

Removal and Disposal of ACM and Debris at the Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Texas

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- *Awarded Two Follow-On Contracts, for Phases II and III*
- *Removed to Date Over 720 Cubic Yards of ACM and Debris*
- *Site is Among the Major Waterfowl Refuges in the Central Flyway*
- *Phases I and II Completed with Zero OSHA Accidents or Incidents*

Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, located near Umbarger, Texas, is a 7,667-acre preserve and is among the major waterfowl refuges in the Central Flyway, one of four major migratory routes over the continental U.S. During the 2001 environmental assessment, it was determined that a combination of solid waste (broken concrete, glass, metal, and pieces of wood) and Category II, regulated non-friable ACM had been dumped in an isolated area of the Refuge. These wastes were intermixed with each other and very difficult to sort, remove, and dispose of separately. PIKA was hired as a subcontractor on the Phase I portion of this project, and subsequently awarded the Phase II and, very recently, the Phase III tasks. The client was the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Albuquerque, NM.

This project's objectives include the removal and disposal of asbestos containing material (ACM) and debris to be performed in three phases. BWXT Pantex referred the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to PIKA personnel through a subcontract for the Phase I portion, and subsequently awarded PIKA the Phase II and Phase III contracts for this removal of ACM and debris and transportation to an approved landfill. To date, over 720 cubic yards of ACM and debris have been removed with an estimated 3,000 cubic yards remaining.



PHASE I

The total quantity of contaminated debris estimated on the site is approximately 4,000 cubic yards. The percentage of asbestos was ascertained to be less than 1.0% by EPA Regulators and hence the waste was disposed under a Texas non-hazardous special waste manifest with waste description as "Debris from Historic Refuge Operations". Under Phase I, PIKA personnel were subcontracted to remove and dispose of approximately 300 cubic yards. Phase I site activities commenced on September 13, 2004, and consisted of excavation, transportation and disposal of approximately 320 cubic yards of asbestos contaminated debris. A total of 16 loads of the debris (20 cubic yards each) were shipped to the BFI Southwest Landfill in Canyon, TX.



PHASE II

PIKA was subsequently contracted directly by the USFWS, Albuquerque, NM, for the Phase II portion. Under Phase II, PIKA was tasked to excavate and dispose of approximately 400 cubic yards of the ACM and debris. Phase II site activities commenced on June 13, 2005 and consisted of transportation and disposal of 400 cubic yards of ACM and debris. A total of 20 loads of the debris (20 cubic yards each) were shipped to the BFI Southwest Landfill in Canyon, TX.

PHASE III

PIKA was recently awarded the Phase III contract for continued ACM clean-up and disposal. We estimate that there is still approximately 3,000 cubic yards of ACM and debris that needs to be excavated, transported and disposed from the site at the Wildlife Refuge.