ABANDONED OIL FIELD REMEDIATION IN CENTRAL MICHIGAN

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Abandoned oil fields are present in half of the states in the United States. Parsons is currently restoring two such oil fields, comprised of 16,000 acres of mostly rural and wooded property in central Michigan. More than 600 abandoned oil wells, tanks batteries, and spill areas are being remediated and the land restored to near original condition. Parsons operates a nine acre landfarm to remediate up to 120,000 cubic yards of crude oil impacted soil each year, using the recycled soil for backfill for subsequent excavations. A salt water disposal well is used to dispose of leachate generated during bioremediation process. An on-site, laboratory-grade gas-chromatograph is used to verify remediation is complete and expedite remediation of each site. The total per yard cost for remediation, including all management, engineering, construction, laboratory, operation and maintenance, and reporting costs is less than $80, saving at least $15 per yard over conventional excavation and landfill disposal. This paper will discuss the details of the process used in Michigan and how similar processes can be established to address oil field restoration nationwide.

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