

Project History

Project Name

MLK-Jefferson School Site

Client

New Jersey School Development Authority
(formerly New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation)

Services Provided

- Remedial Investigation
- Remedial Action Workplan
- Oversight of Remediation

Project Description

The MLK-Jefferson School Site is located in a mixed-use urban setting with a long history of densely populated residential, commercial, and industrial uses. The Jefferson Elementary School, located at 411 Brunswick Avenue, was constructed prior to 1904 and was later expanded to its current configuration in 1920. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School, located at 800 Martin Luther King Boulevard and formerly known as Junior High School Number One, was constructed in 1916.

After construction had begun on the new building, subsurface investigations identified the presence of fill consisting of recycled concrete aggregate (RCA) and soil that had been placed at the site prior to its development. This fill has been shown to be impacted by polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, metals (including antimony, arsenic, copper, mercury and lead), a chlorinated pesticide, and polychlorinated biphenyls.

Approach

NJSCC retained SAI in April 2005 to undertake a Remedial Investigation of the RCA used as fill. SAI implemented a comprehensive approach to the identification of potentially contaminated RCA, historic fill, soils, and groundwater. Extensive soil and groundwater characterization was conducted using borings, test pits, groundwater monitoring and historical evidence. Subsequently, SAI performed a risk assessment for the contaminants found on site, developed site remediation alternatives, designed the remedial actions for the site (including bid specifications), and oversaw the removal of impacted RCA and historic fill material from the site.

SAI developed a Remedial Action Workplan to address the requirements of the demolition of the schools, and the excavation and disposal of the contaminated materials prior to reconstruction of the new building. SAI developed a three dimensional model of the impacted fill to allow contractors to submit cost-effective bids to the State. SAI provided oversight of the demolition of the partly-completed school and the excavation of RCA and historic fill. During the removal of RCA, a state of the art perimeter air monitoring program was implemented to document that dust did not leave the site. A Remedial Action Report was prepared and submitted to NJDEP in November 2009. The total cost of this project, including construction costs, was approximately \$75 million. Environmental costs were roughly \$14 million of this amount.



[Project Impacts](#)

As a result of SAI's work on this site, the City of Trenton is now able to offer to students in this district a school free of the contamination that had been present on the site for years. This project received a NFA for soils in December 2009.