

Waste is a Terrible Thing To Mind ...

SCE Environmental Group, Inc. Jersey City, NJ Uniondale, NY Smithton,

ake Ariel, PA Fairmont, WV

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# Preserving History. Historic Landmark Re-purposed.

For several years, SCE has been involved in sporadic interior demolition efforts at the former Scranton Lace Building in Scranton, PA.

From 1916 to 2002 Scranton Lace became the premier producer of lace in the United States. During its heyday, the company was the world leader in Nottingham lace and also produced tablecloths, napkins, valances, and shower curtains, among many other types of lace items.

During the 1940s, the company manufactured parachutes and camouflage netting as part of the war effort and played a role in the little known "Ghost Army" of the Allied Forces. Scranton Lace prospered well into the 1950s, but a steady decline led to its closure in 2002.

In the third quarter of 2018,

additional demolition contractors joined SCE in the razing of major portions of the historic landmark to make way for a multi-function development featuring nearly 100 residential units, artisan shops, and other retail facilities. The project, known as "Laceworks Village", is valued at more than \$50 Million and has the support of state and local grants.

Scranton Lace was an enormous complex that once employed 1,400 people and boasted its own gym, barbershop, theater, four lane bowling alley, and an infirmary for its employees. While much of the former facility can no longer be economically re-purposed, the developer of the site plans to incorporate some of the iconic structures, including the locally infamous landmark clock tower, into the new facility.

(Continued on page 2)

#### Scranton Lace (Continued from page 1)

The Scranton Lace Building played an interesting role in the "Ghost Army", an 1,100 man tactical deception unit of the Allied Army during World War II. Kept secret for more than 40 years after the war, the Ghost Army was tasked with a unique mission: to impersonate other Allied Army units to deceive the enemy. Their "weapons" included inflatable tanks, sound trucks, and disinformation broadcast through radio transmissions. Scranton Lace played a role in the manufacture of the inflatable tanks that were crucial to the unit's success.



An inflatable tank manufactured at Scranton Lace during WWII.



The iconic clock tower and smokestacks of the factory shall be incorporated into the new Laceworks Village.

# Did you know ...

SCE is engaged in a number of emergency response contracts with various private, governmental, and utility clients that require response times of only a few hours within a circumference of 150 miles. The drive time alone consumes the lion's share of the time allotment.



To be prepared, the company maintains several dedicated Emergency Response Units that remains iso-

lated from standard day-to-day operations and are used only for these time-sensitive events. Ready to go on a moment's notice, the units are stocked with a complement of drums, pumps, tools and materials to address the situations and challenges anticipated by our Clients.

# **Commercial Site Operation Continues.**

SCE Prepares for next significant phase.

During the third quarter, SCE crews began mobilization on the latest phase of a multi-year site redevelopment that included the demolition of a 1,000,000 square foot former picture tube manufacturing facility in Pittston, PA.

With removal of all structures completed, the latest phase of the project features a multi-million dollar preparation of the site for a client-confidential commercial structure. Pre-

liminary mobilization of equipment, materials, erosion and sedimentation controls, and other preparatory efforts are underway.

In the fourth quarter of 2018, site elevations will be altered to accommodate building pad designs. In addition, an extensive storm sewer collection system featuring multiple storm inlets, manholes, piping, and basin spillways, will be in-





stalled along with a sanitary system of piping, associated manholes and laterals. Subject to weather, this phase of the project is scheduled for completion in March of 2019.



#### Looking Back ...

SCE's Pittston project is a multi-year effort. In 2015, the demolition phase of the project was awarded a Safety Award by Engineering News-Record Magazine as part of its "Best Projects" contest that year. The ENR Best Projects contest is an annual juried competition featuring entries from across the country and across the construction industry.

As a result of exceptional safety procedures, after more than 35,000 crew hours, and a grueling winter, the project had zero OSHA recordable incidents.

# In Belleville, NJ, SCE's Core Focus Continues.

Value Engineering is a lasting tradition.

Each Quarter, SCE's senior management team gathers to work on the business. A consistent element at each quarterly meeting is to review our core focus: to provide a safer, cleaner environment for future generations. Our market niche has always been to provide customized solutions to our clients' complex land use problems. Value Engineering has always played a key role in the mission.

