

Demolition To The Rescue



IN A CASE OF "THE GOOD guys to the rescue," Gateway Demolition, Flushing, NY, was called on by the City of New York and the bonding company of the previous contractor to take over the problem-filled demolition of a West Side incinerator and garage that had cost millions of dollars and years of time, while endangering

the lives of the workers.

Gateway began the job on site in May 2003, with an expected completion date of mid-November. The demolition project includes a four-building facility owned by the NYC Dept. of Sanitation stretching south along the West Side Highway between 55th and 57th Streets, as well as the demolition of the 56th Street Overpass. "The overpass portion of the project presented its own set of challenges to us," explained Michael Rich-

man, vice president of Gateway. "Because of potential danger to motorists and pedestrians, we performed the painstaking hand demolition of a 300-ft concrete and steel overpass on weekends." To further protect the vehicles below, the contractor attached netting and wood barriers to the underside to prevent spillage of debris on the roadway.

Over seven months, Gateway safely and efficiently demolished the structure with a crew averaging 15 to 20 men. Gateway employed a portion of its specialized fleet of heavy demolition equipment, much of which was used at the World Trade Center site following the attack of Sept. 11, 2001. Equipment used in the Sanitation Incinerator and Garage project included hydraulic excavators with grapples, shears, and concrete breakers, together with track loaders with demolition buckets.

Once the project is completed, the site will be used for a new sanitation department facility and will make way for the construction of a new park at the northern end of Hudson River Park. ■