

## Providing Long-Haul Solutions for Hazardous Wastes.

Think Green.®

**F**or every kind of waste there is a prescribed disposal solution. But what do you do with mixed wastes when the proper disposal method for one element will not work for the other?

This was the dilemma faced by Oak Environmental Services of Birmingham, Ala., in 2002. One of the consulting company's largest clients was in the process of decommissioning a 30-year-old smelting plant once used to produce copper wire. Among the project's residuals were 3,000 tons of "process waste" including bagged house dust from the plant's air pollution control devices and other debris created when the plant was

cleaned. Analysis of this waste revealed that it contained significant amounts of heavy metals including lead, cadmium and copper. It also contained low levels of toxic organic contaminants (UHCs).

Normally, metals can be stabilized so that they can be safely landfilled in a Subtitle "C" facility. The organic UHCs, on the other hand, need to be incinerated.

Organic UHCs can't be stabilized, and metals can be incinerated only in extremely fine amounts – so fine that it would have taken a full six years to incinerate the 3,000 tons of waste at hand.



Caught between the proverbial rock and hard place, Oak Environmental Services first sought – then received – a site-specific treatability variance from the State of Georgia. That would allow the metal contamination to be treated and then landfilled in a Subtitle "C" disposal facility without treatment of the organic component. Only no such HazMat-friendly landfills existed in Georgia itself.

After exploring several options, Oak Environmental Services contacted Waste Management, which it had worked with on several previous occasions. Waste Management proposed shipping the process waste via its WasteByRail long-haul network to its Subtitle "C" landfill in Arlington, Ore., which could treat and landfill the metals and accept the variance for the organics. Despite the 3,000-plus mile distance involved, the efficiencies of WasteByRail made the proposition extremely attractive. In fact, instead of taking six years to process, the customer's wastes were eventually transported, treated and landfilled in less than a month.

**When schedules are down the wire, WasteByRail really shows its mettle.**

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

*"Waste Management was a key part of our solution. WasteByRail allowed us to finish a very difficult project on time and on budget."*

**Thomas Schmittou**  
Principal  
Oak Environmental Services



DISPOSAL  
SERVICES