



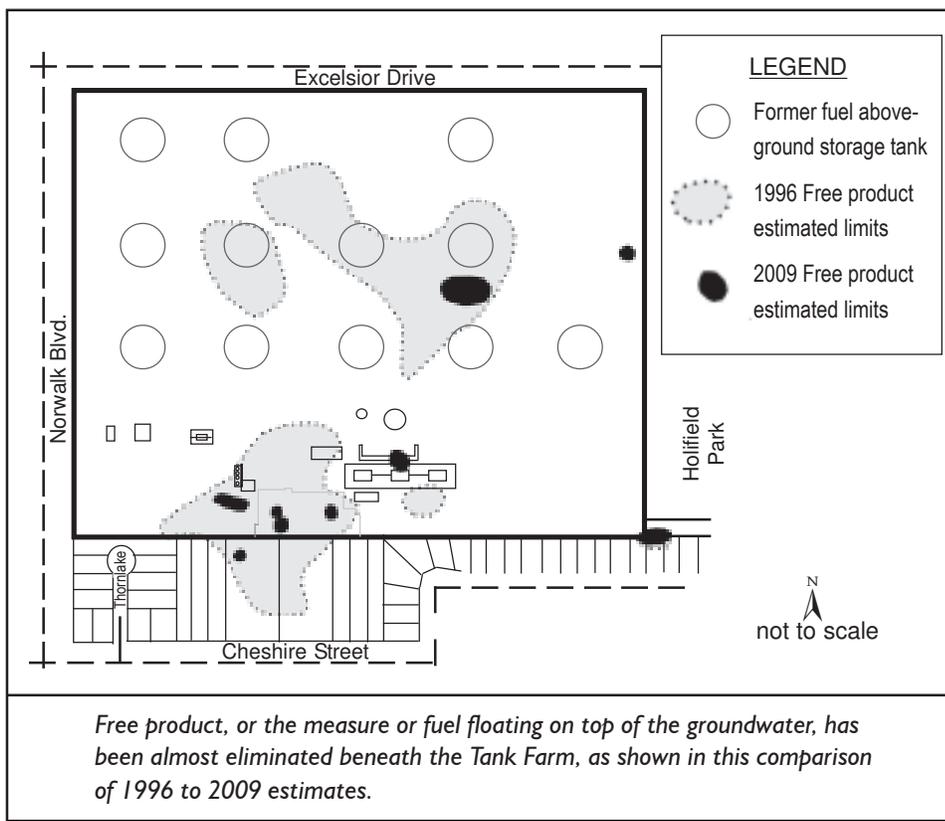
Information for Norwalk Neighbors

NORWALK TANK FARM ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP: AN OVERVIEW OF CHEMICALS OF CONCERN AT THE SITE

Environmental cleanup of soil and groundwater continues at the former Defense Fuel Support Point (DFSP) Norwalk, commonly known as the Tank Farm. The site is located at 15306 Norwalk Boulevard in Norwalk. There are two cleanup plans underway. One is conducted by the Defense Energy Support Center (DESC), who formerly used the facility to store and transport military fuels. The other cleanup plan is being conducted by Kinder Morgan Energy Partners (KMEP), who has petroleum pipelines that pass through the facility.

The primary chemicals of concern include total petroleum hydrocarbons, benzene, 1,2-dichloroethane, and methyl tertiary-butyl ether. These chemicals have impacted the soil and groundwater beneath the site area and require cleanup. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (RWQCB) is the state regulatory agency overseeing the cleanup.

There are over 240 monitoring and remediation wells ranging in depths from approximately 30 to 150 feet below the ground surface on or near the Tank Farm property. Groundwater samples are collected



from several of these wells at least twice per year or quarterly to track the progress of the cleanup. This newsletter will take a closer look at these chemicals, starting on page 2.

For more information on these chemicals, you can visit the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry web site at: www.atsdr.cdc.gov.

The next Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 28, 2010, at 6:30 p.m.** at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex. The latest cleanup statistics and monitoring results will be discussed. The public is encouraged to attend.

