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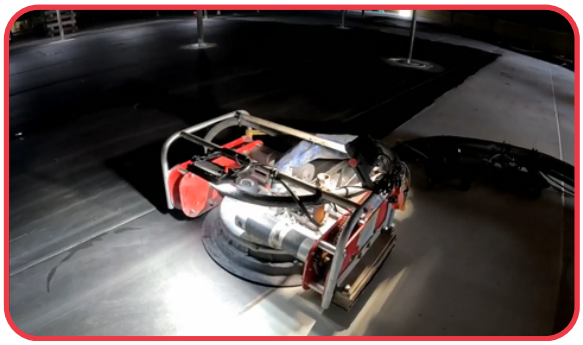
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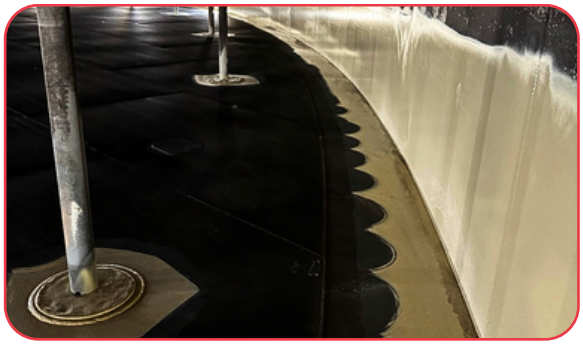
UHP Surface Preparation Case Study:
Recovering the Schedule on a 200-Ft Tank

Introduction

A 200-foot diameter tank required coating removal on the EFR, side shell, and interior floor. The coating contractor assigned to the job had fallen behind schedule, as their conventional approach lacked the flexibility to adapt to weather-related delays, putting the project's timeline at risk. The customer needed a way to recover lost time without compromising on the quality or safety of the work being performed.

AllStream provided a solution by utilizing robotic Ultra High Pressure (UHP) water blasting equipment to remove the coating efficiently while accelerating the job schedule and bringing the project timeline back on schedule.





Challenges

Due to the weather, the area around the dike wall was muddy, preventing the coating contractor's equipment from gaining access to the tank. This prevented them continuing the work, further stalling progress that was already behind schedule. With the ground unable to support their equipment, there was no clear timeline for when conditions would improve enough to resume.

The interior faced a separate challenge tied to their conventional blasting method. Aside from their slower production due to thick, tightly adhered coating, using sand blasting required multiple steps, including blasting, scooping up the spent sand, and blowing down the area before the surface was ready for paint. This multi-step process took time, and with high humidity from recurring rain, exposed steel began flash rusting before the surface could be cleaned and painted. This forced the contractor to redo portions of the work already completed, increasing man hours, confined space risk, and spent media to dispose of.

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Solution / Scope of Work

AllStream mobilized the UHP Stingray robot to remove the epoxy internal liner. Due to the versatility of the equipment, AllStream did not require the same ground access and staging around the dike wall that the previous contractor needed. This allowed the project to move forward regardless of the muddy conditions and eliminated an obstacle that had previously caused delays.

By utilizing Ultra High Pressure water blasting, the traditional multi-step approach from conventional blasting methods was not required. Instead, AllStream streamlined the process by completing surface preparation in a single pass and working simultaneously alongside the coating contractor. Recoating was done immediately following surface preparation, closing the exposure window that had previously caused flash rusting in the humid conditions.

Together, these advantages positioned AllStream to significantly reduce the timeline compared to a conventional approach.

Results

By deploying the UHP Stingray robot, AllStream completed removal of the tank's 31,416 sq ft interior liner in just 7 days, averaging 575 sq ft per hour, recovering the lost schedule.

Phase	AllStream Methods	Conventional Methods
Mobilization	1 Day	3 Days
Production Rate	7 Days (575 sq ft/ hr)	18 Days (1,800 sq ft/ day)
Clean Up	0 Days	4 Days
Demobilization	1 Day	3 Days
Total	9 Days	28 Days

*All conventional method production rates are based on customer-provided information.

This comparison reflects the broader advantage of AllStream's UHP water blasting over conventional abrasive methods on every phase of the job. What could have taken weeks using conventional methods was completed in days, turning schedule recovery from a challenge into a demonstration of what's possible. Raising The Standard for what should be expected during surface preparation.





Case Study Number #1114