# BANKRUPTCY REMEDIATION TRUSTS

# A NEW PRP PARADIGM IN OUR POST-INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY

**An Environmental Consultant's Perspective** 

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Bright ideas. Sustainable change.



# **BANKRUPTCY MILESTONES**

Ramboll assists clients and stakeholders through the various pre-emergence bankruptcy milestones, into post-emergence management.

Plan confirmation and emergence Chapter 11 filing 01 02 03 04 05 06 Commercial debt **DIP** financing Valuation of Claims resolution Post-emergence claims restructuring management **Due diligence Due diligence Due diligence** Site evaluation Financial **Trust management** alternatives **Environmental Liability valuation NRDA claims** Site remediation liability assessment Trust fund **GAAP** compliance Valuation of development Site management liabilities Risk transfer **Negotiation with** DOJ Disclosure statement and SEC **Estimation support** compliance



# WHAT ARE BANKRUPTCY REMEDIATION TRUSTS?

- Entities established by the bankruptcy court to take title to environmentally impaired properties along with negotiated funding
- Functionally sever the contingent liabilities of the environmentally impaired properties with the parent bankrupt company
- Designed to provide a funding source to conduct response actions for its environmentally impaired properties (some funding is better than no funding)





# HOW ARE BANKRUPTCY REMEDIATION TRUSTS MANAGED?



- Department of Justice is the governing authority responsible for the establishment and administration
- Managed by a court-appointed trust trustee
- Beneficiaries are the federal government (ie USEPA) and/or the respective states where the sites are located
- Each has a funded administrative account and a remediation account – typically each site has a separate remediation sub account allowance and budget



# HOW ARE BANKRUPTCY REMEDIATION TRUSTS FUNDED?

- Bankrupt parent company estate
- Rights to insurance policies
- Company stock
- Rights to Rail crossing agreements (ie fiber optic)
- Judgements from lawsuits (ie fraudulent conveyance)
- Proceeds from the sale of remediated trust property
- Reimbursements from state-funded petroleum and ag chemical programs







# **OUR EXPERIENCE**

We have served in the environmental consultant role on 8 LePetomane Family of Bankruptcy Remediation Trust Projects since 2002

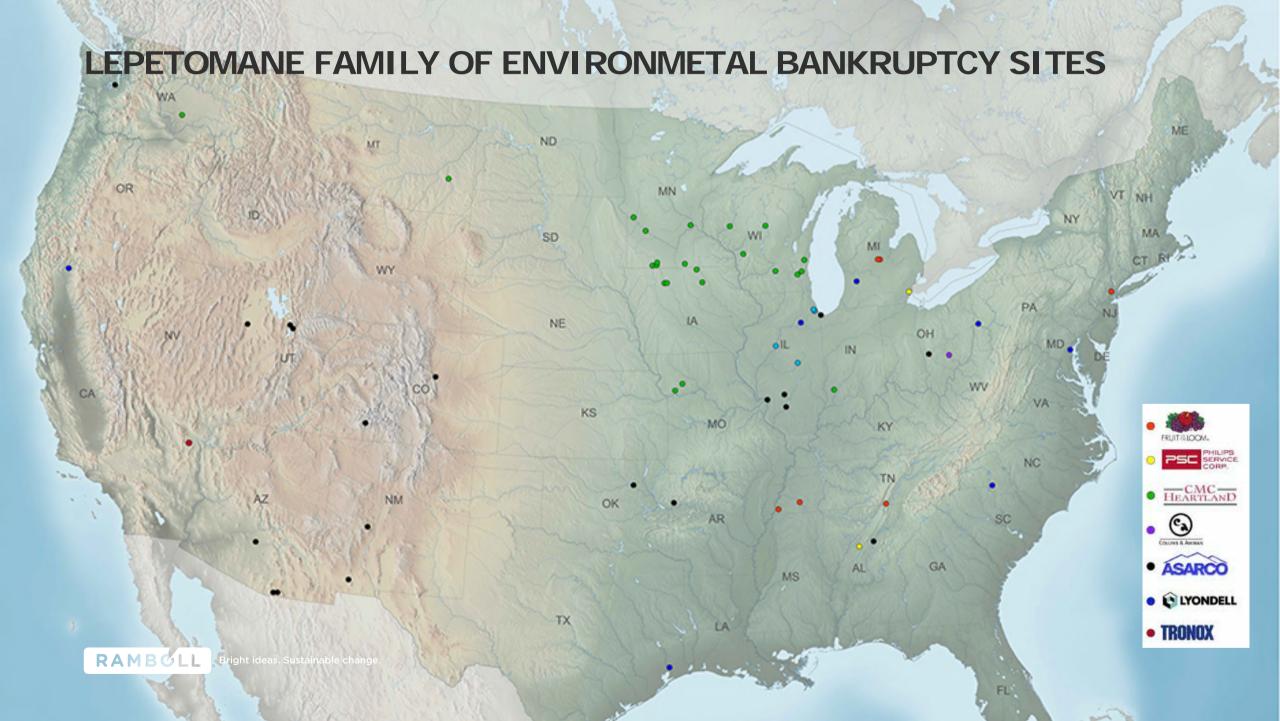
These trusts have included 80+ sites in 9 EPA regions and 25 states

