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When Cleanup is Rocket Science

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Abstract:

In Florida, not far from the grand stage upon which was launched America's first voyage to the stars, rests the Launch Equipment Shop (LES), located within the vehicle assembly building area at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. The LES used fuel oil for various mission critical purposes and required an underground storage tank (UST) for the convenient dispensing of adequate fuel quantities. As with most if not all USTs, leaks are not uncommon and can result in significant contamination of soil and/or groundwater. A leak occurred at the LES UST prompting its decommissioning and removal. At the time of the tank's removal, only a limited volume of contaminated soil removal was permitted due to the presence of a significant number of sensitive subsurface utilities in the area. As a result, highly impacted soil and groundwater remained.

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