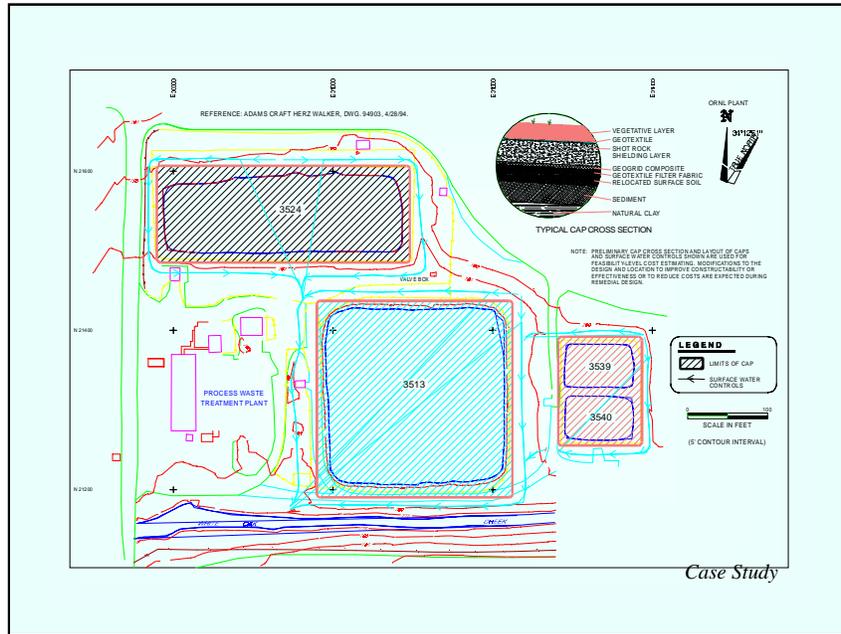
Alternative 4: Off-AOC Consolidation Cell
(Consolidation cell located in another
section of the plant and out of the water
table)

Case Study

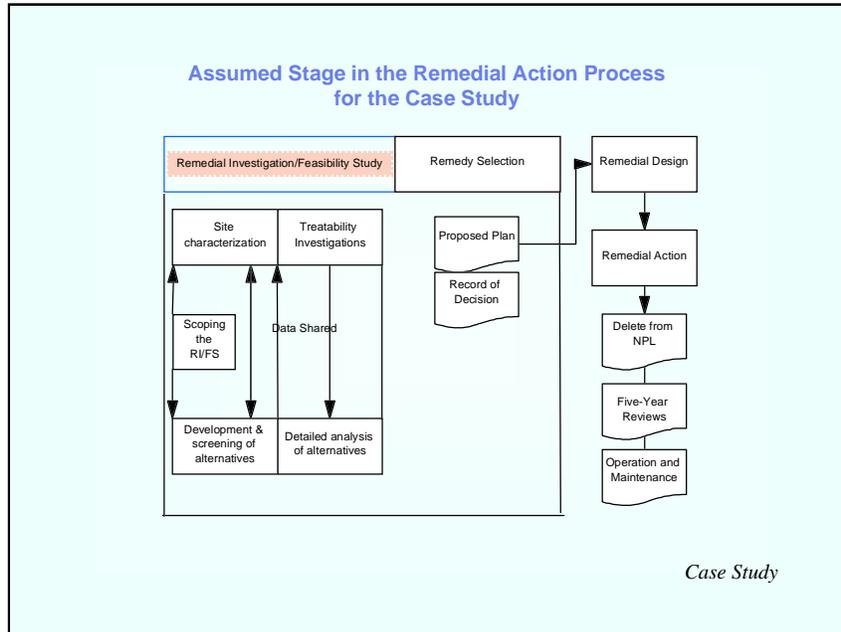
Notes:

Alternative 3 Actions:

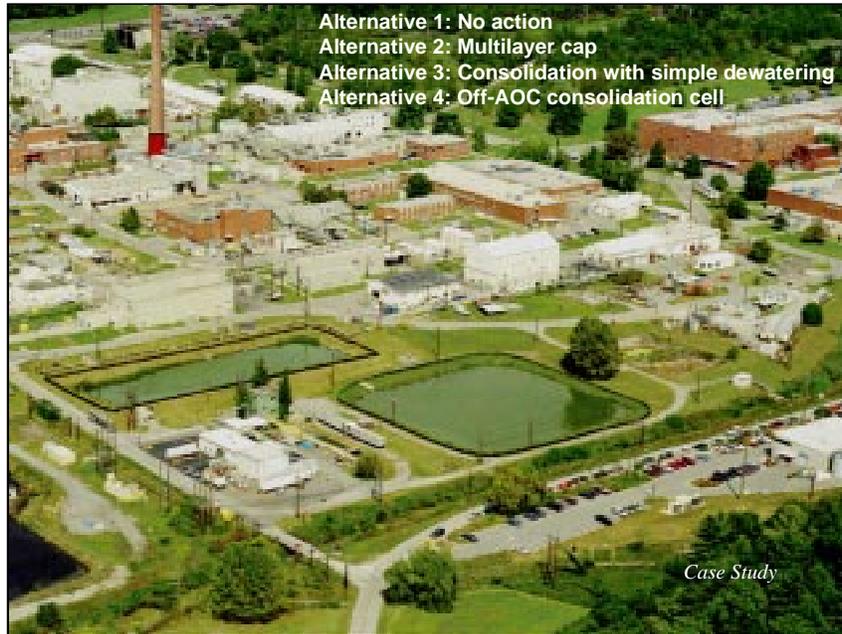
1. Site preparation activities.
2. Relocate sediment/soils from 3524 to 3513 by dredging.
3. Relocate wastewater to 3513, 3539, 3540, or to the process waste treatment system.
4. Backfill with clay to raise the cell bottom above the groundwater and install liner and leachate collection system.
5. Consolidate sediment/soils from all impoundments to 3524 with leachate collection system turned off to allow water to accumulate for shielding.
6. Install geocomposite liner over sediments.
7. Remove water via leachate collection system while adding backfill/rock.
8. Install multilayer cap (redress cap with additional topsoil and vegetation after 2 years).
9. Long-term monitoring and leachate collection.



