

---

## Sludge & large concrete tank removal (Montebello, California)

---

During demolition of a concrete floor in a large manufacturing building, personnel discovered a concrete tank measuring 110 feet long by 12 feet wide and 52 inches deep, constructed of 1-foot-thick concrete reinforced with rebar in sidewalls, top, and bottom. The tank had been used as an equalization tank in the past as part of an industrial process for dyeing carpets and contained volatile and semi-volatile organics in sludge up to 4 inches thick.

As the property was involved in a pending real estate transaction, time was of the essence. We established the regulatory oversight requirements and quickly prepared and submitted a closure work plan that was approved by the agency within one month after the client retained us. Because the tank demolition could encounter asbestos, we performed an asbestos survey and obtained proper approvals from the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

We excavated the concrete tank with the sludge, segregated contaminated and clean concrete for disposal, and investigated the soil beneath the tank for contaminants. We transported 171 tons of debris and 15 tons of hydrocarbon-contaminated soil to a Class II recycling facility.

As part of the project, we also investigated an adjacent hazardous materials storage room for possible metals contamination in the purple-discolored concrete floor and soil beneath. Based on the results, a lead abatement contractor removed the lead-based paint from the room, and all surfaces were encapsulated with a primer. Upon reviewing our closure report, the Montebello Fire Prevention Bureau issued closure with no further action; the property was then sold. *Client: Wilbur-Curtis*

For more information on this project, please contact Lindmark Engineering at (818) 707-6100 or [ulf.lindmark@efiglobal.com](mailto:ulf.lindmark@efiglobal.com).