

## **N316. Dustless Decontamination Well Established at US DOE Sites**

Concrete and steel are primary structural elements found at all major nuclear facilities covered with special protective coatings. Both the coating and concrete walls, floors, and structures become contaminated to some extent during their service life. This contamination can extend from fractions of an inch to several inches into porous concrete, depending on the integrity of the coatings and service conditions encountered.

Pentek's contribution to the DOE's Environmental Remediation and Waste management plan (ERWM) cleanup efforts has been significant. At Savannah River, for example, evaluations have determined that workers can safely use Pentek's equipment without respirators. Reports from health physicists have confirmed airborne exposure during dustless decontamination with Pentek's system to be well within acceptable limits.

To date, nine storage tanks have been decontaminated at Savannah River, averaging 6,300 square feet on each tank. In some hot spots, the CORNER-CUTTER needleguns and SQUIRREL-III floor scrubbers have been required to remove half inch sections of concrete; in other areas, piping and conduit coatings have been removed with the CORNER-CUTTERS. And each time a drum has been changed from the VAC-PAC high-performance waste packaging vacuum system, there has been no spread of contamination. On interior surfaces, Savannah River is enjoying 6-7 hours of contamination removal out of an 8-hour working day.

For fixed contamination on concrete and steel surfaces, Pentek's dustless scarification provides efficient removal while providing ample margins of safety for environmental and worker protection.

*For more, "Dustless Decontamination Well Established At U.S. DOE Sites," PENTEK, Inc. News Release, pg. 6, Volume 9, No.1, August 1994. For further information, contact PENTEK Inc., 1026 Forth Avenue, Corapolis, PA 15108-1659, Tel: (412) 262-0725.*