

Case Study

Recycling complex WW II radium waste

The Client

The Environment Agency (EA) is the UK Government's leading public body for protecting and improving the environment in England & Wales. Their job is to ensure that our environment is looked after by everyone in today's society, so that tomorrow's generation inherit a cleaner, healthier world.

The Need

The EA discovered more than 100 World War II Avro Anson aircraft hatches marked with radium luminising paint which were stored in three different locations in North Wales. However, the exact number of hatches and their details were not well defined. The sites also presented several hazards - from organic matter contaminated with radium to falling roof slates.

Recognising the potential radioactive risk the inventory presented, the EA needed to identify the most environmentally-sensitive and cost-effective approach to safely dealing with the hatches.

The Solution

The project solution demanded a flexible approach and a need for innovative and creative thinking as the project progressed.

The hatches were recovered, cut up to separate out the contaminated metal, packaged into drums and shipped to EnergySolutions' Bear Creek for metal melting.

The Benefits

Through EnergySolutions, Safeguard International recycled the vast majority of the radium activity arising from these sites. This unique solution fitted well with the EA's environmental objectives.



The appointment of a dedicated Project Manager ensured that an interface between Safeguard International and other contractors was handled smoothly.

Our international logistics expertise ensured that the shipment met all applicable regulations: giving the EA peace of mind that the job would be done properly.

Client Comments

“The Environment Agency was delighted to see a solution to this awkward wastes inventory. It took some innovative thinking and a good project team work to complete it successfully”.

For further information please contact:

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