INDUSTRIAL STORAGE TANKS & LINES CLEANING

ATTAPULGUS, GA

History

BASF's Attapulgus, Georgia manufacturing facility specializes in petroleum cracking catalysts — specialized chemical catalysts used by petroleum refineries to help transform crude oil into fuels such as gasoline, jet fuel, diesel, heating oil, and related fuel additives. The site has a long operational history, with operations dating back to 1921, making it one of BASF's longstanding U.S. facilities.

Challenge

Performing tank cleaning operations inside an active manufacturing environment required extensive permitting and a controlled setup to ensure work could be completed safely within the designated work zone. Several tanks had limited access, requiring scaffolding for safe reach and positioning, while additional tank modifications were necessary to create entry points for interior cleaning.

Solution

Hull's Environmental Services deployed an experienced crew to complete full-scope tank and containment-area cleaning, using a structured approach focused on safety, access, and efficient waste recovery. The work included 3500 psi, 175 degree water cleaning supported by vacuum recovery operations to remove mineral oil and solidified clay material from tank interiors and surrounding containment features, including trenches and floor surfaces. Confined space entry procedures were implemented where required, including safe access modifications and continuous air monitoring to maintain compliance and protect personnel. The most challenging portion of the project involved removing hardened material from beneath grating systems in tight, restricted work areas, which required manual breakup and controlled vacuum collection. Throughout execution, the work zone was clearly established and maintained, with PPE and engineering controls applied to support safe operations and uninterrupted progress.

Outcome

The team completed cleaning of more than 35 aboveground storage tanks and 5,000 square feet of flooring in total addressing approximately 45,000 square feet of impacted surface area. The project included recovery and disposal of 38,000 gallons of rinseate liquids and 134 tons of solids, transported off-site in full compliance with site and regulatory requirements.

Key Resources

Six-man crew, liquid vacuum truck, industrial loader vacuum truck, hot-water pressure cleaning unit, crew vehicles, four-gas meter, PPE, roll-off truck, vacuum boxes.

Customer Profile

Chemical Producer

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