



# RCRA Corrective Action Cleanup + Productive Use

## Economic Profile

# BP Casper Former Refinery

## Casper, Wyoming

### BEFORE

Petroleum refinery

### AFTER



Business Park



Bird Habitat



Kayak Course



Golf Course

**CLEANUP OVERSEEN BY**  
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

Built in 1913, the 340-acre BP Casper site operated as a petroleum refinery on the banks of the North Platte River until 1991. BP acquired the property through a merger in 1998.

Decades of contamination from refining operations had contaminated the soil, river and groundwater with spilled oil and sludge. With oversight from the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ), BP quickly cleaned up the site starting in 2000. Cleanup included removing 200 miles of pipeline, excavating contaminated soils and installing a groundwater pumping system.

The BP Casper site now supports commercial, recreational and ecological reuses which support nearly 250 jobs and \$70 million in yearly sales. Its revitalization has also won EPA's Phoenix Award for excellence in brownfields redevelopment.



EMPLOYEES

**244**



ANNUAL SALES

**\$70 million**



ANNUAL WAGES

**\$16 million**

For more information about RCRA and the economic benefits of site reuse, visit [www.epa.gov/hw/learn-about-corrective-action](http://www.epa.gov/hw/learn-about-corrective-action)





THIS REMEDIATION PROJECT IS CRITICAL FOR CASPER IN THAT IT HAS SET THE STAGE FOR URBAN RENEWAL THAT EMBRACES THE URBAN-NATURAL INTERFACE WHERE THE NORTH PLATTE RIVER IS IN THE STARRING ROLE.

J. Carter Napier, Casper City Manager

BP Casper's successful transformation was the product of collaboration between RCRA and Wyoming's Voluntary Remediation Program. The site was the first to enroll in the VRP, which provides liability assurances to participants. The city of Casper also designated the property a "use control area." This gave WDEQ flexibility to determine a cleanup based on risks to industrial, commercial and recreational users. A phased cleanup across the large site completed much of the remedial work in only three years. The result was an area that could be quickly converted into a variety of uses, such as a commercial business park that is home to tenants ranging from energy services to car parts. The site is located within an Opportunity Zone that encourages private and public investment in the Casper community.

Throughout the cleanup, BP worked closely with state and local officials and community members to combine reuse and remediation. For instance, a whitewater kayaking course on the North Platte River is integrated with the groundwater containment system. Redevelopers planted 2,000 trees to help remove contaminants. And a system of wetlands and treatment ponds – one of the largest engineered wetlands in the United States – doubles as a set of water features on an 18-hole golf course. The system is more cost-effective than conventional wastewater treatment.

The transformative project has won awards for both WDEQ and the Casper community. EPA awarded WDEQ the State Corrective Action Reform Award in 2002, and recognized involved citizens with awards in 2005. The BP Casper site also won EPA's prestigious Phoenix Award in 2005, representing EPA Region 8.



Several businesses at the site are located at the IMPACT Casper co-working space, which provides materials to help entrepreneurs start their businesses.



Engineered wetlands that treat the site contamination double as water hazards at the Three Crowns Golf Club. The system has lower operating costs than a conventional treatment system, and is expected to save more than \$15 million over 50 years.