Wards Island WPCP Interim Upgrading Phase 11 Bronx and Manhattan Grit Chambers

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Wards Island WPCP Interim Upgrading Phase 11
Bronx and Manhattan Grit Chambers

WP-103, Contract 78G, was designed for the upgrading of the facilities known as the Bronx and Manhattan Grit Chambers. The principle items of work include: the demolition of the existing screenings removal; grit removal and handling equipment; followed by the installation of an upgrade and improved screening removal and grit removal system.

The demolition and the upgrade were to be completed in four stages. Only one of the four grit channels in each grit chamber can be taken out of service at any one time. The remaining three channels had to remain in service until the first set of channels was back on line.

Challenges:

Major problems associated with the work resulted from a design that underestimated the quantity of hazardous materials that had to be abated and that lacked sufficient information for the completion of required structural restoration. Critical redesign change orders were issued throughout the project culminating with a redesign of the essential grit removal equipment.

A change order for the redesign of the grit removal equipment was still in the negotiating stages three months after the proposed completion date for the entire project. The impact of the change order was a three-year delay to the completion of the work and a delay claim in excess of 20 million dollars.

Unique Features:

A unique aspect of the project relates to the required architectural improvements to the facilities. The Bronx Grit Chamber is recognized as an individually designated landmark by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Manhattan Grit Chamber is expected to be given landmark status very shortly. The restoration of the structures was to be supervised by an architectural conservator/preservationist recognized by the Landmarks Preservation Commission. The restoration of the grit chambers includes cleaning and repairing all of the façade elements, and the restoration of face brick, stone work, terra cotta and terrazzo.