



Information for Norwalk Neighbors

DESC REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO FACILITY CLEANUP AS TANK FARM CLOSURE PROPOSED

The Norwalk Tank Farm, built in the 1920s, may soon be closing. The proposed closure, however, will not affect the environmental cleanup process at the facility.

The Defense Fuel Support Point (DFSP) Norwalk, located on the corner of Norwalk Boulevard and Excelsior Drive, has been used by the military since the 1950s for fuel storage and transfer. The Defense Energy Support Center (DESC) uses the facility as a critical link for fuel resupply to Southern California, Nevada, and Arizona.

In addition, Kinder Morgan Energy Partners transports commercial fuels from a pumping station on a two-acre easement on the south end of the facility. Both the military and Kinder Morgan are working diligently to clean up the facility from past fuel releases.

Closure Background

DESC contracted to have three 80,000 barrel storage tanks built at Kinder Morgan's Watson Station facility and a connection to DESC's existing pipeline. These new tanks, along with Kinder Morgan's new Carson to Norwalk pipeline, will allow the military to suspend to operations at the Norwalk Tank Farm.

Once the new tanks and pipeline are in place, DESC plans to close the Norwalk facility. The tanks will



Closure Meeting. Jim Kelly (Kinder Morgan), Michael Koury (Acting Commander, DESC-LA), and Col Frank Wright (Commander, DESC-Americas) discuss the proposed facility closure at meeting and site tour held with Congresswoman Napolitano in April.

be removed, along with the associated buildings. Kinder Morgan's pump station at the Norwalk facility will remain.

Tentative Schedule

DESC plans to transfer operations to Watson by mid-year 2000. The existing storage tanks are scheduled to be removed sometime thereafter.

Environmental Cleanup Ongoing

After several years of studies and investigations, full scale cleanup of petroleum hydrocarbons began in 1995.

To date, DESC's remediation system has removed and de-

stroyed over 100,000 gallons of fuel from the groundwater. Kinder Morgan's remediation system has removed and destroyed over 250,000 gallons of fuel. Facility cleanup is planned to continue for several more years.

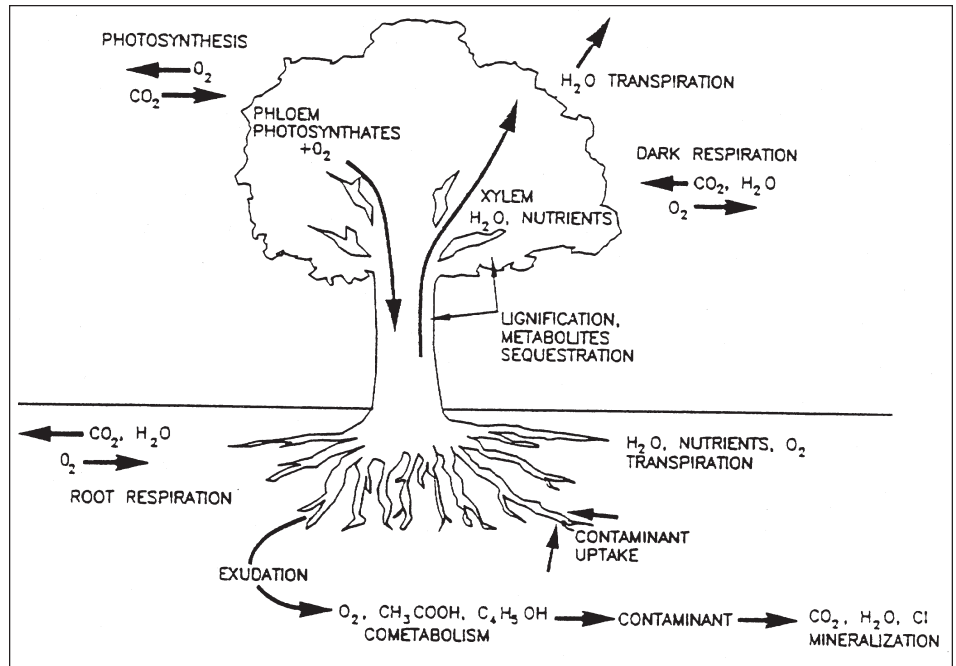
In a letter last year regarding the proposed closure, Col Joseph T. Thomas, Commander of the Defense Logistics Agency, assured then-Representative Esteban Torres that "...the Department of Defense will fully remediate any contaminated product at the government-owned Norwalk terminal consistent with applicable state and local requirements."

