Removal of 20 mil coal tar and epoxy coatings from a floating jack barge

**Problem:** 7,000m² (75,000 ft²) of corroded exterior steel on a jack barge floating in Virginia’s Chesapeake Bay required a new coating system. But first, 500-625 micron (20-25 mil) coal tar and 375-500 micron (15-20 mil) epoxy coatings needed removal. A national surface preparation and preservation contractor, was hired to prepare the surface and apply a two-part epoxy coating system. They were challenged to use a low dust, low rebound, dry surface preparation technology that could be easily contained and reclaimed without contaminating the bay waters. Welding, burning, pipe replacement, and other mechanical work also needed to continue uninterrupted.

**Solution:** Using Sponge-Jet's Sponge Blasting System™ the contractor successfully removed all coatings and repainted with no overboard spillage and no interruptions to the work of the other maintenance teams.

**Alternatives considered:**
- Sand blasting
- High pressure water
- Soda blasting
- Mechanical/power tool cleaning

**Contractor’s choice:** Sponge-Jet's Sponge Blasting System™ Silver Sponge Media™