

Former Coke and Chemical Facility, Chattanooga, Tennessee

On 24 acres of land once owned the Chattanooga Coke and Chemical Company, produced coke, aromatic solvents, light oils, and coal tar were produced from 1918 to 1987. The coke produced at the company was a highly carbonated fuel, with few impurities, used to make metals in iron ore smelting. Coke was also produced to be used as fuel in stoves. After over a decade of negotiations, the Chattanooga Coke and Chemical facility has undergone remediation conducted by the Responsible Party, Mead Westvaco, under oversight of the Division of Remediation (DOR).

Removal of contaminated soils began in January of 2013, where the coal tar source areas were removed by June of 2013. A total of 23,904 tons of soils were disposed offsite as special waste. Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon-impacted soil was removed to a minimum depth of two feet. Coal tar saturated soils were removed, where conditions permitted, until coal tar was no longer present. The maximum depth of coal tar was excavated up to twelve feet below the ground surface. 1,269,264 gallons of shallow groundwater/contact water was disposed via the Publically Owned Treatment Works (POTW). An additional 700 cubic yards of soil contaminated with benzene was sent off site by rail for incineration in Ohio. Excavations were backfilled with 25,506 cubic yards of imported clean clay fill.

Following remedial actions, LKQ Automotive worked with the DOR through the Division's Voluntary Cleanup Oversight and Assistance Program (VOAP) to redevelop the property in 2013. LKQ covered the entire site with geotextile fabric and approximately eight inches of compacted gravel, which further served to eliminate potential for exposure to any residual contamination. The site is currently an environmentally friendly automotive parts salvage operation that opened in 2014. Vehicles received by LKQ are drained of all fluids upon delivery and recycled approximately three months after arriving at the site, after parts that have been salvaged from the vehicles have been removed for re-use.



The former Chattanooga Coke and Chemical Facility during its redevelopment.



After the redevelopment, the former Chattanooga Coke and Chemical Facility is now an automotive parts salvage facility.