

# BRIDGING LUST EXCAVATIONS WITH UST CLOSURES AND INSTALLATIONS

Proactive Notification and Excavation Requirements for UST closures at known LUST sites.

# PROGRAM BACKGROUND

- Small state
- Small program
- Typically small sites
- Almost all tank removals have an inspector present

#### **GOAL IS COLLABORATION**

- Collaboration with the tank owner and consultant encourages preparation + streamlined projects
- Internal collaboration means details are not missed
- We must be intentional at it!
- Fewer surprises!

#### TYPICAL PROCESS

- Application
- Scheduling
- Tank Removal
- Action or Closure

# **ORIGINS OF NEW PROCESS**

- Most field decisions were being made without much thought and soil removal was not occurring at the necessary scale
- Very little planning was being done, and owners, contractors, and consultants were not prepared to encounter contamination
- Often no one at tank closures knew the site history

### **ORIGINATED IN FRUSTRATION**

Our one opportunity was being wasted!

#### **PROCESS OVERVIEW**

- 3 Components
  - Internal Communication
  - External Communication
  - Setting a clear alternate goal

#### **PROCESS**

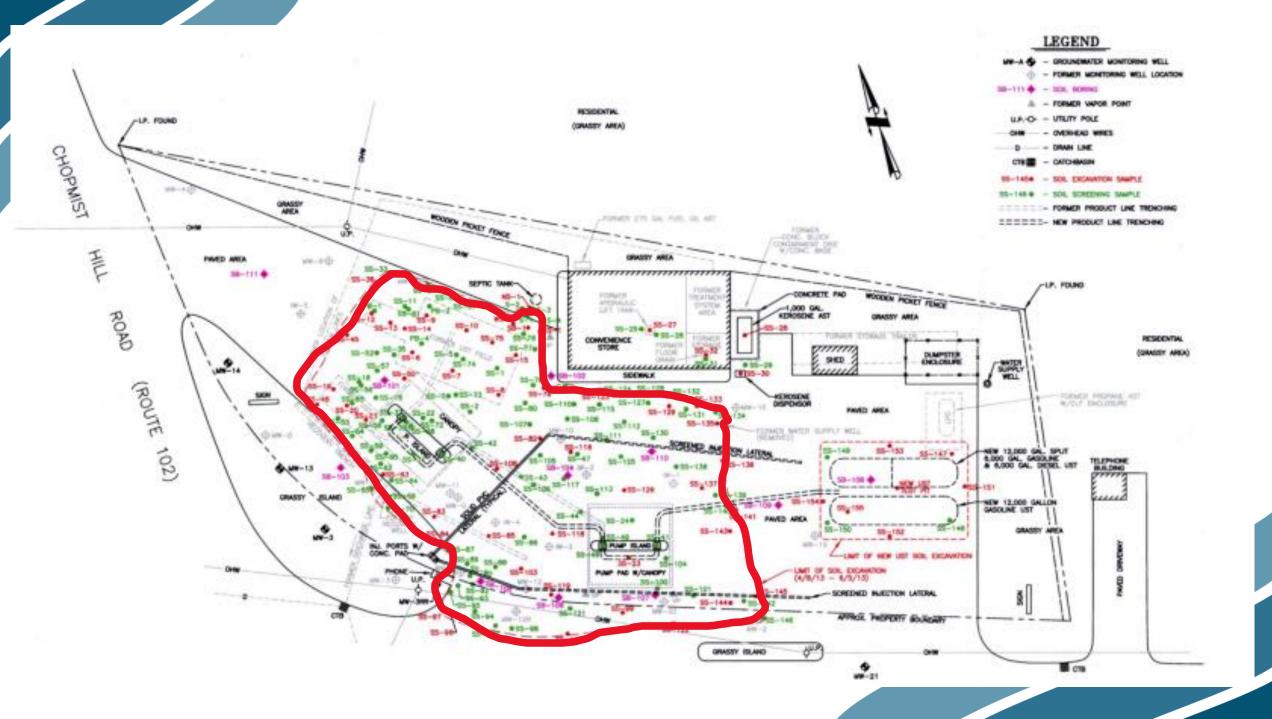
- Site is assigned to LUST PM rather than regularly scheduled closure inspector
- Uniform "head's up letter" for known active or former LUST sites.
- Same for most sites to establish the baseline we will be working from
- Include the intention for excavation in all correspondence! We ask that a machine capable of digging to 18-20 feet be on site for most sites.

