NEWS LETTER

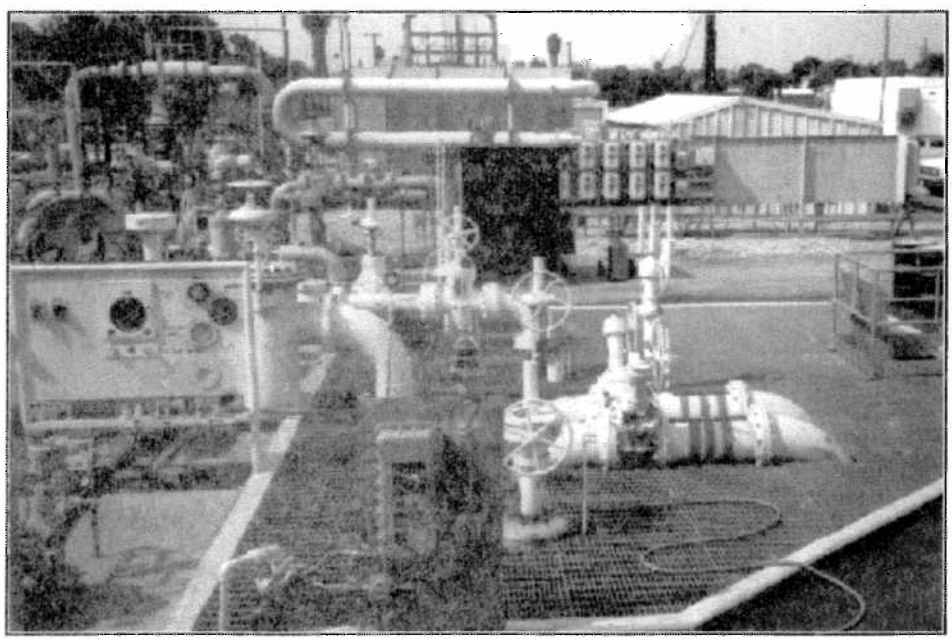
DEFENSE FUEL SUPPLY CENTER

Winter 1994

Information for DFSP Norwalk Neighbors

NEW STRATEGIES FOR TANK FARM REMEDIATION UNVEILED

There have been some changes in the cleanup efforts being undertaken at the Defense Fuel Support Point (DFSP) Norwalk, also known as the Norwalk Tank Farm. The facility, which is used to store jet fuel for military installations in the western United States, has been undergoing environmental investigations, remediation, and upgrades ever since the late 1980s when soil and groundwater contamination from fuel products was discovered. Santa Fe Pacific Pipeline Partners L.P. (SFPP), which operates a pump station and pipelines on land along the south edge of the Tank Farm, is joining Defense Fuel Supply Center (DFSC) in the remediation of the fuel spills at the Tank Farm.



Exposed valves at tank farm will allow for enhanced monitoring.

SANTA FE PACIFIC: TAKING THE LEAD ON ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN UP

Santa Fe Pacific Pipeline Partners is the primary pipeline company for the distribution of both commercial and military fuels in the western region of the United States. Products such as gasoline, diesel, and aviation fuels produced at the local refineries are pumped into the pipeline system for distribution to southern California and Arizona.

Since the discovery of environmental problems associated with the Norwalk Tank Farm, the SFPP leased property, and offsite locations, SFPP has worked with DFSC to investigate and correct the problem. As a result of those efforts, the free product plume (fuel) as well as the dissolved plume (benzene) have been defined and the next phase of the project (cleanup) can be implemented. In an effort to accelerate cleanup, SFPP has submitted a Remedial Action Plan to the State of California, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Likewise, SFPP shall coordinate the implementation of that plan with input from DFSC, the City of Norwalk and the RWQCB.

The specifics of the Remedial Action Plan call for the removal of the floating fuel product by a combination of both active pumping and vapor extraction technology in onsite and offsite locations. In addition to product removal, the combined vapor extraction and pumping technology can and will be used to clean up the soil and groundwater impacted with petroleum hydrocarbons.

