



Crushing plant brought into downtown Washington DC for demolition clean up

Wrecking Corporation of America, the subcontractor for the December 18 implosion of the old Washington DC Convention Centre, recently announced that all work on the site has been completed.

Wrecking Corp started preparing for the implosion of the 74,000m² building in October 2004, beginning with stripping the building of seats, architectural finishes and loose contents. The next step was one month of structural modifications to the structure itself to facilitate the implosion, a week to load the explosives, and 20 seconds to put the building on the ground. The 7.30am implosion, which was watched by crowds of people standing outside the fenced area, was followed by six months of processing and debris removal.

“The last step in the demolition process is the final grading, which was completed in June,” says Wrecking Corp executive vice president, Terry Anderson. “One of the challenges we faced in completing this project was the removal of massive foundations that had to be reduced to an aggregate-sized product of four inches and less. This material was used for fill to provide the sub-grade of the new parking lot. To accomplish this we set up a crushing and screening plant on site to process the large quantity of concrete and masonry. For a couple of months we had the only crushing plant in downtown DC.

“After it was all said and done, we recycled a little over 12,000 gross tons of steel, crushed 50,000 to 60,000 cubic yards of concrete and land filled only 350 dumpster loads of C (construction and demolition) waste,” Anderson says. 