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TREES TO PROVIDE NATURAL CLEANUP SYSTEM

Kinder Morgan recently planted approximately 100 cottonless poplar trees in the southwest area of the Tank Farm. While the trees will help improve the appearance of the facility, they will serve a more practical purpose: the trees will act

Stayed tuned for "Phytoremediation Day" at the Tank Farm, sponsored by Kinder Morgan Energy Partners. Come view the trees that will act as a natural remediation system. Coming in August.



Phytoremediation Process. Oxygen, CO₂, water, and contaminant cycling through a tree.

as a natural pump and treat system to help remove hydrocarbons from the groundwater. This relatively new technology is called "phytoremediation."

Phytoremediation works when the trees break down chemicals and release exudates to enhance biodegradation (see figure). The trees at

the Tank Farm are placed 8 to 10 feet apart in a 10,000 square foot area.

The roots will reach the groundwater in three to five years. The trees will pump up to 150 gallons of water per day as a supplement to the existing cleanup systems.

Phytoremediation is a cost-effective technology with little operating and maintenance costs. It has proven successful at sites across the country and is currently in use at a DESC property in San Pedro. Kinder Morgan is working with DESC to install more trees on the south and west borders of the facility. ■

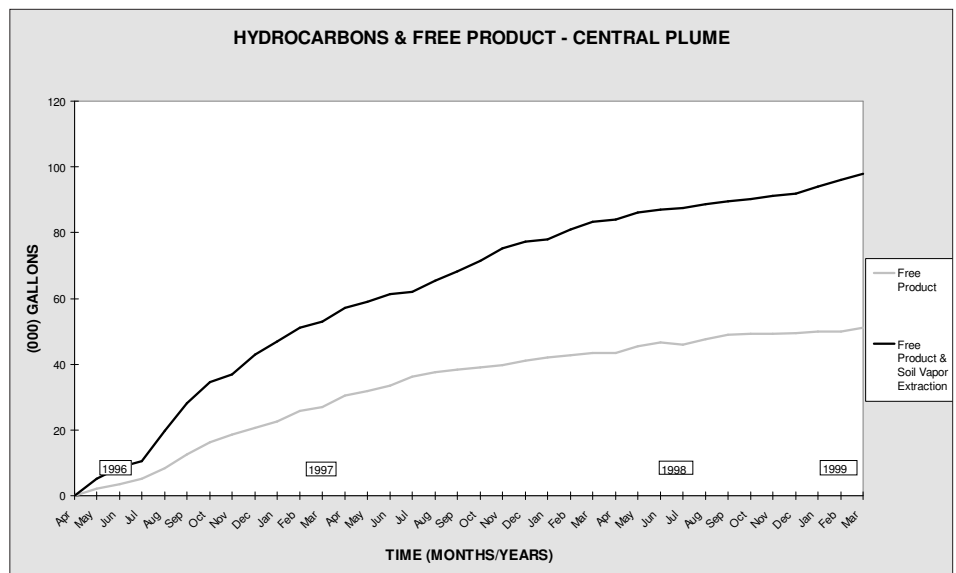
PROPOSED CLOSURE WON'T AFFECT CLEANUP

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Tank Farm Future

Once the facility is pronounced environmentally clean by the state regulatory agencies, the military will transfer the land. It is unknown at this time to whom the land will be transferred or for what it will be used.

Norwalk City officials are working with Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano to try and secure the land for city uses. In April, Congresswoman Napolitano and City Manager Ernie Garcia visited the Tank Farm to learn more about the cleanup and closure process. ■



Central Plume Cleanup. DESC's remediation system in the north-central area of the Tank Farm has recovered and destroyed over 100,000 gallons of fuel from the groundwater.

REMEDIATION SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS IMPROVE CLEANUP RATES

Kinder Morgan's remediation system enhancements (as described in the March 1999 Fact Sheet) have increased recovery rates in the south-central plume area.

In the first quarter of 1999, the remediation system removed and destroyed 18,000 gallons of product through vapor extraction. This was an increase of 30 to 40 percent over recent quarters. In addition, the Kinder Morgan system pumped and treated 2.4 million gallons of water, a 60 percent increase over the previous quarter.

