



USDA ARS Sugarcane Field Station

United States Department
of Agriculture

Relevant Services

Planning, Permitting and
Compliance
Contamination Assessment
Soil Sampling
Groundwater Sampling
Risk Management

Challenges

Completing AST closure within 30
days of Notice to Proceed
Minimizing impacts to concurrent
active operations
Expedited replacement of
manufactured fuel tank to
maximize site efficiency

OVERVIEW

NovelEolutions, Inc. (NovelE) was the Prime Contractor to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for environmental consulting services at their Sugarcane Field Station. Liza Grudin, PE served as the Engineer-of-Record for this fast-tracked site rehabilitation. Stephen Pitts, Senior Field Technician, provided the primary field oversight for site activities.

NovelE completed the initial field activities, including tank removal, within 25 days of Notice to Proceed (NTP). Aboveground Storage Tanks (ASTs) providing diesel and unleaded fuel for the Field Station and the associated secondary containment were not in compliance with regulatory requirements. As such, this contract required expedited removal of the ASTs within 30 days of Notice to Proceed, which NovelE exceeded. Facility operations depend on these fuel tanks so expedited replacement was of utmost importance to maximize the efficiency of the USDA facility and minimize impacts to staff. NovelE's team delivered the new manufactured replacement tank within 60 days of contract award.

PLANNING, PERMITTING, COMPLIANCE AND CONTAMINATION ASSESSMENT

NovelE assembled a team of engineers and geologists to expedite the removal of the two 2,000-gallon ASTs along with the containment wall and stairs. Five soil borings and one temporary monitor well were installed to assess petroleum impacts in the vicinity of the ASTs. Prior to the intrusive field activities, a site walk was conducted with key onsite staff to determine utility and other underground hazards. Electro-magnetic (EM) and Real-Time Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) Locating equipment was employed to locate and mark all facilities in the work area. Soil samples and groundwater samples were collected pursuant to regulatory guidelines. Based on the field screening and laboratory analysis, no further assessment was requested in a formal regulatory Tank Closure Report submittal. The report was approved with no comments from the local regulatory agency.

While tank removal and assessment activities were ongoing, NovelE was working to get a replacement tank onsite. The Sugarcane Field Station relies on the tanks to fuel their onsite equipment. Removal of the tanks created a requirement for offsite procurement of fuel reducing site operational efficiency. Dedicated resources to the procurement effort allowed for delivery of the replacement tank within 52 days of Notice to Proceed.