TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION CONTRACTS

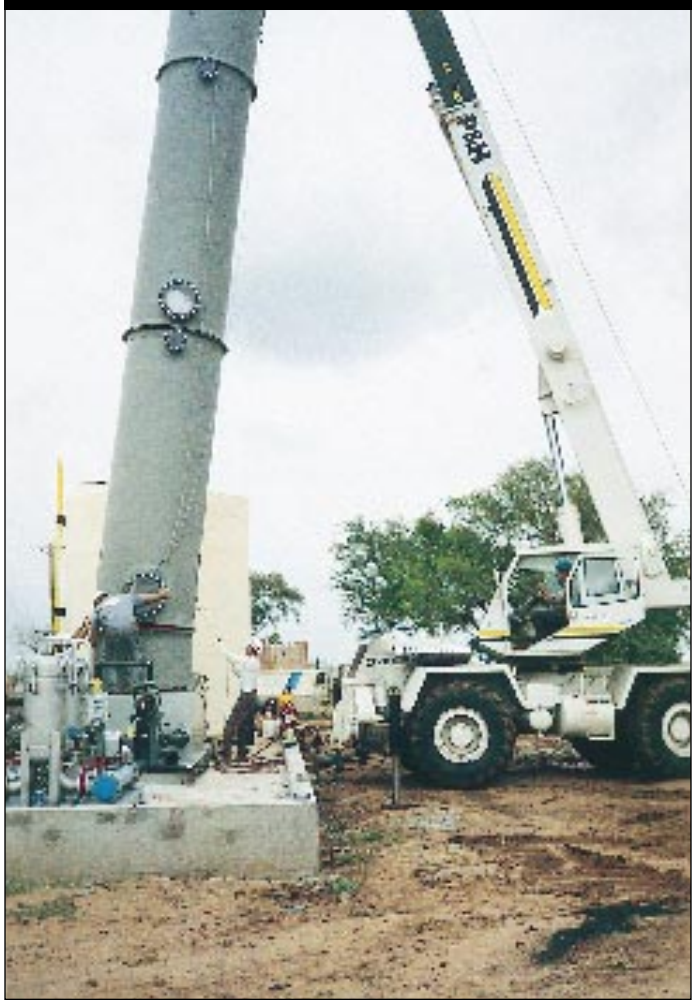
A SUCCESS STORY

Reese Air Force Base

Reese AFB, ten miles west of Lubbock, Texas, is located over the Ogallala Aquifer. Currently 120 feet below the surface, the Ogallala is the sole source of drinking water for this west Texas region and a major source of water for crop irrigation. Chlorinated solvents, primarily trichloroethylene, have migrated into the Ogallala from two locations on the base. The most extensive groundwater contamination is a two-mile plume originating at the flight line; the second plume emanates from a landfill.

To correct the situation, a TERC delivery order was awarded on 23 February 1995 for the design of an interim remedial treatment system. The design included two groundwater treatment plants (120 gpm and 480 gpm) located on base property and a piping network extending across several private properties. The piping system connects groundwater collection wells and injection wells both on and off the base.

TERC WORKS



Air-stripping tower being erected.

The regulatory agencies approved an interim remedial plan in March 1995 and placed a 29 September 1995 deadline for start-up of the groundwater treatment and re-injection systems at both sites. With the system design completed in April 1995, a modification to the task order for the system

$2.2 million system designed and built in one year.

construction was awarded on 6 June 1995.

Construction began shortly thereafter and, with the exception of the piping network on the private properties, was completed before the September 1995 regulatory deadline. Off-base piping construction was delayed because of difficulties with obtaining access to private properties. During October and November 1995, the TERC contractor operated and maintained the treatment systems, prepared an O&M manual, and trained installation personnel. Then the contractor demobilized until right-of-entry permits were available to build the off-base system.

Regulatory deadlines met because of TERC flexibility and responsiveness.

The regulators granted base officials a deadline extension until 29 February 1996 to complete the off-base piping. The access permits were acquired in late January, and the TERC contractor remobilized to complete this off-base work before the deadline. Unable to obtain another extension, USACE and the TERC contractor faced a tremendous challenge. The flexibility and responsiveness of the TERC contracting mechanism enabled the contractor to complete and tie the off-base portion into the on-base network and place the entire groundwater treatment system into full operation several days before the deadline.

This $2.2 million project was awarded, designed, built, and placed into operation in just one year. This schedule would not have been possible using the traditional approach of separate fixed-price design and construction contracts. The TERC cost-reimbursement contracting approach saved at least six months, averted delay charges, and avoided fines and penalties by rendering the very short deadline possible for this satisfied Air Force customer.

TULSA DISTRICT

POINT OF CONTACT —

CLIF WARREN

(918) 669-7505