



## RAILROAD CLIENT—DAVENPORT, IOWA

### ACCIDENTAL DIESEL FUEL RELEASE INITIAL RESPONSE/REMEDIATION

An accidental fuel tank rupture of a locomotive caused the spill event at a Railroad repair facility in Eastern Iowa. **Pinnacle was called upon to act as lead emergency responder for the management of the clean up efforts. In less than 5 hours after the incident, 80% of the fuel had been recovered, drastically lessening the risk for long term contamination.**

### Project Highlights

**The Challenge:** A locomotive engine holding an estimated 3600 to 4000 gallons of diesel fuel accidentally rolled into the turntable pit within its repair facility. The impact caused its fuel tank to rupture, leaking fuel into the holding pit which is part of the facility's Oil Water Separator System. Since the pit had a soil bottom with a high water table, there was concern of soil and water contamination if the crew could not recover the fuel quickly enough.

**Work Scope:** Upon arrival, Pinnacle personnel assumed control of the site, while in constant contact with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Railroad's Environmental & Haz-Mat Manager. The spill had been contained to the turntable pit because of the efficient follow through of Standard Protocols at the facility. The Oil and Water Separator System was shut down immediately so there was no discharge to the City Water Treatment System. Pinnacle's primary task was to recover the spilled fuel quickly to eliminate further ground seepage. Once that task was underway, a method of treatment and remediation was necessary to reach required compliance levels for the site.

**Containment:** The free-floating diesel product was immediately pumped off the water into a used oil storage tank to be refined and recycled. Some product that had too much water or too much dirt in it was disposed of through standard haz-mat protocol.

**Site Remediation:** Soil at the bottom of the pit was excavated, stockpiled, tested, then hauled to the Waste Commission for proper disposal and Land Application. The bottom of the pit has been covered with concrete to help control any future ground contamination problems.

**Preventative Action:** Pinnacle staff were instrumental in assisting the client with improving their Pollution Prevention and Control procedures so to prevent this type of event from occurring again in the future. Better control devices were installed on the Oil Water Separator System to help prevent any material that has made it to the pit from leaving the pit and going to the Oil Water Separator and then on to the City water system.

**Project Summary:** Pinnacle's role on this site was to act as the Site Supervisor. Pinnacle controlled all site activities, including regulatory communication, and directed all work efforts of other emergency response contractors. Preventative measures that were put in place now give railroad personnel more control when or if future spills occur.

### Project Team:

John Landwehr—Project Manager  
Alex McLean—Field Operations  
Jim Holland, P.E.—Principal-In-Charge

