

Project Profile

environmental hazard remediation

Sidwell has provided photogrammetric services to government agencies and engineering firms involved in the assessment and cleanup of contaminated sites in the Midwest. One such site, which is listed on the Superfund National Priorities List, is located in nearby West Chicago.



The planning and monitoring of such remediation requires accurate tools. Sidwell has executed numerous aerial surveys of the site for this purpose. Photographic enlargements and digital orthophotography has been prepared as planning tools and detailed contour mapping has been produced to aid in the evaluation of material volumes and site management.

Services

- Aerial photo acquisition
- Ground Control Survey
- Topographic feature extraction
- Planimetric feature extraction
 - Contour line generation from DTM
- Digital files in MicroStation and AutoCad formats
- Scaled hardcopy plots
- Aerial enlargements
- Digital orthophotography

The City was host to the former Lindsay Light & Chemical Company factory that operated from 1931 to 1973. The facility extracted radioactive Thorium from monazite and other ores to produce Gaslight Mantles and other products. The resulting Thorium mill tailings were used as land fill over the years and has been determined to be the source of contamination of local residences, businesses, a local park and forest preserve. This created a widespread hazard that needed identification, management and remediation.

After many years of debate, cleanup began in 1994 at the facility and the surrounding area. Since then, more than 650 contaminated properties have been identified. The designated parcels were excavated and the material was moved back to the factory site.

