

Project Name

Evaluation of Subsurface Gasoline Contamination

Client

DeYoe, Heissenbuttel, and Mattin

Services Provided

Expert Report on 1988 Spill

Project Description

A gasoline tanker truck owned by the Spartan Oil Company overturned in Rockaway Township, NJ in 1988. The truck split open, spilling its contents, and caught fire. An unknown quantity of gasoline spilled into the ground. Spartan Oil, through its contractors, immediately initiated a soil and groundwater remediation program to cleanup the spill.

The overturned truck spilled some of its contents onto a property that was being developed for residential construction. The owners of the site sued Spartan Oil for contaminating the property and delaying its sale.

SAI was retained by DeYoe, Heissenbuttel, and Mattin, attorneys for Spartan Oil, to evaluate the subsurface remediation conducted by Spartan Oil's contractors and the suitability of the property for development.

Approach

SAI reviewed the existing data and the plaintiff's expert report. Based on available data, SAI concluded that there was no impediment to the development of the property due to contamination remaining from the gasoline spill. SAI further determined that the use of public water supply and radon mitigation construction techniques would provide adequate mitigation of potential impacts from the remnants of the spill. Through monitoring well data, SAI rebutted the plaintiff's claim that only 22 to 41 percent of the contaminated groundwater was recovered from by the initial remedial efforts of Spartan Oil. SAI concluded that there was no continuing source of groundwater contamination in soil above the groundwater table.