In order to install the remediation system, access to specific offsite residential properties will be required. SFPP is currently working with those property owners to acquire access for both the remediation system installation as well as any required monitoring once the system is in place. Although the system installation will take approximately four to six weeks to complete, every effort shall be made to minimize any interruptions to the property owners or nearby residents' daily activities.

STATUS OF PLUMES-NEW PLUME DISCOVERED ON SOUTH SIDE

CENTER OF TANK FARM

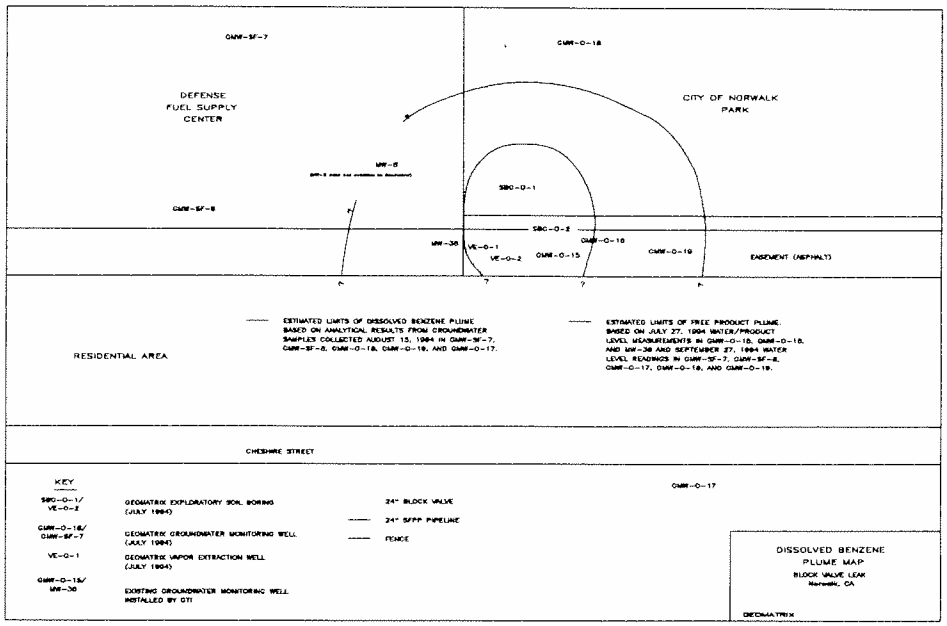
There are two types of plumes in the center of the Tank Farm: a free fuel product plume and a dissolved benzene plume. There has been no significant movement these plumes.

SOUTH SIDE

There are three types of plumes on the south side: a free fuel product plume, a dissolved benzene plume, and a dissolved 1,2-DCA plume. (There has been no significant movement in these three plumes.) However, a new plume has developed on the south side. A small free fuel product and dissolved benzene plume was detected on the southeast corner of DFSP property in April 1994. The plume was confirmed by exploratory soil borings and existing monitoring wells in July and August of 1994. Studies are ongoing to determine plume size and to find the extent of any possible offsite migration of the plume. The plume was caused by a block valve leak which has since been corrected.

WEST SIDE

There is one type of plume on the west side, a dissolved 1,2-DCA plume which is moving slowly, consistent with local groundwater flow. The concentrations of the 1,2-DCA have increased slightly at the outer wells.



A small plume developed on the southeast corner of the Tank Farm as a result of a block valve leak; the leak has since been repaired.

SFPP REPORT ON PROJECT STATUS

According to SFPP's Free Product Recovery Project Status report of September 21, 1994, "petroleum hydrocarbon affected soils are present between 15 and 20 feet below ground surface in the south central area of the facility. The presence of affected soil is sporadic with no clear indications of a current or previous source." Regarding offsite soil concentrations, "petroleum hydrocarbon affected soils south of the DFSC property are limited to depths greater than 20 feet below ground surface. The affected zones are consistent with the ground waters capillary fringe in conjunction with fluctuations in ground water levels."