DESC's remediation system in the central area of the Tank Farm has been online since April 1996. It has recovered approximately 100,000 gallons of free product which were destroyed in a thermal oxidizer.

As of April 1999, the system's recovery rate was about 75 gallons per day. DESC is investigating possible alternatives to enhance remediation, such as injecting air into the soil (bioventing) to enhance bioremediation.

Groundwater Monitoring

Groundwater sampling for the latest semiannual monitoring event took place in May 1999. Analytical results of the event are scheduled to be in a report due out in August. Monitoring reports are available for public review in the information repository at the Norwalk Library. Results are also discussed at Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings.

The next semiannual groundwater monitoring event is scheduled for November 1999.

Western Offsite Cleanup

The Offsite Chemicals Cleanup Subcommittee (OCCS), a sub-group of the RAB, has been working on the Risk-Based Corrective Action (RBCA) Workplan since October 1996. The workplan addresses the chemicals that have traveled offsite to the west of the facility.

The workplan was approved by the RAB at its April 1999 meeting. It was then submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board in May 1999.

Kinder Morgan is also investigating the feasibility of installing a well and a small treatment system offsite to the west to treat the 1,2-DCA plume. Kinder Morgan officials are talking with City officials and residents to find a potential location for the system. ■

NEW FUEL RELEASE DISCOVERED ON SITE

In April 1999, terminal staff noticed vegetation turning brown, discolored soil, and a hydrocarbon odor near the water tank in the central area of the Tank Farm.

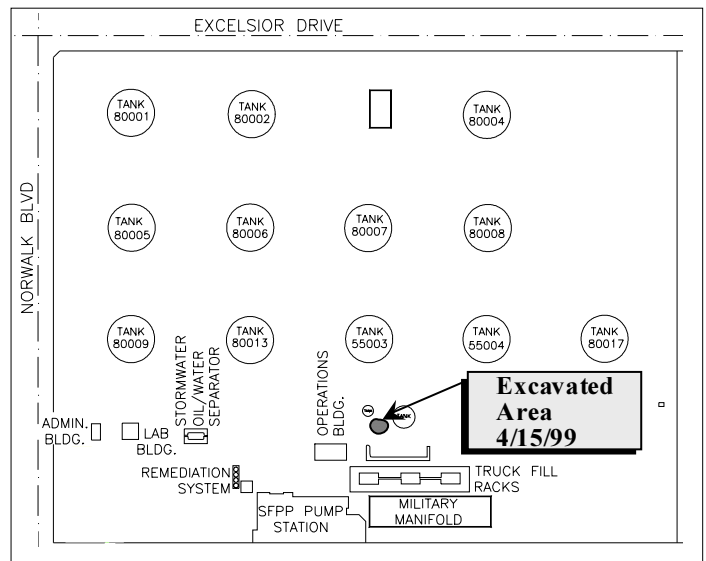
The area was excavated (see map, right) and a fuel leak was discovered. Two dormant, previously unknown, 6-inch pipelines were found that appeared to have been taken out of service in the mid-1960s. The lines were not drained as is standard practice today.

The pipes were drained (emptied), cut, and removed. Metal caps were welded onto the ends of the two lines. A contractor excavated approximately 80 cubic yards of soil and placed clean soil into the excavated area. The excavated soil was transported to an offsite thermal desorption facility where hydrocar-

bons are burned off by heating the soil mass.

The release was estimated at 800 gallons and consisted of weathered JP-5 jet fuel. IT-GTI has submitted a workplan to the RWQCB and is now performing an assessment to determine the full extent of the release.

DESC staff believes the closure testing of another pipeline may have caused over-pressurization leading to the release. DESC and Kinder Morgan will set up a vacuum to



Fuel Release Excavated. A contractor excavated approximately 80 cubic yards of soil after a fuel release was discovered in April. Two pipelines were repaired and the area was backfilled with clean soil.

back-flush out any fuel to prevent this type of release from happening in the future. This release will not affect the overall facility cleanup schedule. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

If you have any questions, comments, would like copies of previous newsletters, or want to be added or deleted from the mailing list, please contact one of the representatives listed below:

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 Th: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
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 en español, por favor llame al
 (714) 835-6886.

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3171 North Gaffey Street
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**Norwalk Tank Farm
 Restoration Advisory
 Board Meeting:
 Thursday, July 29,
 1999, 6:30 p.m. Arts
 & Sports Complex.**