

# Using Solidification to Firm Up Company's Bottom Line.

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In early 2001, UOP, a division of Allied Signal, one of America's largest chemical manufacturing companies, was faced with the problem of how to better handle the large toxic liquid waste stream being produced by its plant in Mobile, Ala. The liquid, principally ammonium nitrate, was being disposed of in a deep well in Plaquamin, La., approximately 250 miles away. Not only was this disposal method extremely expensive, but the truck-to-barge-to-truck transportation system required to move

the liquid to the site presented numerous chances for accidents – and lawsuits.

Seeking alternatives, UOP turned to Waste Management. In addition to already doing UOP's solid waste hauling and container management, the company had a landfill capable of

handling special waste just 20 miles from their Mobile plant.

Waste Management's Haz-Mat experts reviewed UOP's situation and, after a careful analysis, posed a unique solution. They proposed using their advanced technologies to solidify the 10 million gallons of ammonium nitrate produced annually at the plant, and then bury the solid waste at their Chastang Landfill, which was permitted to handle special waste. Not only would the solidification process prove less expensive than deep well disposal, but they could ship the chemical to the site directly by truck, thus minimizing the company's liability exposure. UOP also liked the fact that the Chastang Landfill was situated in the same county as their plant; doing business locally had public relations benefits they appreciated.

Waste Management's disposal program began in March 2001 and has to date proven to be an unqualified success, saving UOP an average 7 to 8 percent — or about \$200,000 — annually, over the previous process.

Finding solid solutions to liquid waste challenges takes a company with a firm grasp of technological alternatives.

*From everyday collection to environmental protection, Think Green. Think Waste Management.*