We have had individual site remediation budgets ranging from \$80K to \$1B+

Projects have entailed 2 CERCLA removal actions, 13 CERCLA NPL, 3 RCRA, 1 NRC, 2 NESHAP, 1 TSCA, 20 different State voluntary remediation programs, and 3 litigation cases

Sites have included waste processing, waste disposal, paper mill, paint manufacturing, pesticide manufacturing, mines, mills, smelters and rail siding industrial settings





# SELECT PROJECT EXPERIENCE



# FOL ENVIRONMENTAL BANKRUPTCY TRUST 2002 - PRESENT

#### **CHALLENGES**

8 sites in 4 states in 3 EPA regions

Multiple mega NPL sites

Liabilities in the billions

Limited funding

Varied PRP status

#### WHAT WE DID

Lead environmental contractor

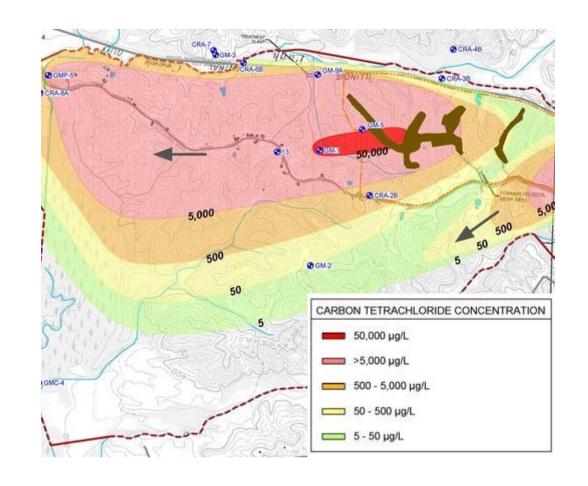
Support environmental contractor

Custodial contractor

Supported insurance policy cost recovery claims/litigation

#### **EFFECT**

Progressed CERLCA response actions at two mega NPL sites with failed remedies; successfully remediated mercury reprocessing and low level rad disposal sites; and two remediated properties sold





# Hardeman County Landfill Site – Toone, TN 2002 – Present

# **CHALLENGES**

Mega complex NPL site

Failed remedies

Dangerous chemicals: Hex - Level B

Rural setting – Past residential harm

Sole PRP

Limited funding

# WHAT WE DID

Site conceptual model update

Documented remedy failure

Conducted RI, FS, risk assessments and pilot studies to support new approach

Serving as landfill cap and SVE Design Engineer of Record

# **EFFECT**

Successfully completed SVE pilot test remediation of a 1-acre buried drum landfill to help Region 4 win National Remedy Review Board buy-in of an SVE remedy for the main 23-acre buried drum landfills with 200,000 drums left in place



