



Emergency Spill Response

Nantucket Historical Association

The Horsley Witten Group, Inc. (HW) undertook Immediate Response Actions (IRAs) at the Nantucket Whaling Museum in Nantucket, Massachusetts in response to a release of oil and/or hazardous materials in compliance with the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) 310 CMR 40.0000. The release of heating oil occurred from a faulty boiler fuel oil supply line in the maintenance room of the Nantucket Whaling Museum (the Museum).

Approximately 300 gallons of fuel oil was released to the floor of the maintenance room of the Museum. The majority of fuel oil traveled through a four-inch diameter floor drain located approximately five feet away from the point of release, and was subsequently discharged to the municipal sewer system. Fuel oil and effluent were pumped from the Sea Street pumping station via a rubber lined 16" force main to the Surfside wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). WWTP records indicate that on the day of the release, approximately 600,000 gallons of effluent was pumped from the Sea Street pump station. Notified of the release, WWTP employees limited potential impacts associated with the fuel oil through several steps, including the removal of greasy solids and limiting the effluent discharge to only one of the WWTP's 15 disposal beds.

To evaluate risk associated with the released fuel oil, HW staff conducted a field investigation of the release site at the Museum, Sea Street pumping station, and Surfside WWTP. Field sampling activities conducted at the Surfside WWTP identified a small area of soil in one disposal bed where fuel oil associated contaminants were above allowable concentrations. In response, HW directed an environmental contractor in removing approximately two tons of fuel oil impacted soil. Additional response activities included the removal of approximately 10 tons of oily liquids, grease, and scum from the Surfside WWTP. The IRAs were successful in reducing all concentrations to below laboratory reporting limits, and below DEP standards.

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