



D.H. Griffin of Texas Clear Louisiana State Office Buildings

Demolition Dynamic Implodes Two 14-story Office Towers

At exactly 9:00 am on Saturday November 29, 2003, NADC members D. H. Griffin of Texas, Inc. (DHGT) and Demolition Dynamics, Inc. imploded the Education and the Land & Natural Resources Buildings located in downtown Baton Rouge, Louisiana for the State of Louisiana's Department of Facility Planning and Control.

The "Education" Building was a 14 story steel structure that was 180 feet tall. The "Land & Natural Resources" Building was a 14 story steel structure that had a 6-story penthouse on top and stood 220 feet tall. Workers prepared the structures for the explosives by precutting the steel members and loading 592 explosive charges in 388 positions. The implosions were initiated to go off four seconds apart, the Education Building first and the Land & Natural Resources four seconds later. The separation in the implosions lessened the concussion.

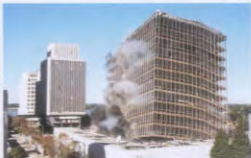
Prior to the implosion, D.H. Griffin of Texas, Inc., the General Contractor for the project, oversaw the removal of all asbestos-containing materials, which required the project be manned with approximately 90 asbestos workers for three months.

During the asbestos abatement portion of the project it was discovered that for some unknown reason there was asbestos materials between the

concrete floor slabs and the metal pan decking. This discovery meant that the pan decking had to be removed by torch cutting around the beams, pressure washing the underside of the floor slabs and then encapsulating the slabs to lock in any possible loose fibers. This process was performed throughout both buildings and totaled over 300,000 square feet of area. The process required an engineering design of innovative solutions for building and floor access after the pan decking was removed, since the structural integrity of the building floors had been severely compromised.

The project ran the gamut of tasks that demolition contractors routinely perform. As always, community relations were a very important part of the project due to its location. The project site was in the central part of the state capitol with a historic residential area as well as other historic buildings in close proximity. The Project Manager was required to perform as a public relations manager as well as a construction project administrator.

Extensive regulatory interface was required since there were other environmental issues in addition to asbestos. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality literally "oversaw" the project since their offices were located in a high-rise office building adjacent to the site. The project required extensive planning and



Photographs provided by: Prose Documentation Services, Inc.



coordination with a very diverse group of concerned parties. As with their recent New Orleans project, DHGT executed the work in a "good neighbor" manner, keeping in mind that the site was located in the heart of the City of Baton Rouge and at the center of the state's government.

To further address the community's concerns, DHGT and Demolition Dynamics contracted NADC-member Protec Documentation Services to perform pre and post-blast structure inspections at dozens of neighboring buildings.

Of particular concern was St. Joseph Cathedral, the oldest church in all of Louisiana. The historic complex stood less than 80 feet from the demolition site, and required multiple condition inspections prior to the blast and throughout the demolition process to verify that no structural or cosmetic changes had occurred.

On the day of the implosion, Protec teams installed more than two dozen seismic and photographic monitors to document ground vibration levels and overall project execution.

Griffin, as the General Contractor, oversaw the installation of new construction such as new CMU walls, rerouting of utilities; the installation of new electrical switchgear and transformer. An underground parking garage connected both structures and passed under Fourth Street which is the main street leading to the State Capital Building. In order to maintain the flow of traffic and provide for structural integrity, Griffin installed CMU walls with steel bracing and filled in the void under the street with flow able fill and concrete.

It is expected that the entire project will produce approximately 60,000 tons of concrete/masonry debris and 6,000 tons of scrap iron and metals. All of these materials will be recycled. Other than asbestos-containing material the project generated very limited amounts of material requiring landfilling.

Once the site is cleared of all debris, Griffin will oversee the backfilling and re-grading of the entire site in preparation for new construction. Before the site is graded, piles and pile caps will be located, exposed, and tested. These piles and pile caps will be used for the new buildings to be constructed. The reuse of the piles will save the state considerable expense during new construction.

During the implosion, Griffin worked with the Dream Day Foundation and had one of their children push the button to initiate the implosion of the Education Building. A State employee won a raffle to push the button to initiate the implosion of the Land & Natural Resources Building.

DEMOLITION



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