

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Bureau of Environmental Remediation, Remedial Section

Site Assessment Program



Former Kansas Cooperative Refinery

Background:

In 1906, a refinery began operating as the Kansas Cooperative Refinery in Chanute, Kansas. The history of the refinery is unclear but it appears to have closed around 1930 and the property was subsequently sold to a private citizen. Today the property is occupied by the City Public Works Department and a private residence.

A visit to the site by a Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Site Assessment Program field team in October 2002 identified petroleum wastes oozing from the ground, areas devoid of vegetation, and surficial waste.

Solution:

KDHE's Site Assessment Program completed an assessment of the property in late October 2002 to determine the threat posed to human health and the environment by the refinery wastes.

Using historical maps of the refinery and modern aerial photography, several locations were selected at which subsurface exploration and sampling was conducted using direct push equipment.



Assessment of refinery waste using direct-push technology.

Three soil core samples were collected and all three samples were visibly contaminated with oil. Samples of asphaltic seepages in the private residence's driveway and a metallic granular waste from the yard were also collected. All samples were either submitted to the lab for analysis or analyzed on-site using a field portable x-ray fluorescence spectrum analyzer.

In addition to physical assessment of the site, the Site Assessment Program also completed research into the operational history of the refinery to identify parties potentially responsible for the waste at the site. KDHE was able to contact a potentially responsible party who agreed to enter KDHE's Voluntary Control Program (VCP) in order to address site cleanup.



Visible contamination at a former refinery site in Chanute, Kansas.

Benefits:

- **Abandoned wastes impacting a private residence and a municipal shop were identified, assessed, and referred to an appropriate State program to be addressed.**
- **A responsible party was found who signed a VCP agreement on September 12, 2003.**