

Substation Remediation and Retirement

GEORGIA POWER
Multiple Locations



When Georgia Power Company retires and/or sells a former substation site, SBX performs the necessary soil sampling and any subsequent demolition and remediation for the site. Many of these sites have often been out-of-service for many years and require extensive clearing to access the site while others have been recently retired. The sites can range from small sites (less than 5000 sf) to very large facilities which covering half a city block. Often the concrete equipment support pads are the only remaining evidence that a substation once existed.

Historically the oil used in the electrical equipment for cooling and insulation contained polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) which is a regulated substance by EPA. Spills occur which release the oil into the ground and may require excavation and removal depending on sampling results.



Georgia Power has developed a detailed sampling protocol for use at their facilities based on the area of the former substation. The site is divided into grids with samples collected from each grid.

In addition to the sampling grids, the fence lines are sampled at intervals to determine any impacts. The soil surrounding the concrete equipment pads where transformers, circuit breakers and other oil containing equipment were located is sampled on all four sides. Even the concrete equipment pads themselves are sampled to determine if any PCB spills have occurred. In addition, SBX performs an assessment for arsenic as it is a potential concern from past vegetation control practices.



SBX prepares reports detailing the sampling work and results along with recommendations for any remediation work that is required at the site. SBX has worked in excess of 100 sites for Georgia Power in the past four years.

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SBX also provides the demolition and excavation services for those sites where analytical results exceed the allowable levels. SBX provides all the labor, material and equipment needed to complete the remediation effort.

SBX, in conjunction with Georgia Power, has a “green” directive when remediating these former substation sites. Any materials that are not impacted by PCBs (i.e., concrete equipment pads or foundations and metal fencing or structural supports) are taken to a local facility to be recycled.



Excavation quantities typically range from a few hundred to a few thousand tons of impacted soil and concrete and are transported to a licensed landfill facility. After the impacted soil areas are excavated, a specific sampling grid is measured out and confirmation soil samples are collected and analyzed. When analytical results are below acceptable levels, SBX imports acceptable fill material to backfill the excavated areas. The sites are seeded and fertilized to control erosion.

SBX has completed a significant number of former substation closures for Georgia Power with zero accidents, zero near misses and no safety incidents. Each site has been completed within the assigned time schedule and within the original budget.