# **CHALLENGES**

Mega complex NPL site

Failed remedies

Dangerous chemicals: DDT - Level B

Urban setting - Community distrust

Sole PRP

Limited funding

#### WHAT WE DID

Provided insurance policy cost recovery litigation support

Represented the Trust at periodic community action group meetings

Provided site custodial support

#### **EFFECT**

Supported successful recovery of \$50MM from an AIPG environmental cost cap policy; Trust retains property ownership during fund lead clean-up



# Breckenridge Disposal Site – Breckenridge, MI 2002 – 2012

# **CHALLENGE**

NRC and CERCLA removal site
Buried rad and chemical waste
More waste than anticipated
Fixed funding

# WHAT WE DID

Developed RESRAD model remedial action objectives

Completed Phase I rad waste removal action

Supported Phase II rad and chemical waste removal action

# **EFFECT**

Site successfully remediated via excavation and off-site disposal of both buried rad and chemical waste; NRC issued unrestricted use determination





# CMC HEARTLAND PARTNERS

# 2006 - 2019

#### **CHALLENGE**

56 sites in 7 states and 4 EPA regions

Multiple Trust beneficiaries

Rail siding parcels

Ag chemical and petroleum COCs

Encumbered property deed records

#### WHAT WE DID

Site investigations: 37 Phase I, 29 Phase II and 20 Phase III

Developed imminent and identifiable threat to public health and safety RAOs

Remediated 15 sites

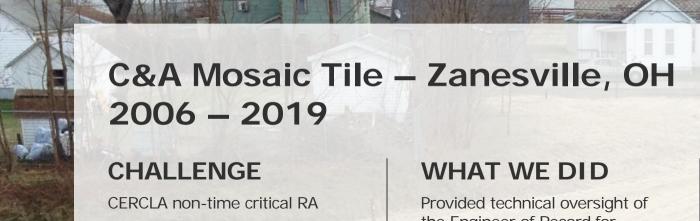
#### **EFFECT**

Documented to the court's satisfaction non ownership of some sites; no unacceptable risks at sites that were or were not remediated









Partially completed capping remedy Sole PRP Limited funding

the Engineer of Record for completion of the site's cap

Conducted 8-year of post remedy landfill maintenance and monitoring

# **EFFECT**

Successfully completed landfill capping remedial action and 8 years of post-closure landfill maintenance and monitoring

