

Information for Norwalk Neighbors

NORWALK RAB COMPLETES 10TH YEAR OF CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN TANK FARM CLEANUP

Environmental cleanup of soil and groundwater continues at the former Defense Fuel Support Point (DFSP) Norwalk, also known as the Tank Farm, located at 15306 Norwalk Boulevard in Norwalk, California (see map on page 2). Chemicals of concern at the site include total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), 1,2-dichloroethane (1,2-DCA), benzene, and methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE). The California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) is the state regulatory agency overseeing the cleanup. This newsletter is one in a series of notices distributed semiannually to update the community on the Tank Farm cleanup progress.

The Norwalk Tank Farm Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) recently marked its 10th year of reviewing and commenting on the environmental cleanup of the former fuel storage facility.

The RAB was a new concept when the military introduced the plans to form one at a community meeting in 1994. The idea was to give residents greater input into the cleanup ongoing in their neighborhood.

The Norwalk RAB's first meeting was held in 1995. The Norwalk citizens who joined the RAB were able to learn about the environmental investigation and cleanup process and meet regularly with organizations now known as the Defense Energy Support Center (DESC) and Kinder Morgan Energy Partners (Kinder Morgan), the two

groups conducting the work, and with representatives of Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), the state regulatory agency overseeing the cleanup.

Since its inception, the Norwalk RAB has held 45 meetings, in addition to site tours, subcommittee meetings, conference calls, and other activities. Board members regularly review cleanup progress and provide input into sampling and monitoring plans, cleanup strategies and technologies, and other cleanup-related matters.

New Members

A representative of DESC, Kinder Morgan, and a community member jointly chair the RAB. The DESC Co-Chair is Colonel Renita Alexander. After two years as the Commander of DESC-Americas West, Col Alexander will be transferring later this year to her new assignment in Yokota, Japan.

Col Alexander's replacement will be Lt Col Jon Ramer, who is currently on assignment in Naples, Italy.

Kinder Morgan has a new Co-Chair, Mike Pitta, Remediation Project Manager, who is replacing Terri Ryland. The Community Co-Chair is Mary Jane McIntosh, a Norwalk resident who has been a member of the RAB since the beginning.

Other new members include Kwang-Il Lee, the new representative of the RWQCB. Mr. Lee replaces Ana Townsend, who worked with the RAB for six years. The new City of Norwalk representative is Adriana Figueroa, who is replacing Theresa Devoy. Ms. Devoy was involved with the RAB for about seven years.

Community Members

Norwalk residents serving on the RAB include David Caughey, Gene Garcia, Bill Miller, and Wanda Sterner, all of whom have been members since the first meeting. Bob Hoskins has also attended meetings since the beginning and later became an official member. Tracy Winkler, a resident of Cerritos, began attending meetings in 2000 and became an official member in 2004.

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Colonel Renita Alexander (left) and RAB member Tracy Winkler. Col Alexander served for two years as Norwalk RAB Co-Chair and Commander of the Defense Energy Support Center-Americas West.

RWQCB GRANTS CLOSURE FOR ON-SITE OILY WASTE AREA

In 1985, buried oily waste was discovered in the southwest area of the Tank Farm, around the area of the oil/water separator and near the former laboratory building (see map below).

The waste is a tarry, asphalt-like mass that was found about four feet below the ground surface in an irregular-shaped area of approximately 100 feet by 200 feet. The total volume is estimated to be approximately 5,000 cubic yards. The source of the waste was not determined, but it may have been from practices of burying waste by previous site owners.

Over the years, the RWQCB and DESC considered different options for addressing the waste. Since the waste is not migrating and does not pose a risk to public health or the groundwater, other areas of the Tank Farm have taken priority for cleanup.

In 2003, DESC conducted further tests on the oily waste area. Two borings were installed to 30 feet below ground surface. No contamination was found between the bottom of the area and the top of the groundwater.

A report on the findings was submitted to RWQCB in February 2004.

