

Case Study

Electroplating Works

Site Clearance & Tank Decontamination



Contract

Solvswaste Environmental were contracted to carry out a hazardous waste site clearance and tank decontamination project from an abandoned electroplating factory.

Scope

The abandoned factory had been left by the owner and in a dangerous and unsafe condition, with all the wastes left open and accessible. The wastes were in tanks, drums and containers of all descriptions. With over 40 tanks ranging in capacities and a wide variety of waste streams that could not be mixed, it was critical that careful planning was necessary. The project was planned in 3 phases as follows:

- Bulk Waste Removal
- Tank Decontamination and Site Cleaning
- Drummed Waste Removal

Implementation



Bulk Waste Removal

All tanks containing wastes were checked, sampled and analysed to determine what could be mixed. This gave the minimum number of tanker loads for removal. In all 6 bulk waste streams were identified, with the most hazardous being removed first. This phase of the project took 4 weeks to complete and without incident.

Tank Decontamination and Site Cleaning

With over 40 tanks and peripheral equipment to decontaminate, a team was utilised to carry out the site clearance and tank decontamination. Contents of each tank was known, with the remaining sludge or solids removed and drummed. Each drum was coded, logged and sampled to ensure correct labelling prior to removal.

Each tank was decontaminated, cleaned and cut for disposal. All tanks and equipment were removed from site and disposed of in a safe and proper manner.

At the end of this phase, all the walls and floors were scraped and cleaned and the waste drummed ready for collection and disposal. This phase took 2 weeks to complete

Removal of Drummed Waste

With over 120 drums, each was correctly labelled for the waste that they contained. The wastes were segregated to prevent mixing of incompatible materials. The drummed waste were removed from site, with no incompatible being carried on the same load.

At the end of the project, over 40 tonnes of hazardous waste typical of an electroplating factory were removed and disposed of safely



Completion

The whole project just took over 7 weeks to complete, with approximately 650 man-hours. A full risk assessment was carried out prior to the work and a method statement provided to show how the work was to be completed.

All work was completed without incident in regard to health, safety and the environment. Completion of the project was the acceptance of the site by the landlords