SCE delivers value engineering solutions that not only preserve the environment but also deliver a big boost to our clients' bottom line. "Our expertise is one of our most valued assets," cites company CEO, Jody Cordaro, "Our senior people in project management, engineering, and estimating collectively represent decades of experience in the very specialized area of environmental remediation. We take great pride in delivering that experience to our clients every day."



In Belleville, NJ, SCE was retained to remove underground storage tanks in very tight quarters. Upon excavating the area, however, it was apparent that the tanks, partially located under an industrial building, could not be removed without the significant expense of shoring the building.

Working with the client, SCE's team pursued a different course. The volatile materials inside the tanks were carefully removed and placed in frack holding



tanks as a staging area prior to ultimate disposal. The tanks were then filled with state-approved materials and the site was restored. SCE crews worked in extremely close quarters and in the midst of a summer heat wave in completing this contract.

In Port Jervis, NY, SCE value engineering saved our client over \$300,000. During the installation of a slurry wall, SCE crews encountered unexpected large cobbles at 20' below ground surface. The traditional solution would have been to over-excavate the area and remove the cobbles. SCE's solution was somewhat more novel. Within 48 hours, SCE had produced a GPS monitored eight foot ripper tooth. The multi-ton unit was mounted to a long reach excavator and ripped the cobble into manageable material with no over-excavating to allow the barrier wall to be installed to depth.





On Parris Island, SC, SCE was retained to remove soil and sediment. Faced with migration of tidal waters into the excavation areas, SCE value engineered a temporary tidal dam consisting of CY sandbag blocks, an impermeable liner, sediment filtration and water pumps. The sand from the sandbag blocks would later be incorporated as backfill on the site. Compared with traditional shoring or sheet piling, the tidal dam saved the client in excess of \$427,000.



In Columbia, SC, SCE was involved in the final closure of a 10 acre, 80 year old landfill. As part of the process, crews installed over 13,000 linear feet of leachate piping. Traditional fusion welding of these pipes would have been time consuming and would have exposed crews to extensive hazardous waste on the decades-old landfill. SCE proposed a better solution: a track mounted "Fast Fusion" machine that dramatically increased the number of fusion welds per hour. The system was installed in a fraction of anticipated time and both project costs and crew safety were better served.



In Columbus, OH, SCE value engineering delivered over \$1 Million in savings. As part of the closure of a RCRA Solid Waste Management Unit, SCE had to dispose of nearly 9,000 tons of lead-contaminated waste. After extensive analysis of disposal options, the best alternative was to stabilize the lead on site and then dispose of it as non-hazardous material. All soils were stabilized and none exceeded hazardous lead thresholds after treatment.

In Jenkins Township, PA, SCE encountered over 7,000 tons of radiological material in the demolition of a former television picture

tube manufacturing plant. SCE developed a cost saving strategy for the segregation of brick utilizing Geiger meters and on-site sampling. The procedure saved our client in excess of \$600,000.

### SCE Experience in Sparging Systems Continues.

NJ Gas Station is latest.

In 2018, SCE crews completed the latest in a long string of biosparge remediation system installs. Biosparging is an in-situ remediation technology used to reduce concentrations of petroleum products that are dissolved in ground water and the surrounding soil. At the heart of the technology is a system of pipes used to introduce oxygen and nutrients to the contaminated area in an effort to increase microorganism biodegradation of the petroleum constituents.

At a retail petroleum service station in Delran, New Jersey, SCE crews installed a biosparge system composed of over two hundred fifty feet of system trenches and biosparge equipment placed on a concrete pad. Because the site was an operative gasoline service station, safety dictated



concrete pad; and a system in Ft. Montgomery, NY calling for the installation of an SVE/ AS system with 26 wells, 450' of trench, all equipment and concrete pad.