In April 2005, RWQCB issued a soil closure with deed restriction for the oily waste area. This

closure letter means that DESC does not need to conduct further cleanup on this area. It also orders that future use of the land above the oily waste area be limited to only industrial uses. □

RAB COMPLETES 10TH YEAR...

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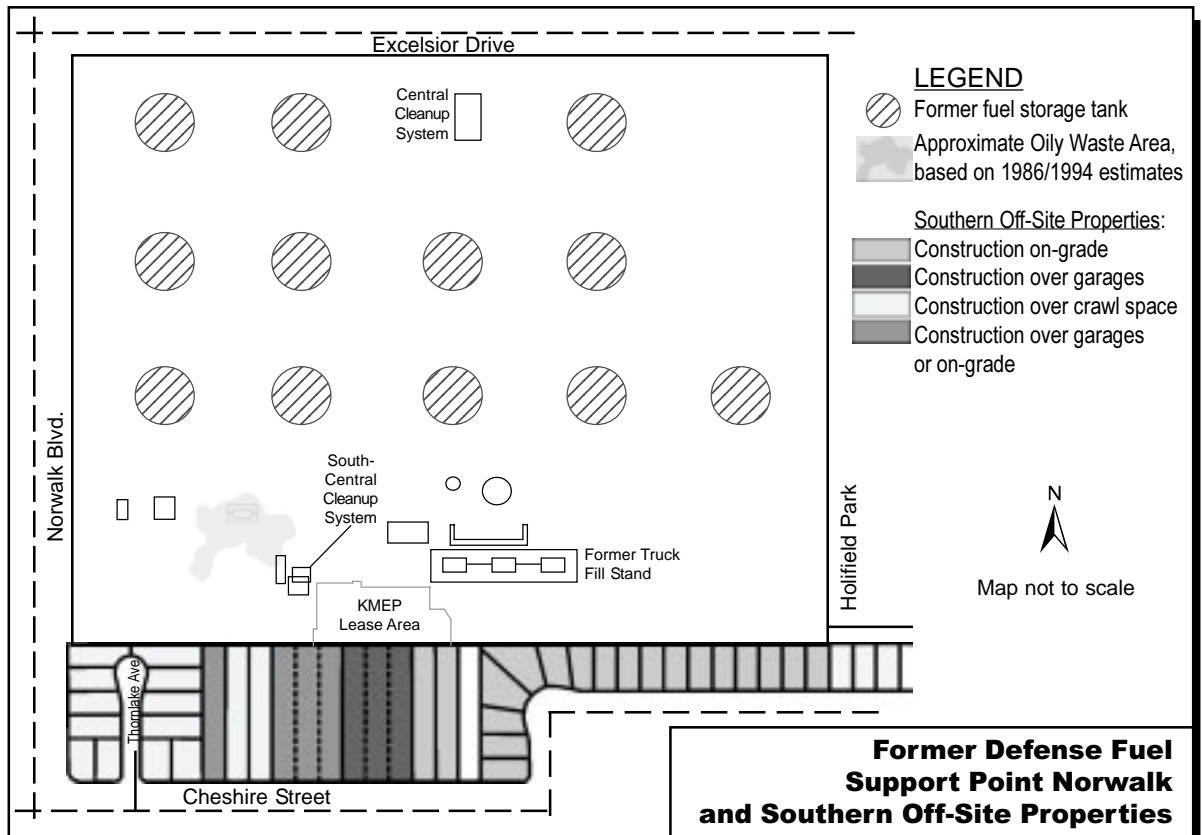
Other Members

Joe Holdren represents the City of Cerritos on the RAB. Nancy Matsumoto represents the Water Replenishment District of Southern California.

In addition, DESC and Kinder Morgan's consultants who perform the environmental work regularly attend the RAB meetings and give updates on the cleanup progress.

Representatives of local elected officials also often attend meetings, including those from the office of Congresswoman Grace Napolitano.

