

Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality

BNSF Railroad LUST Site Haymarket Arena Development Lincoln, Nebraska

The Haymarket area of downtown Lincoln has been a center of commerce since the 1870s. Several railroads have used that area since that time.

Light non-aqueous phase liquid (free product) was first discovered in 1986 in the West Haymarket area during subsurface exploration for a sanitary sewer line. The source of the release could have been from both underground and above ground tanks at the BNSF facility on the west edge of downtown Lincoln. NDEQ-required remediation began in 1988 with recovery of free product from trench systems. Free product remediation continued through system expansion and modification until 2010 when over 11,000 gallons of diesel fuel had been recovered. At this point, the City of Lincoln voluntarily took over the remediation work to expedite property development.



Excavation using sheet piling to protect active rail line in background.

In 2011, as part of the West Haymarket Arena development, additional remediation of the site was completed through soil excavation. Over 15,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil were removed, and a large amount of free product was recovered within the soils excavated during this effort. Also as part of the arena project, additional investigation and remedial work (non-petroleum related) has been completed or is ongoing in this and adjacent areas.



Excavation was backfilled with two feet of crushed rock and compacted soil to grade.

Free product continues to occur discontinuously or intermittently within and near the area where historical free product remediation was performed. The remaining free product is limited in volume and extent. It is monitored once a month and removed with a vacuum truck if found.

The former railyard area now contains an arena, hotels, restaurants, shops, parking garages, and several other business facilities that have all been built in the last three years. The \$180M arena has already hosted Paul McCartney, Cher, James Taylor, Elton John, and other major events in addition to being the home for University of Nebraska basketball.



Pinnacle Bank Arena, September 2013



Arena and other development in Haymarket