# "HEAD'S UP LETTER"

- Includes a paragraph outlining a very brief site history and asks the consultant to complete questions
- Property Status (Drinking water source? Any monitoring wells? Other issues?)
- Soil Management (Screening process? Sampling Plan? Separation of soils?)
- Construction (Canopy to remain? New tanks? Dewatering?)

# 3004 - 3<sup>RD</sup> OLDEST OPEN SITE

- Site began formal corrective action in 1993, and was opened in 1988
- Early test of this concept in 2013 no formal notification

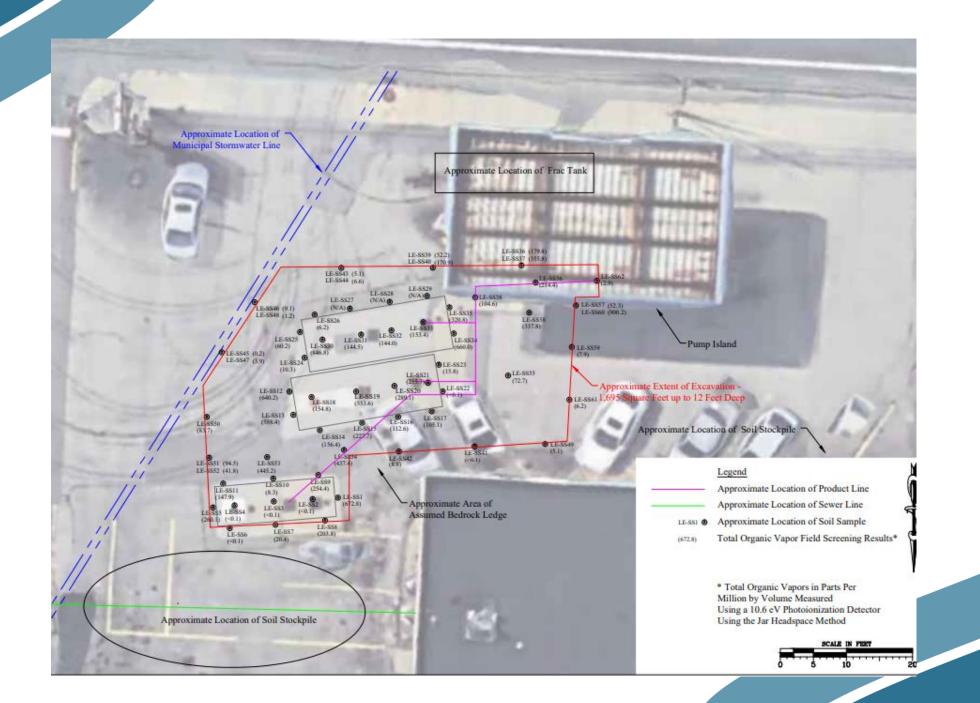


# 3004 - 3<sup>RD</sup> OLDEST OPEN SITE

- Canopy was removed! A huge success!
- Source was properly excavated (4500 tons)
- Then MNA was successful!

#### SMALL MOM AND POP

- Original release in 1997
- 580 tons removed in 2018
- Follow-up Site Investigation was done and site has been ND in the 4 quarters since.
- Waiting on decommissioning report to issue the NFA





# AN EXAMPLE OF FAILURE: HOSPITAL IN PROVIDENCE

- Could not be excavated in 1998 due to use as active hospital
- Corrective Action plan required in 2020
- We "lightly" recommended excavation in the CAP letter
- Owner decided to close the tanks and excavate





# AN EXAMPLE OF FAILURE: HOSPITAL IN PROVIDENCE

- Decided (at the closure) not to dig at the UST closure, instead opted to install 10-15 new borings and wells several months later
- Separate excavation plan now needed, now it is
   September and the project has not moved forward

#### **CHALLENGES**

- Everyone still might not be ready
- Some consultants ignore the questions, but are prepared to excavate
- "its not that bad" or "we already have an NFA from last time"
- The goal is often to get the new tanks in ASAP, and excavation interferes with this.

# **BENEFITS WE HAVE SEEN**

- The sites are almost entirely legacy sites
- Time is planned in for remediation
- It's a fun surprise when it's clean rather than the horrible surprise of DEM requiring soil removal
- Less expensive since the equipment is already on the site, faster than waiting for a separate excavation

#### COMMUNICATION IS KEY!

- Managing Expectations
  - Be prepared for the worst!
- Openness about solutions and likely challenges

#### **QUESTIONS?**

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