Property sale pending



# ASARCO MULTI-STATE TRUST 2009 – PRESENT

#### **CHALLENGE**

17 sites, 11 states, 5 USEPA regions: 5 NPL, 2 RCRA, 2 NESHAP, 1 TSCA

Remote abandoned mine sites

Encumbered property deed records

Varied PRP status

Limited funding

#### WHAT WE DID

Lead environmental contractor

Support environmental contractor

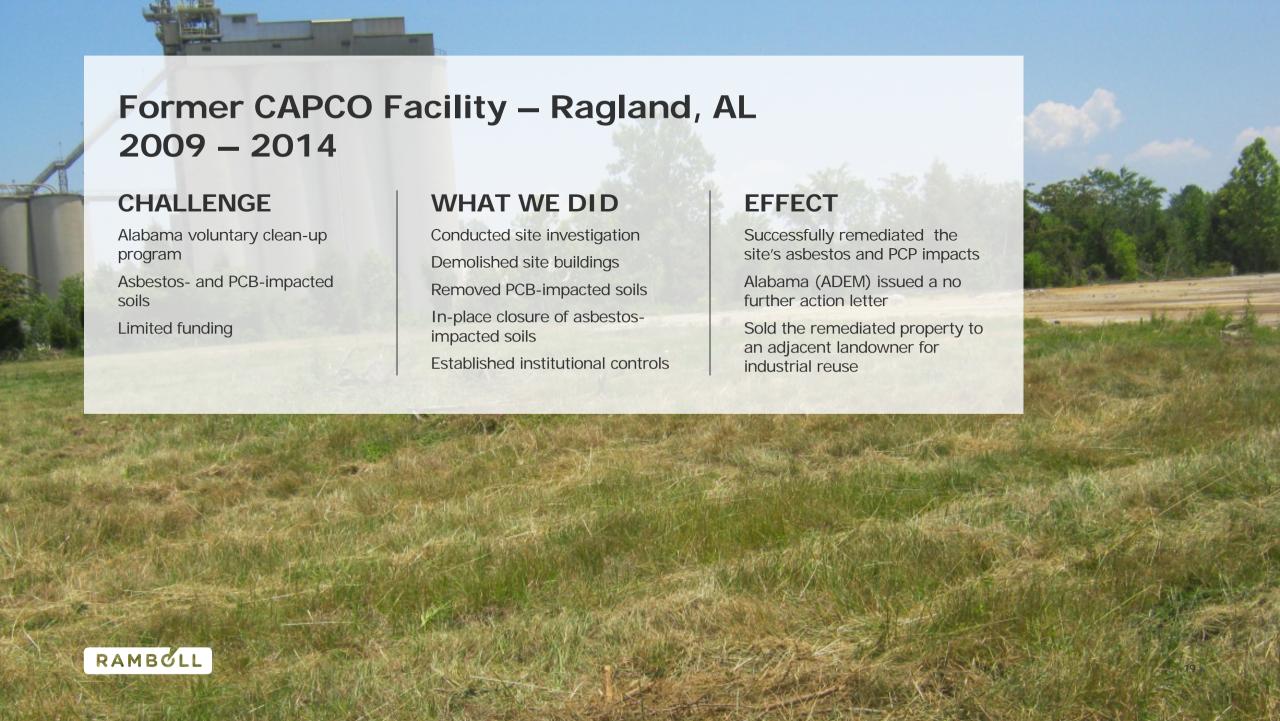
**Custodial contractor** 

#### **EFFECT**

Provided custodial services at 5 sites; progressed CERLCA, RCRA and state response actions at 7 sites; successfully remediated/sold 2 cement asbestos manufacturing, 2 smelter and 1 mill sites









# Former ASARCO Mill Site – Deming, NM 2009 – 2014

# **CHALLENGE**

New Mexico voluntary remediation program

Abandoned mill site

# WHAT WE DID

Conducted a site investigation

Excavation of metals-impacted soils, consolidation under an existing spoils landfill and placement of surface barrier

Established institutional controls

# **EFFECT**

Successfully remediated site

New Mexico issued a no further action letter

The Trust sold the site to an adjacent landowner





# LYONDELL TRUST 2010 - PRESENT

#### **CHALLENGE**

7 sites in 7 states and 5 EPA regions 2 NPL, 1 RCRA and 4 state sites

#### WHAT WE DID

Served as lead environmental contractor Served as support environmental contractor Served as custodial contractor

