

Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Petroleum Harbour

**Location**

Petroleum Harbour Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Client

North Holland Department of the Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management (Rijkswaterstaat)

Contracter

Boskalis Dolman bv

Equipment

2 Backhoes fitted with the environmental horizontal grab

Totals

165.000 m³ sediment

The Amsterdam Petroleum Harbour has been used for the storage and transshipment of oil products since it was built in 1887. The frequency of the operations and the lack of controls on the discharge of wastewater into the harbour over the years have resulted in pollution. In May 1940, at the start of the Second World War, a large part of the strategic supplies of oil products was set on fire and large storage tanks were destroyed. As a result, millions of litres of oil and related products were spilled into the harbour.

In 2004, the clean-up of the harbour began under a contract with the North Holland Department of the Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management (Rijkswaterstaat). The specifications drawn up for this work (NHK74045 Cleaning Up the Bottom of the Petroleum Harbour) distinguished between the cleaning up of the slopes and the cleaning up of the flat harbour bottom. The sandy sediment was treated in the sedimentation basins at the Werkhaven Harbour next to Averijhaven Depot. The thickness of the layer to be removed varied between approx. 30 cm and 3 m. The most seriously polluted material - which came from the north-eastern section of the harbour (the 'hotspot plus' material) - was transported by the consortium to 't Oost Depot in Den Helder. After this material - which had pollution levels of up to 200 grams of oil per kilogram of dry matter - had been dried and ripened, it was taken to a thermal cleaner for further treatment.



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