Honor Award: Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure

Amec Foster Wheeler Environment and Infrastructure, Inc. is the third recipient of an Honor Award for its successful design and implementation of a remedy to legacy environmental impacts associated with the former Portland Gas Works manufactured gas plant site located adjacent to the Fore River in Portland, Maine. The remedial objective negotiated under the Maine Department of Environmental Protection Voluntary Response Action Program was to eliminate sheen along the Fore River intertidal zone caused by sediments impacted by purifier box wastes and coal tar distillates. The project required a combination of remedies be implemented under the operational constraints inherent to shoreline sediment removal in a busy marine port, including a passive containment system that combined a 250 foot long barrier wall, a secondary AquaBlok® vertical barrier, and AquaBlok® cap to prevent migration of coal tar to the river; excavation of contaminated soil and sediment behind an engineered turbidity/fish exclusion barrier; and restoration of the riverbank. Impacted soil and sediment was excavated, transported off-site, and recycled for beneficial reuse as road base material rather than occupying valuable space in a landfill.

Fore River Seep Remediation
Portland, Maine

Amec Foster Wheeler provided investigation, engineering, and construction management services for remediation of the shoreline parcel at the Former Portland Gas Works site located adjacent to the Fore River in Portland, Maine. The dense oil-like-material containment system eliminates sheen caused by discharge (seepage) of coal tar along the intertidal zone.

Key Remedy Features:
- Turbidity/fish exclusion barrier capable of withstanding severe tidal fluctuations (>10 vertical feet) and high-velocity short duration forces generated by tanker traffic.
- Excavation and recycling of impacted soil and sediment for beneficial reuse.

Key Project Benefits:
- Safeguards life, health, property, and welfare of the public and the environment.
- Minimizes constraints to future redevelopment.
- No active systems are required which improves sustainability and eliminates costly long-term O&M.