BCLDP CEMP

The Battelle Columbus Laboratories Decommissioning Project

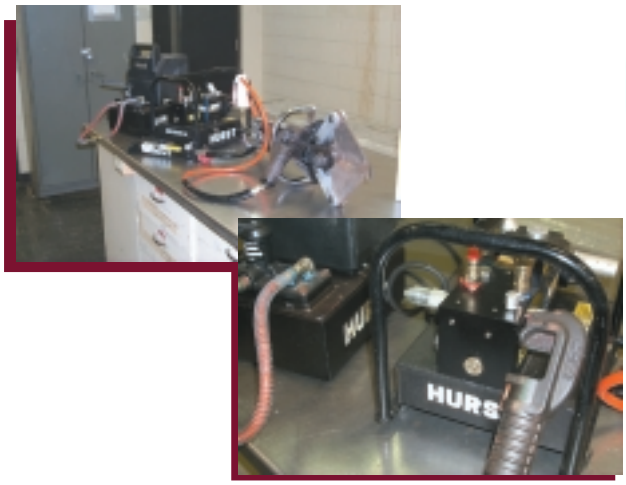
Columbus Environmental Management Project

Jaws of Life

Savings = $80,000

Problem/Need

A cutting and self-sealing method to remove service lines and contaminated equipment is needed. As part of its decontamination and decommissioning effort at a Battelle site near West Jefferson, Ohio, the Battelle Columbus Laboratories Decommissioning Project (BCLDP) must remove equipment quickly and efficiently. In addition, contaminated service lines must be removed without dispersing radioactive particles.

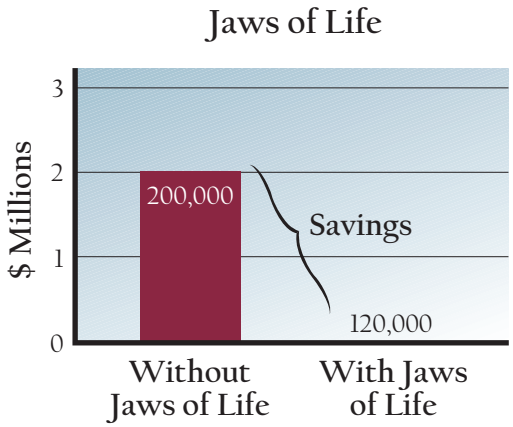


Technology Description

The jaws-of-life technology has been used for many years in emergency situations to quickly disassemble metal materials (e.g., cars, metal frames, and pipes). The unit's hydraulic claws crush and shear open lines, closing the ends of contaminated pipe before it is snapped off the line.

Benefits

The speed and flexibility of the jaws of life make it an important tool to minimize the cost of labor and materials in removing radioactive service pipes, conduit, and equipment. Using the jaws of life to cut these contaminated items will save the BCLDP approximately $80,000, assuming the work can be performed in three-fifths the time normally required. Cutting pipe lines using the jaws of life will also avoid airborne dispersion of radioactive particles.



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