

# Worcester Trial Court

MCP COMPLIANCE PROJECT

Site Location:  
Client:  
Date:

Worcester, Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management  
2002 – 2008

In 2002, the state of Massachusetts began construction of a new Worcester Trial Court, which was to be built upon a 3 acre urban “brownfields” property. After conducting an environmental assessment of the site, multiple contaminants were found in the soil and groundwater including petroleum hydrocarbons, arsenic, and metals. These conditions presented a major obstacle to completing preliminary construction activities such as demolition and soil grading.

After characterizing the contaminants on the property, O'Reilly, Talbot & Okun Associates, Inc. (OTO) conducted two release abatement measures (RAM). In 2004, OTO permitted the demolition of the last remaining historic structure at the site, whose foundation lay within contaminated soil. OTO's plan included removal of underground utilities associated with the former building, off-site disposal of three unearthed storage tanks, and soil grading. The second RAM called for the excavation and disposal of approximately 35,000 tons of impacted soil and fill. A sub-slab venting system and a vapor barrier were also installed under the entire footprint of the Courthouse to limit the potential for volatile organic compounds and petroleum hydrocarbon vapors from entering the future building. These measures fully abated the contamination and allowed construction to begin.



Remedial response actions were completed in April 2006. The new Courthouse opened its doors in the fall of 2007. In 2008, OTO was awarded a Central Massachusetts “Green Award” by the *Worcester Business Journal* for its role in the project.