

Repainting a 128' high, 775,000-gallon water tank and capturing the sandblasting and paint residue traditionally involves creating a giant plastic "cocoon" on the scaffolding erected around the structure. With engineering and construction management expertise provided by Bucharthorn, West Manchester, Pa Township's repainting of the Brenda Road tank relied on a totally new method that saved time and money.

## Robot Accelerates Project Schedule

The painting contractor, Rockwood Corporation, relied on a "robot" blaster that uses metal shot and vacuums everything, shot and residue, back into a magnetic separator. The shot is stored for reuse, and the paint particles are collected into 55-gallon drums for disposal. Normal sandblasting techniques would have created a significantly larger amount of residue to handle and dispose. Since the vacuum collects the residue at the point of shot blasting, wrapping the tank was unnecessary, even though an elementary school is nearby.

After cleaning the tank, workers avoided spray painting by rolling on the new coating. This eliminated paint overspray being blown onto adjacent buildings and vehicles.

The process helped the contractor complete a 120-day contract for painting the tank both inside and outside in only 40 days, without any adverse effects on neighboring properties.

