Sadat Associates, Inc.

Project History

Expert Assistance

Project Name

Document Review and Expert Testimony

Client

Joint Defense Group

Services Provided

- Review of regulations and literature regarding waste management practices
- Review of cost claims
- Groundwater modeling
- Review of relevant correspondence and other site related documents as well as the deposition testimony of witnesses

Project Description

SAI provided expert services in defense of a group of insurance companies involved in a coverage suit regarding claims for the environmental cleanup of contamination at a former manufacturing facility located in Joplin, Missouri.

Approach

SAI reviewed Missouri regulations and literature regarding waste management practices before and during the relevant time of operation of the Site and concluded that the contamination resulted from improper historic on-site waste disposal practices by the facility. SAI concluded that the record demonstrated that discharges of oil, chlorinated solvents and other known pollutants at the facility were continuous, gradual, and deliberate.

SAI also evaluated the appropriateness of the cost claims for the Site. Our analysis uncovered costs totaling over \$6.6 million which had been inaccurately or improperly included in the cost claim.

These costs included items such as normal business-related expenses, costs for other sites also owned by the manufacturing facility but located in other states, as well as costs for which there was no or insufficient supporting documentation.

In addition, SAI evaluated the appropriateness of the operation by the facility's expensive groundwater treatment plant, working at only one-quarter capacity over a 10-year period. Using a sophisticated groundwater model, SAI concluded that the failure to operate the plant as de-signed had resulted in a high level of remaining contamination. Had the plant been operated as designed, groundwater cleanup would have been near completion today. Therefore, SAI concluded that the additional \$20 million that the facility was claiming would be necessary for future remediation costs were inappropriate. SAI's expert testimony regarding regulation, cost claims, and groundwater treatment was key to successful negotiations of a favorable settlement agreement.