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NRC General Performance Objectives

- Annual dose must not exceed an equivalent of 25 mrem to the whole body, 75 mrem to the thyroid, and 25 mrem to any other organ
- Reasonable effort shall be made to maintain releases of radioactivity in effluents to ALARA
- Must ensure protection of any individual inadvertently intruding into the disposal site after active institutional controls site are removed

Notes:

NRC Siting Requirements

- Capable of being characterized, modeled, analyzed and monitored
- Well drained and free of areas of flooding and frequent ponding
- Prohibits location in 100-year flood plain or wetland

Notes:

NRC Siting Requirements (continued)

- Projected regional population growth and future developments are not likely to affect the ability of the disposal facility to meet the performance objectives
- Provide sufficient depth to the water table that groundwater intrusion, perennial or otherwise, into the waste will not occur
- Prohibits location where nearby activities or facilities could impact the site's ability to meet performance objectives or mask environmental monitoring

Notes:

NRC Site Design Requirements

- Directed toward long-term isolation and avoidance of the need for continuing active maintenance
- Covers designed to minimize to the extent practicable water infiltration, to direct percolating or surface water away from the disposed waste
- Minimize to the extent practicable the contact standing water with waste during disposal, and the contact of percolating or standing water with wastes after disposal

Notes:

NRC Monitoring Requirements

- Maintain post-operational surveillance
- Capable of providing early warning of releases of radionuclides from the disposal unit before they leave the site boundary

Notes:

NRC Site Operation and Closure Requirements

- Maintains the package integrity during emplacement
- Minimizes the void spaces between packages
- Void spaces between waste packages must be filled to reduce future subsidence
- Locations of disposal unit must mapped by survey
- Only wastes contaminated with radioactive materials shall be disposed

Notes:

NRC Institutional Controls

- Institutional controls may not be relied upon for more than 100 years following transfer of control of the disposal site to the owner

Notes:

RCRA Design and Operating Requirements

- RCRA design and operating requirements for surface impoundments and landfills
 - ⇒ Minimum technological requirements
 - ⇒ Must have a two-liner system
 - ⇒ Leachate collection/detection and removal system
 - ⇒ Groundwater monitoring

Notes:

RCRA Closure Requirements

- RCRA closure requirements for surface impoundments and landfills (waste in place)
 - ⇒ Eliminate liquids by removal or solidification (surface impoundments only)
 - ⇒ Stabilize remaining wastes (surface impoundments only)

Notes:

RCRA Closure Requirements (continued)

- Final cover designed and constructed to:
 - Provide long-term minimization of migration of liquids
 - Function with minimum maintenance
 - Promote drainage and minimize erosion and abrasion to the cover
 - Accommodate settling and subsidence
 - Have a permeability less than or equal to the natural subsoils present

Notes:

RCRA General Postclosure Requirements

- Groundwater monitoring and reporting requirements in accordance with the RCRA
- Maintenance and monitoring of waste containment systems (leaking detection/collection, final cover, groundwater monitoring system, stormwater run-on and run-off)

Notes:

TSCA Chemical Waste Landfill Requirements

- Location
- Leachate collection system
- Fence
- Area
- Watercourses
- Groundwater monitoring

Notes:

Location of the landfill above the historical high groundwater table. The bottom of the liner must be at least 50-ft above the historical high water table.

Must be located in thick, relatively impermeable formations (clay pans) **or** soil should have a high clay and silt content within specified parameters and a 30 mils synthetic liner.

Must contain a leachate collection system.

A 6-ft woven mesh fence, wall or similar device must be placed around the site to prevent unauthorized access.

Located in an area of low to moderate relief (minimize erosion/slumping/landslides).

Sampled of designated watercourses.

Groundwater monitoring at a minimum of three points.

Actual Results of Case Study

- Selected alternative
- ARARs
- Classroom versus actual outcome

Case Study

Notes: