

Using Advanced Technology to Simplify Soil Cleanup.

Think Green.®



Like many chemical processing facilities in the area, the Chevron-Phillips Chemical Co.'s Cedar Bayou Plant in Baytown, Tex., buried many of its toxic waste products in sediment basins, as prescribed by local environmental regulations. There, in subterranean geologic formations directly adjacent to the factory, benzene and other petroleum hydrocarbons thrown off during the manufacture of low- and high-density polyethylene plastics could remain safe and out of the surrounding environment as long as they were undisturbed.

The company put the project out for bid. Initially, it was leaning toward decontaminating the soil on-site using machines known as "mobile thermal desorbers." But then Waste Management stepped forward with a solution that would be safer, simpler, and more economical. They proposed shipping the contaminated soil to the Chemical Waste Management Lake Charles Treatment Facility in Carlyss, La. Although the Lake Charles plant was 100 miles away, its advanced technology would allow it to process Chevron-Phillips' soil at a cost lower than doing it on site, even factoring in the costs of transportation. The Lake Charles plant would also be far more effective at controlling any resulting emissions.

However, in early 2001, Chevron-Phillips Chemical decided it needed to expand its facility — and the land it chose was directly above the sediment basins. The weight of the

proposed expansion required that deep foundations be built, a process that would inevitably unearth much of the buried waste. Clearly, the contaminated soil would have to be removed. In addition, it would have to be processed in such a way that the toxic emissions that would necessarily escape during decontamination would not be released into the surrounding environment.

Waste Management won the contract and began bioremediation in late June 2001. The job was completed without incident some six weeks later, permitting expansion work to begin on schedule.

Handling special waste requires an equally special waste services company.

From everyday collection to environmental protection, Think Green. Think Waste Management.

"Waste Management had the technology to help us deal with our hazardous wastes. By not using thermal treatment, we were able to save a lot of money."

Joe Ross
Environmental Engineer
Chevron-Phillips
Chemical Co.

