

# MPW removes 210,000 pounds of tar, decommissions tank

A steel plant located in Southwestern Ohio recently constructed a new tar tank to replace its old 700,000-gallon tar tank. The decommissioned tank had been out of service since 2008. The plant wanted the tank and its contents of tar, sand and other debris removed from the site.

The job involved several safety hazards—tar is considered a hazardous material and its removal must be executed carefully in order to contain it to a specific area. Tank integrity was also a large concern as the plant personnel were unable to effectively inspect all areas of the massive tank, fearing the hazard of falling material.

Adding to the complexity of the project, MPW workers were unable to see inside the surrounding containment as it was covered in thick tar.

**JOB WAS COMPLETED IN A TIMELY MANNER WITH NO SAFETY OR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

## SOLUTION

MPW's team had experience with similar jobs and submitted a bid to clean and remove the tank. MPW suggested subcontracting the cutting of the tank to an excavation specialist, which the customer accepted without hesitation.

MPW won the bid due to the relationship between the plant and MPW crews, as well as management, their attention to safety and of course, fair pricing.

In the past, MPW's services at this location were geared toward industrial cleaning. Gradually, MPW earned the opportunity to operate heavy equipment such as front-end loaders, 35-ton Euclid trucks, graders, water trucks, semis, dump trucks, etc. Today, MPW plows snow, cuts grass, repairs railroad tracks in one section of the plant, provides labor support for the Basic Oxygen Furnace and operates bobcats and forklifts.



## RESULTS

MPW used 40,000 psi water jetting to clean and remove the tar from the tank. The tank needed to be free of all tar and debris prior to its removal, so the cleaning was vital for the excavating contractor to be able to dissect and dispose of the tank. The entire tank, including the double floors, was salvaged, with the exception of the tank's suction line. The job took MPW six weeks to complete.

There ended up being more tar than was originally expected. In all, six boxes of hazardous tar and debris weighing

approximately 35,000 pounds each were removed from the tank.

With support from the corporate office and the determination of the employees and managers at MPW, the job was completed in a timely manner with no safety or environmental issues. MPW believes it won the bid because its bid was substantially less expensive than other bids. MPW mitigated all safety risks by effectively analyzing the complexity of the job and adhering to its detailed plan of execution.

## COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

**MPW recorded zero safety incidents during this project**