

Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Westergasfabriek

**Location**

Westergasfabriek Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Client

City authorities of Amsterdam

Contractor

Boskalis bv, Boskalis Dolman bv

Equipment

extreme health and safety standards (worksite and surroundings)

tents completed with air venting and treatment systems

Totals

1,800 m³ highly contaminated sludge

The Westergasfabriek was built in 1883 by a British company, the Imperial Continental Gas Association. At the time, it was the largest coal-fired gas factory in Amsterdam. In the 1990s, the city authorities of Amsterdam decided to redevelop the site and to convert the existing buildings into, among other things, a concert hall and a theatre. A town park was planned for the surrounding area, with ponds, bridges and a large festival location. However, there was one obstacle to the ambitious development plan: the former factory site was contaminated, severely in some places, and a clean-up operation was necessary.

The job was awarded to Boskalis bv in October 2000. The smell of the naphthalene, benzene and toluene was so serious that the complete removal of the layer of sludge ultimately proved to be the only possible option. Because the gasometers were located less than 50 m away from houses and because of the presence of a number of trees with ecological value, a separate project plan was written for this part of the work. Boskalis Dolman bv was called in for the development and implementation of the plan. The dredged material was stored in the second gasometer, which was enclosed in a special tent fitted out with a ventilation and air conditioning system. A spray system was used to minimize odor problems during dredging in the first holder and a sludge separation plant was used to clean the rinsing water. The work complied with the strictest Dutch safety standards for soil remediation work. The extensive safety measures and monitoring made it possible to complete the work successfully and without incidents.



Boskalis Dolman bv