



Decontamination & Decommissioning

Client

United States Air Force

Location

North Pacific Ocean, USA Territory

Johnston Atoll Restoration

Project Description

CH2M HILL was the prime contractor responsible for the decommissioning and demolition of 250 buildings as part of the closure of Johnston Atoll, four small remote islands located 800 miles southwest of Hawaii. Nearly six decades of testing, storage and incineration of weapons had left significant environmental contamination on Johnston Atoll. CH2M HILL was tasked with returning the atoll to its previous state as a wildlife refuge, while performing all work in a manner that did not disturb the active seabird colonies.

Our project team was completely self sufficient on site, with facilities and equipment for operations-communications, medical, water, food, lodging, wastewater, fuel, port facilities, recreation, and airfield operations to support closure activities and 200 personnel executing the multiple scopes of work. Support services included operation and maintenance of three reverse osmosis plants that produced over 20 million gallons of water that met or exceeded all federal water quality requirements; and operation and maintenance of the island's sewage treatment plant, eight lift stations, and piping system in accordance with all Federal regulations, successfully treating over 1.5 million gallons of waste.

D&D activities required asbestos abatement and lead-based paint abatement. Environmental restoration activities included remediation of soil contaminated with dioxin remaining from the decomposition of Herbicide Orange, polychlorinated biphenols (PCBs) and fuel. Other accomplishments included:

- Completion of the largest successful low-temperature thermal desorption of dioxin contaminated soils
- Demolition of 235 buildings and facilities (1.1 million square feet), resulting in over 6,000 tons of metal for recycling
- Decommissioning 135 facilities (8.4 million square feet)
- Removal of more than 290,000 square feet of asbestos, lead-based paint and tile made with arsenic
- Planting of more than 160,000 indigenous plants to revegetate the island