#### **EFFECT**

Progressed CERLCA, RCRA and state response actions at 6 sites

Sold one material storage site





# Turtle Bayou – Turtle Bayou, TX 2010 – Present

# **CHALLENGE**

Waste chemical disposal NPL site

Long remediation history with multiple technologies

Recalcitrant contamination issues

Limited funding

# WHAT WE DID

Optimization of long-term groundwater monitoring program

Conducted additional plume delineation studies

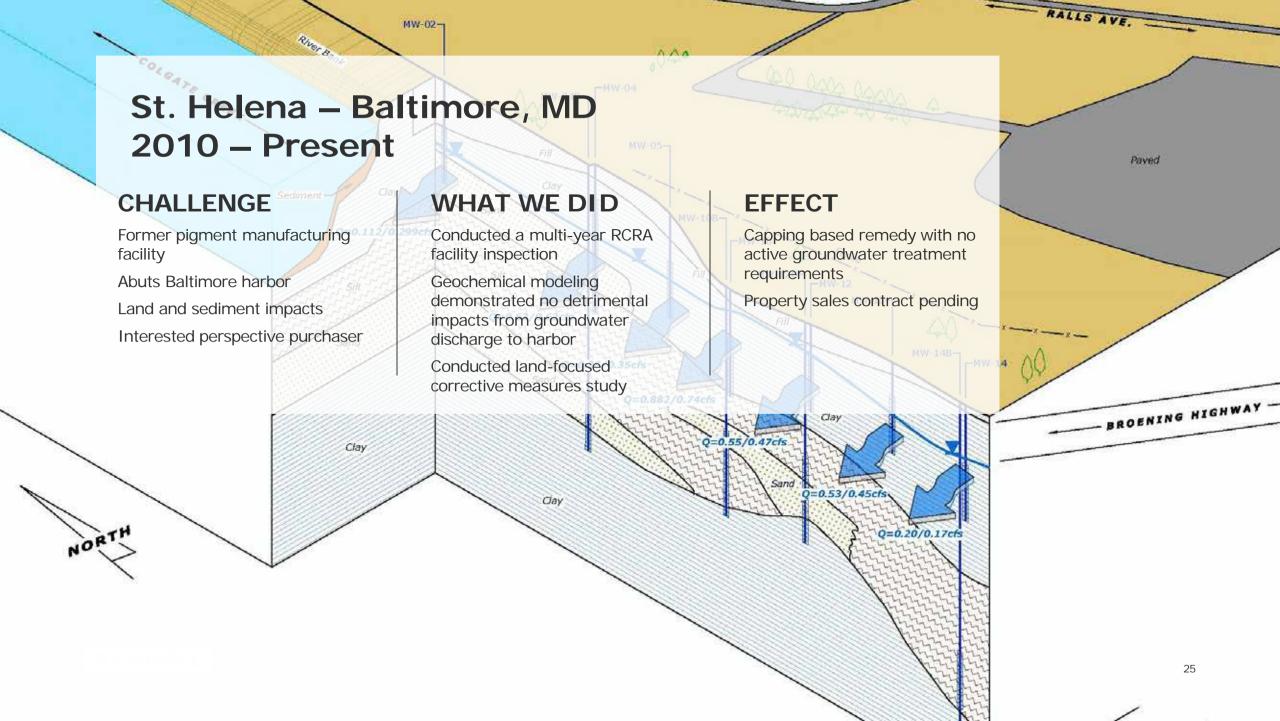
Facilitated technical impracticability waiver

Proposed institutional controls

# **EFFECT**

Optimized long-term groundwater monitoring program to reduce the annual groundwater monitoring costs and thereby increase the life of the Trust





# NERT – Henderson, NV 2011 – Present

# **CHALLENGE**

Former magnesium product and rocket fuel manufacturing site with a perchlorate groundwater plume that covers 5,000 acres and historically impacted Lake Mead

Multiple coalescing plumes, multiple PRPs and multiple consultants

\$1B in Trust funding

# WHAT WE DID

Managed completion of a \$100MM interim soil removal

Groundwater remedial performance monitoring

Multi-year remedial investigation and feasibility study

Innovative treatability studies

#### **EFFECT**

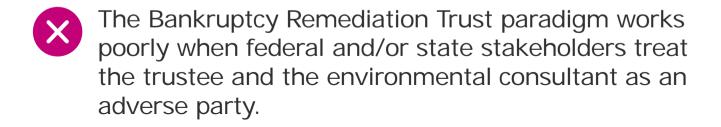
Working toward cost-effectively addressing onsite and offsite impacts consistent with remedial action objectives while addressing Bankruptcy Trust, regulatory agency, stakeholder and community concerns





# BANKRUPTCY REMEDIATION TRUST PARADIGM

The Bankruptcy Remediation Trust paradigm works well when the trustee, environmental consultant, and the federal and/or state remedial project manager(s) collaborate together toward pragmatic solutions to a site's environmental challenges with the resources available in the trust.







# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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