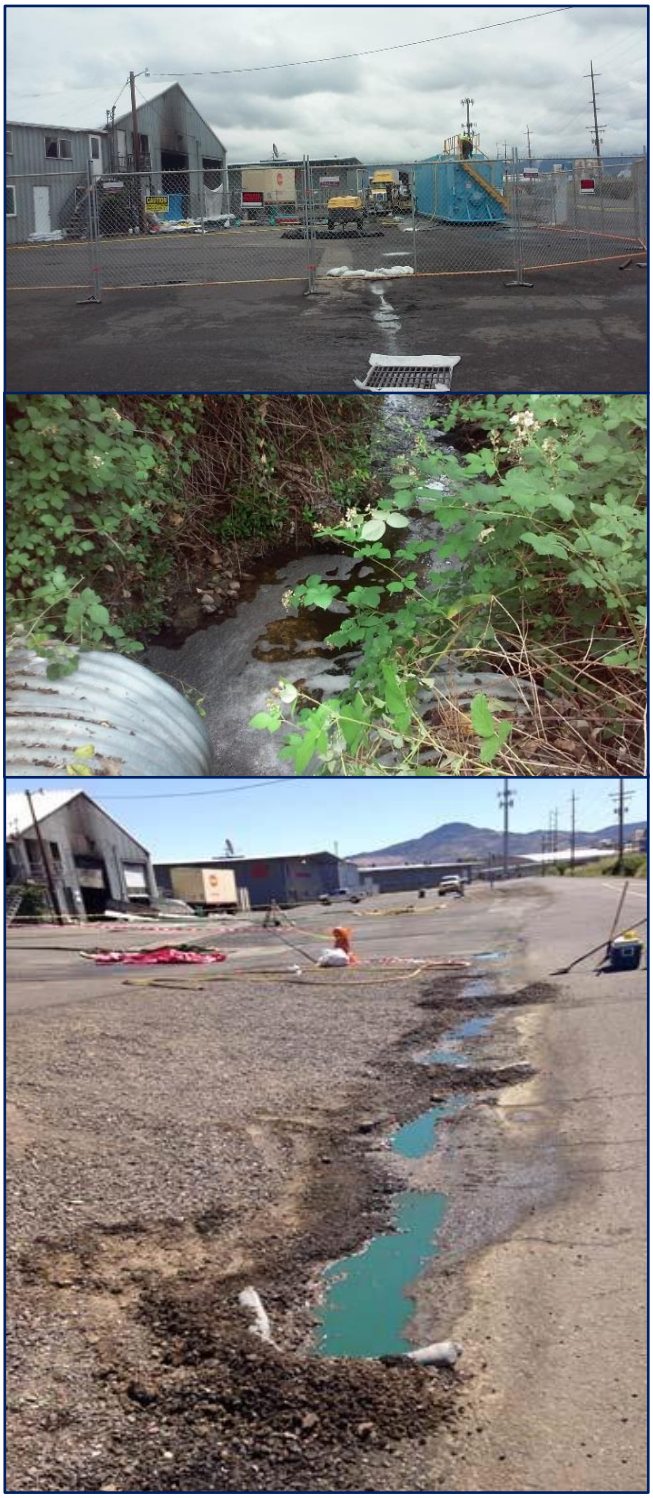
Emergency Chemical Spill Response

Chemical Supply Warehouse, Medford, Oregon



sampling and construction ***oversight***
environmental data *collection/management*
remedial response ***strategy***
agency ***negotiation***
hazardous ***waste management***

In 2016, Terraphase was contracted by First Strike Environmental (FSE), on behalf of a confidential client and Liberty Insurance, to provide technical support related to remedial response actions to address chemical releases following a warehouse fire in Medford, Oregon. The warehouse stored over 100 different pesticide, herbicide and fungicide products, as well as fertilizers. Water from the fire suppression efforts washed agricultural chemicals into the stormwater system which conveyed chemicals to nearby waterways.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), acting as On-Scene Coordinator for the spill response, directed FSE and Liberty Insurance to engage an Oregon Registered Geologist to guide and oversee the monitoring and cleanup activities.

Terraphase staff initially responded to collect baseline samples at the site and from downstream receiving water bodies, Elk Creek and Bear Creek. Terraphase also reviewed the product inventory, MSDS sheets, and researched the environmental fate and risk data for active ingredients to develop an analytical program focused on key chemicals of interest. Over the next three months, as remediation progressed, and the monitoring program was scaled back from every other day sample collection at several impacted water collection stations to a weekly frequency, downstream sample locations were finally reduced and eliminated. Terraphase compiled data and produced tables, figures, and time-series plots with recommendations for a course of action for DEQ and other parties.

DEQ accepted Terraphase's decision logic to support the reduction in costly monitoring, our framework for cessation of active remediation, and our "no-longer-contained-in" report to allow the otherwise listed RCRA hazardous remediation wastes to be managed as non-hazardous waste, saving the responsible parties approximately $500,000.

terraphase engineering

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