



CROSS-FIRE Soil Remediation Technology in Popular Mechanics

Roasting Dirty Soil

THE ground beneath gasoline stations and oil transfer terminals is often so saturated from spills that the land must be condemned. The combustible nature of the pollutants, however, contains the seeds for their cleanup. Heating the soil burns the carbon in spilled fuel, producing mostly harmless carbon dioxide. The solution is not widely applied because of the high cost of burning soil at processing facilities—as much as \$100 per cubic yard. Cross-Fire Soil Remediation of Ellsworth, Maine, found it could cut costs by burning contaminated soil on-site. Temperatures in the port-

HOT STUFF: Contaminant-free soil falls out of the portable propane-fired burner.



able, self-contained burner reach in excess of 2900°. Critical to the process is the mixing of the flame with the correct amount of oxygen. Because flame contact takes place at close range, the propane-fueled system uses a fraction of the energy consumed by a stationary plant. As much as 45 tons of soil can be cleaned in an hour.