

GENERAL ELECTRIC AIRCRAFT ENGINES

Albuquerque, New Mexico

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Environmental Support Services and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act Remediation

Alberto A. Gutiérrez served as principal in charge of this project while serving as President of GCL, predecessor to Geolex, Inc.

For General Electric (GE), GCL provided general environmental support services and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) remediation activities performed on several contracts. General support services included monitoring and permitting activities for stormwater runoff, wastewater discharges (NPDES), and air emissions. Monitoring information was maintained using dBase III databases, allowing GCL to respond quickly to permit exceedances and provide guidance to GE for compliance with existing or impending Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)/New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) regulations.

This database proved vital to GE in maintaining a proactive environmental stance and provided the information necessary for GCL to conduct a year-long study as required by NMED and EPA on chemical oxygen demand (COD) and metals in GE's stormwater runoff. The study permitted negotiation of an economically feasible COD limit based on best management practice/best available technology. Additionally, this study was intended to resolve regulatory concerns related to perceived high metal levels in the storm water runoff. This was the first COD study conducted for an industrial complex in New Mexico.

In addition to these regular monitoring programs, GCL also provided support in industrial hygiene services, waste stream characterizations, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) and asbestos testing, and underground storage tank investigations and removals.

GCL was selected to perform the work on two operable units at the South Valley Superfund site for which GE had responsibility as lead potentially responsible party (PRP). One of these units required installation of a monitor well network for the entire Superfund site, as well as the sealing of pre-existing water wells that acted as vertical conduits for cross-contamination of aquifers within the operable unit. Complicating the situation was the inclusion of several municipal wells within the unit boundary. Liability issues with respect to these municipal wells and associated water supply was of extreme concern.

Major Project Elements:

- Remedial design/
Remedial action
- CERCLA
- NPDES/Stormwater management
- Air modeling
- Groundwater modeling
- Underground storage tanks
- Program/Project management/QAQC
- Health and safety/
Training
- Community relations
- Environmental risk assessment
- OSHA compliance/
IH services
- PCBs
- Regulatory compliance/
Permitting
- Air quality and emissions studies
- Hydrology/Hydrogeology

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For the second operable unit, GCL was selected to complete the additional site investigations required by the Record of Decision (ROD). These investigations entailed soil contamination and groundwater contamination assessments, and required delineation of extents of contamination in the vadose zone and groundwater (several aquifers). The soil contamination assessment was done through soil-vapor surveys and soil borings. The groundwater assessment was accomplished through the installation and sampling of various monitor wells. The ROD called for remediation of soil contamination (volatile organics) using a soil-vapor extraction system. The groundwater contamination (VOCs and possibly metals) was remediated using groundwater pump-and-treat systems.

For both operable units, GCL was responsible for regulatory guidance, as well as negotiation of a cost-effective and efficient work plan/remedial design. Additionally, GCL was responsible for all EPA-required documents, such as the Remedial Action Plans, Quality Assurance Project Plans, Worker Health and Safety Plans, Spill/Volatile Emissions Release Plans, and Remedial Design. GCL also obtained permits to dispose of CERCLA-investigation wastewaters to the local publicly owned treatment work (POTW). This CERCLA activity required GCL to be very sensitive to community relations and to develop educational programs. Because so many entities were affected by these CERCLA units, long-range planning, extreme caution, and quick responses were mandatory.