TOTAL PETROLEUM HYDROCARBONS (TPH)

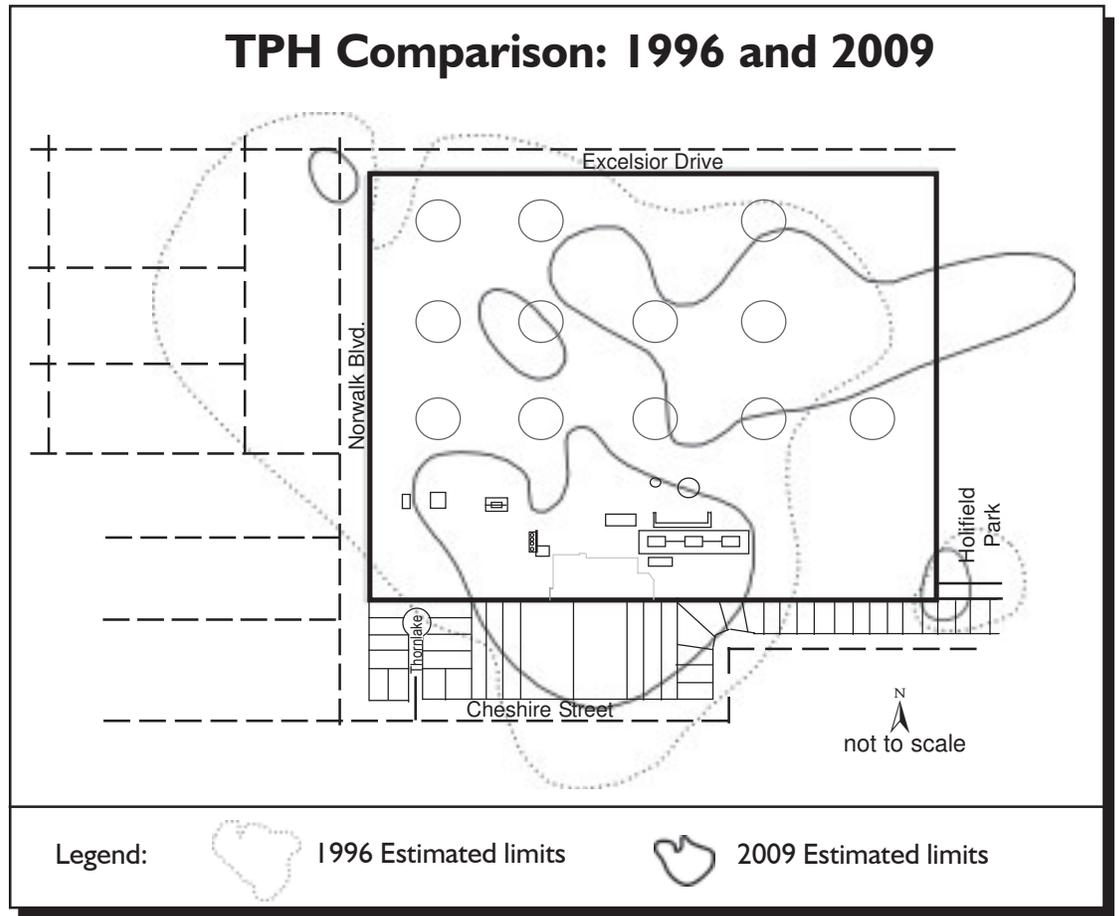
Total petroleum hydrocarbons, also known as TPH, describe a group of chemical compounds that originally come from crude oil. Crude oil is used to make petroleum products, which can impact the environment through accidental spills or releases. TPH is measured to assess the amount of a petroleum product, such as gasoline, jet fuel, diesel, motor oil, or lubricants, in the soil or groundwater.