Similarly, SCE was retained to remediate 2,500 cubic yards of soil impacted with Trichloroethylene (TCE), Perchloroethylene (PCE), and Dichloroethylene (DCE). This Superfund Site, located in Milford, New Hampshire, posed the additional challenge of a short performance window and substantial liquidated damages in the underlying Pay-for-performance contract.



careful traffic and pedestrian control and the utmost in safety practices. All SCE personnel carried OSHA 40 HAZWOPER training as well as certification in the Loss Prevention System (LPS) of behavior based safety.

> SCE's SVE/AS installations at other retail gasoline service stations include: a system in Rego Park, NY calling for the installation of an SVE/ AS system with 9 wells, 350' of trench, all equipment and concrete pad; a system in Queens, NY calling for the installation of an SVE/AS system with 8 air sparge wells, 8 SVE wells, and 250' of trench; a system in Manhattan, NY calling for the installation of an SVE/AS system with 10 wells, 300' of trench, all equipment and



#### Ft. Hamilton Renovations Continue.

A Major addition to Scope of Work Extends Project through 2019.

At the close of the third quarter, SCE completed a contract to perform extensive rehab to the exterior of the Military housing at Fort Hamilton. Originally completed in 1831, the Fort was built as a coastal defense in response to British attacks on Washington during the War of 1812. The Fort remains the last active duty military post in New York City, and is the home of the Army Corps of Engineers, the 1179th Transportation Brigade, the 722nd Aeronautical Staging Squadron, as well as the Army Reserve and the New York National Guard.



Proximity to salty sea air had destroyed the exterior siding, HVAC units, stairways, soffits, downspouts, trim, columns, and exterior lighting. SCE crews removed impacted materials from all affected areas and installed new replacement materials. The contract required the substantial replacement of all exterior surfaces of the building. Over 15,000 square feet of vinyl siding was replaced with far more durable cement board. In addition, ninety six door and window openings were inspected and wrapped, and 42 new sets of shutters installed. Four metal stair assemblies, twelve metal doors, and seven metal door frames were replaced. Further, all soffits and downspouts were repaired or replaced, and twenty columns were freshly painted. Finally, an ancillary storage building underwent asbestos abatement and subsequent demolition.

As work drew to a close on this scope of work of the original contract, SCE was advised that it would be involved in future phases of the project that call for similar remediation, repair and replacement of building exteriors at the site. Current projections call for repairs to the exteriors of twelve additional buildings throughout 2019 and into 2020.

## SCE At Port Bayonne, NJ

ACM Project extensive.

At Port Bayonne, NJ, SCE crews performed asbestos abatement work at a factory prior to its demolition.

An enormous boiler, 40' high by 30' wide, required a significant abatement effort. In addition, the entire exterior of the facility was clad in asbestos-containing Transite panels that had to be removed by hand so as to reduce the release of friable asbestos.

SCE crews completed the operation on time, on budget, and with no injuries.



#### Last Thoughts ...





Over the course of the summer, I enjoyed an interesting read about the end of the Chicago Cubs' 108-year World Series drought. In **The Cubs Way**, writer Tom Verducci explores the

management style of Cubs Club President, Theo Epstein, and how it lead to the dramatic Cubs Series victory.

At his former position as General Manager of the Boston Red Sox, Epstein had enjoyed great success in fielding a team of players with exceptional quantifiable skills and stats. That success ended, however, when the character of the team was tested, stressed and fractured. As the Red Sox saw a season slipping away, one player was heard to say, "Why do we want to play in October anyway? We don't get paid for that." When Epstein asked himself who would say such a thing, his answer was simple: a losing player.

When he arrived in Chicago, Epstein changed his emphasis. Scouts were told to collect as much data about the off-field personalities of team prospects as their on-field performance stats. Interviews with parents, guidance counselors, girlfriends, siblings, and others led to scouting reports that went on for pages. The result was to field a team of great character and to bring home a World Series championship.

I found much wisdom in Epstein's philosophy. At SCE we have assimilated a team of people with not only the measurable skills, but also that nebulous quality of character. They are, to use a favorite phrase in our hallways, rock stars. And they bring those essential character traits to work every day as we drive our company to achievements well beyond its relative youth. A year ago, we found a name for that elusive character trait - we call it grit. I am sure it is a label Theo Epstein would understand and approve.

Jody Cordaro, CEO

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