

September 14, 2006

Construction set to begin on Turner Valley containment system

Edmonton.... Construction of the \$5 million containment and groundwater treatment systems at the Turner Valley Gas Plant will get underway in mid-September and should be completed by March 2007.

The containment system will prevent hydrocarbons from the historic Turner Valley Gas Plant from entering the Sheep River and groundwater.

"The health and safety of the residents in the area is my first concern. We have spent close to \$5 million already on site stabilization and environmental remediation," said Denis Ducharme, Minister of Alberta Community Development. "I am pleased that work on the containment/site protection system is now underway. We will continue to work with Alberta Environment, Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, the health authority and residents to ensure a safe water supply."

The Sheep River was diverted away from the gas plant in 2004 to create a buffer zone between the site embankment and the river. Severe flooding during the summer of 2005 destroyed part of the 2004 diversion. Subsequent work in the fall of 2005 re-established the diversion. River isolation work was completed at the end of August 2006. This will allow the construction of the containment system to take place.

In spring 2006, Alberta-based engineering companies MPE and Stantec designed the consolidated flood prevention/containment system that was approved by Alberta Environment. Quantum Environmental Group will complete the work, which will be overseen by Stantec and MPE on behalf of the government.

"We have a solid design that will protect both the site and the Sheep River," said Ty Lund, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "And throughout the contract, the historical significance of the Turner Valley Gas Plant will be maintained."

Water samples will be collected during any activities that could potentially release hydrocarbons into the river. Soil samples will also be taken, and water samples will be collected and tested for a period of two years after project completion. After that, an evaluation will be carried out to assess the need for further sampling and analysis.

Other contaminants on the site—asbestos, sulphur and mercury—have been removed or contained. This is in accordance with the 10-year clean-up plan, which is being achieved ahead of schedule.

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Editor's Note:

see backgrounder.

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Backgrounder

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About the Project

Major components of the containment system work include:

- The construction of a bentonite (clay) slurry cut-off wall along the bank of the Sheep River and the northern border of the site;
- The construction of a three-stage groundwater treatment system; and
- The enhancement of the erosion protection works, consisting of extending riprap bank protection all the way down to bedrock level. The bank height will exceed water levels experienced in the June 2005 flood, which was the highest flood level in 110 years of recorded history, by at least 0.5 metres.

Activity	Approximate completion date
River isolation works completion	August 31, 2006
Bentonite (clay) slurry wall completion	October 15, 2006
Concrete treatment structure and surrounding backfill	November 30, 2006
Construction completion	March 2007

Stantec designed the containment system; MPE designed the diversion and river protection works. Iron Horse Earthworks was the construction contractor working on the river diversion works. For information on Quantum Environmental Group, visit <http://www.quantumgroup.ca>.

Site Map





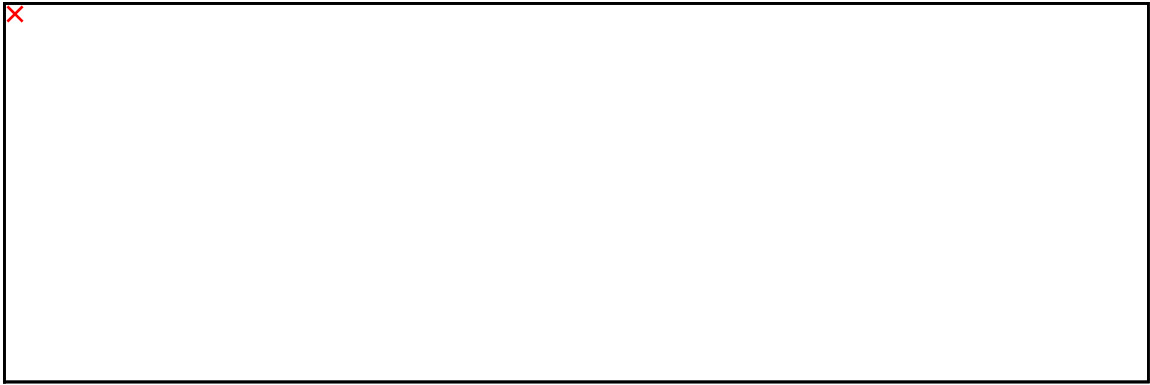
Design concept

The design concept below shows part of the containment system and the water treatment system that will be located on the northeast corner of the Turner Valley Gas Plant site. It will collect the groundwater that flows through the site and will remove the contaminants before it is safely discharged back into the Sheep River.



Water Treatment process





Cross section of Containment System



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