Groundwater samples at the Tank Farm are analyzed for TPH quantified as gasoline (abbreviated TPHg), TPH quantified as fuel product (TPHfp), and TPH quantified as jet propellant fuel #5 (TPHjp5). Monitoring reports in 1996 interpreted a large TPH plume at the site that extended off-site to the west as far as Grayland Avenue, northeast past Excelsior Drive, and

south past Cheshire Street. A smaller separate TPH plume existed in Holifield Park near the southeastern part of the site.

The monitoring conducted in April 2009 shows a considerable reduction in size and

concentrations of these plumes. The northern plume has split into three smaller plumes and no longer extends off-site to the north. The southern plume continues to extend off-site but the overall extent has been reduced. The extent of the southeastern off-site plume has also reduced. ■



BENZENE

Benzene is a natural part of crude oil and gasoline. It is also found in a variety of products such as plastics, rubber, resins, nylon, lubricants, detergents, and pesticides. It is listed as a cancer-causing chemical under Proposition 65.

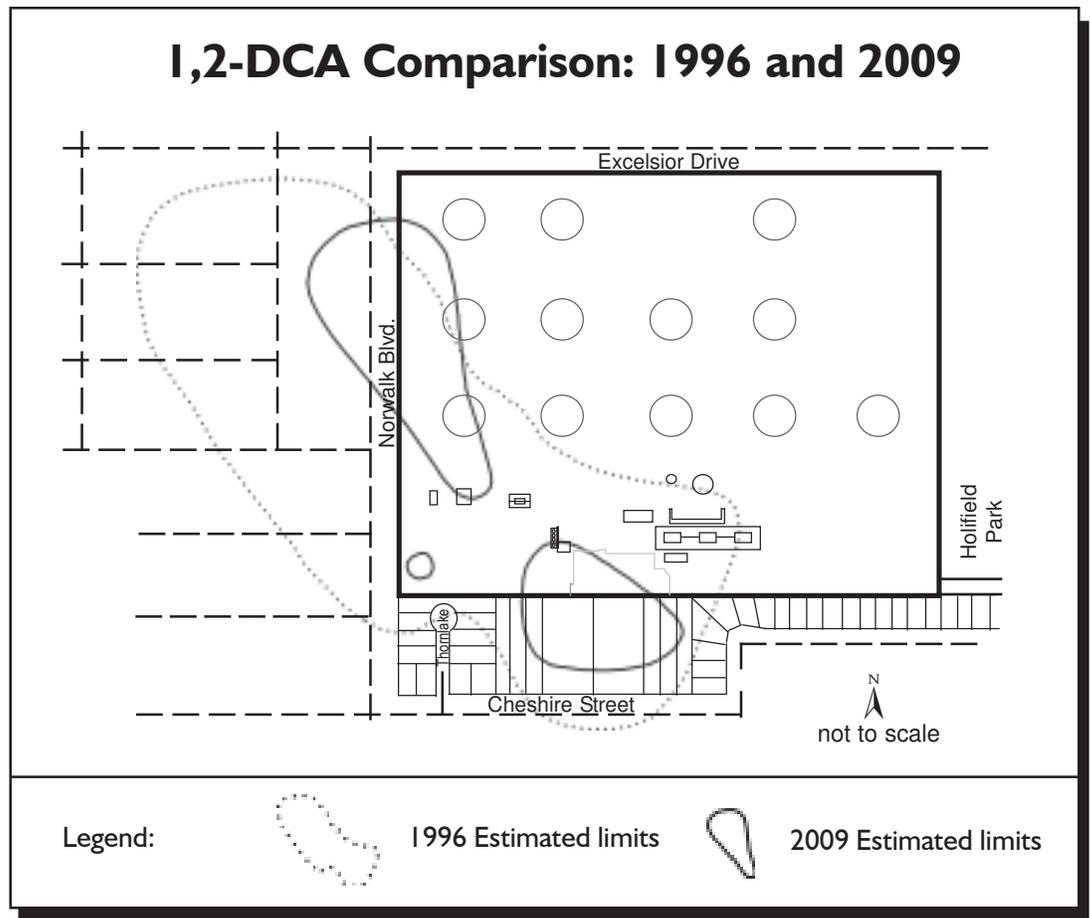
In 1996, four benzene plumes were interpreted: two covering much of the north-central area on-site; one near the southeastern area; and one in the southern area, extending off-site south of Cheshire Street.