The RAB now meets quarterly on the last Thursday of January, April, July, and October in the Norwalk Arts & Sports Complex. The meetings are open to the public. □



KINDER MORGAN CONDUCTING NEW HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT IN SOUTHERN AREA

Kinder Morgan is conducting a new human health risk assessment for the off-site adjacent properties to the south of the Tank Farm. A health risk assessment is a study of the chemicals in the environment to predict if they could be harmful to people or to the environment. The results of the study help guide the decision making process for determining appropriate cleanup goals.

DESC conducted a site-wide human health risk assessment in 1993. This assessment determined that there was at that time no health risk to residents or workers. In addition, the affected groundwater beneath the site is not used for drinking water.

Kinder Morgan then prepared and conducted Risk-Based Corrective Action (RBCA) for the chemicals off-site to the west. This included a separate human health risk assessment. The Offsite Chemicals Cleanup Subcommittee (OCCS) of the RAB was formed during preparation of the RBCA to allow Kinder Morgan and the community to work more closely with each other to address potential human health risk concerns. A report of the results was finalized in August 2003. In October 2003, the RWQCB requested that an additional human health risk assessment be conducted for the southern area. The RWQCB requested that Kinder Morgan conduct the new risk assessment to determine if changes in site conditions over the years have had any effect on potential health risks.

To begin the process of conducting the new assessment, Kinder Morgan first reviewed the original human health risk assessment, evaluated it based on current site conditions, and compared it to the RBCA results. There were significant differences between the RBCA and 1993 methods. The 1993 assessment looked at the site as a whole, looked at degradation of chemicals, and predicted the outcome after 30 years. The RBCA looked at the maximum concentration of chemicals detected in the west and evaluated them as if no degradation or cleanup happened over 30 years. Although this is not what will actually happen, Kinder Morgan used this scenario in the RBCA to be more conservative and health-protective. In addition, more sophisticated air modeling methodologies were available for the RBCA that also tended to be more conservative. The risk from the RBCA analysis was within the acceptable risk range. Kinder Morgan chose to implement more aggressive remediation activities to further reduce the extent of the impacted groundwater to the west.

As part of the new assessment, Kinder Morgan plans to collect soil vapor data from residential

areas south of the Tank Farm. Three types of construction exist in these properties: 1) residences constructed on ground surface; 2) residences constructed over crawl spaces; and 3) residences constructed over garages (see map on page 2). Kinder Morgan identified 17 potential sample locations based on proximity to the three housing types, proximity to existing wells, and locations over existing groundwater impacts. These new data will help to better predict potential risks.

The process for creating the southern health risk assessment will be similar to the one used in the RBCA for the western off-site area. In preparation for the risk assessment, Kinder Morgan held a meeting with the OCCS in April 2004 to discuss their concerns and an overall approach, confirmed property access with off-site residents, and submitted a draft work plan to the OCCS in July 2005. Once sampling is conducted, the risk assessment process will include data evaluation, exposure assessment, toxicity assessment, and risk characterization. The activities will be conducted upon RWQCB's approval of the final work plan. Results will be discussed at future RAB meetings and in a future newsletter. □

TESTING UNDERWAY IN EASTERN BOUNDARY AREA

Kinder Morgan and DESC are collaborating on an investigation along the eastern boundary of the Tank Farm. Groundwater monitoring wells were installed in this area last year, and the wells are being sampled quarterly. Kinder Morgan and DESC are analyzing the results. More information will be included in a future newsletter. □

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**Norwalk Tank Farm
Restoration Advisory
Board Meeting:
Thursday, July 28,
2005, 6:30 p.m.,
Arts & Sports Complex.**

 Printed on recycled paper.

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

If you have any questions or comments on the environmental cleanup of the former Norwalk Tank Farm, please contact one of the representatives listed below:

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*Or, visit the information repository
to review RAB meeting handouts,
minutes, and project documents:*

Information Repository
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County of Los Angeles Public Library
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12350 Imperial Highway
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*Si quiere una copia de este boletín
en español, por favor llame a la Srta.
Patricia Gutierrez al (714) 973-4002.*