Monitoring in 2009 shows the southern benzene plume has reduced in size and no longer extends past Cheshire Street off-site to the south, and the northern and southeastern plumes have also decreased in size. ■

1,2-DICHLOROETHANE (1,2-DCA)

1,2-Dichloroethane, abbreviated 1,2-DCA, is a manufactured chemical. It was added to leaded gasoline to remove lead. It is also commonly used as a solvent or in the production of PVC pipes, furniture and auto upholstery, wall coverings, and auto parts. The U. S. EPA determined it is a probable human carcinogen.

In 1996, the 1,2-DCA plume appeared as a large footprint-shape plume extending from south of Cheshire Street, through the south-central area of the Tank Farm, to west of the site as far as Grayland Avenue.



Monitoring in 2009 shows that this plume has shrunk considerably. It now appears as two smaller, primarily onsite, plumes. In addition, the concentrations are very low and have been consistently below risk-based corrective action (RBCA) cleanup goal for 1,2-DCA since 2005. ■

METHYL TERTIARY-BUTYL ETHER (MTBE)

Methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) is a fuel oxygenate made from blending chemicals such as methanol and isobutylene. It was used starting in the 1980s as an additive to unleaded gasoline to help meet clean air standards. Its widespread use, along with its high solubility in water, has made MTBE one of the most common groundwater contaminants in the United States. MTBE was phased out of use in gasoline and then banned in California in 2003.

Due to its high solubility, MTBE plumes have varied in size. In 2000, an MTBE plume stretched from offsite south of the south-central area to offsite west of Norwalk Boulevard, and towards the northwest corner of the facility. Another smaller plume was in the southeastern area. The western MTBE plume in 2009 has narrowed considerably in size. The southeastern plume has also decreased in size. Small areas of MTBE also appear in the north-central area and in the former truck rack area. Concentrations of MTBE were below the RBCA cleanup goals in all but four wells in the April 2009 monitoring event. *See page 4 for an update on other fuel oxygenates at the site.* ■

OTHER FUEL OXYGENATES

In 2009, the RWQCB requested monitoring and reporting of other fuel oxygenates, including tert-butyl alcohol (TBA). TBA is a break-down product of MTBE when it degrades, so it was not unusual to find TBA at the Tank Farm.

TBA had been detected sporadically in the past. In 2008, elevated levels of TBA were detected at the DESC groundwater remediation system and since then improvements were made to the system to ensure capture of the TBA.

TBA in the DESC groundwater remediation system is now being monitored on a monthly basis. TBA was generally found in the same areas as MTBE in the April 2009 monitoring event. ■

DESC ANNOUNCES NEW PROJECT WEB SITE

The DESC recently created a web site to house project information. Norwalkrab.com includes agendas, minutes, and presentations from Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meetings dating back to 1994. Fact sheets and newsletters are also included. Project reports, such as groundwater monitoring reports, are available as well. Most files are posted in the PDF format. Some are large and may take a while to download. For more information or to get on the email list for site updates, contact Tim Whyte at tim_whyte@urscorp.com. ■

PROPERTY SALE UPDATE

The U.S. Air Force Real Property Agency's sale of the Tank Farm has been put on hold. However, the Agency now plans to put out a request for proposals for demolition and removal of the empty aboveground tanks on the site. It is possible that the tanks could be removed by Spring 2010. ■

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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Air Quality Management District Hotline
1-800-CUT-SMOG

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

Information Repository
Norwalk Regional Library
County of Los Angeles Public Library
Reference Section
12350 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650
(562) 868-0775

Hours:
M, Tu, W: 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Th, F: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sa: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Closed Sundays and Holidays.

Si quiere una copia de este boletín en español, por favor llame a la Sra. Leticia Hernandez al (714) 648-2819.