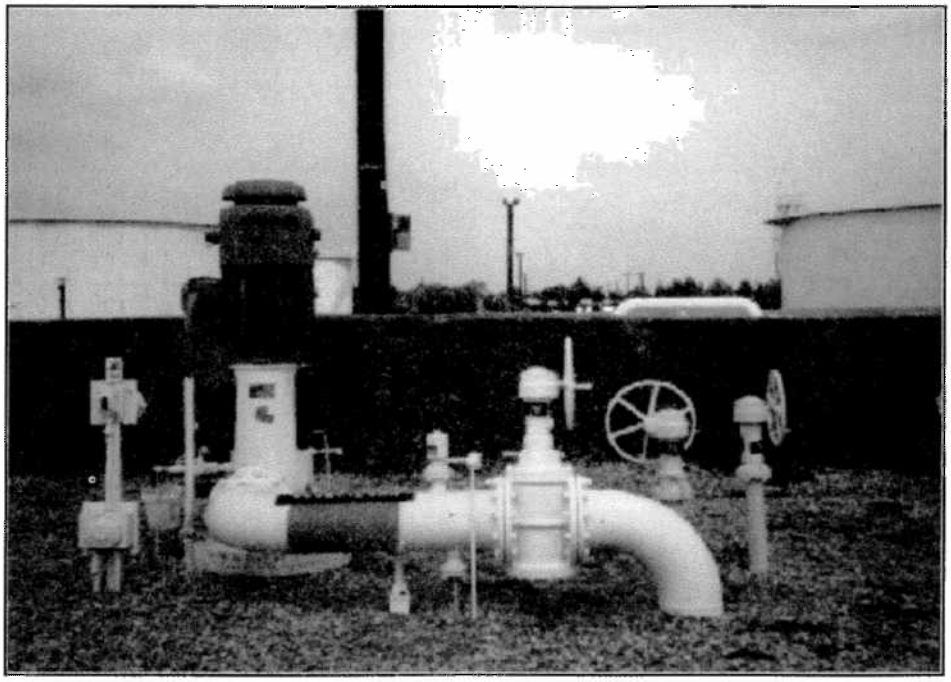
The status of each of the plumes will be checked again in January 1995. The status then will be checked once every six months under a new monitoring plan.

HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT

A Baseline Health Risk Assessment was completed in 1993. The Health Risk Assessment's purpose was to determine if fuel components, including benzene and 1,2-DCA, in soil or groundwater could affect the health of the people in the neighborhood of the Tank Farm. The results of the study was approved by the California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control. The study found there are no health risks greater than chance (one in one million). Cal-EPA defines acceptable risk as one in one million that an adverse health effect would result from exposure to a contaminant.

TANK FARM FACILITY UPGRADES CONTINUE

There have been several facility upgrades to the Tank Farm over the years to improve operations, ensure public safety, and prevent future leakage problems. Seismic enhancement upgrades have been completed except for the electrical upgrades. Concrete tank collars, flex hose, and expansion joints have been added for greater seismic stability. Work on the installation of new tank bottoms is scheduled to start early 1995. Under a DFSC improvement program all truck loading operations have been discontinued except in emergencies. DFSC is exposing all buried valves and flanges to allow for regular visual inspections. One outer tank has been removed from service, and the JP-4 jet fuel tanks have been converted to store the less-volatile JP-8 jet fuel.



Buried valve which will be exposed during Tank Farm facility upgrades.

WHO'S WHO: TANK FARM PROJECT

The *Defense Fuel Supply Center* (DFSC) supplies fuel to U.S. military bases through *Defense Fuel Support Points* (DFSP). Locally, the *Defense Fuel Region-West* (DFR-W) runs the Norwalk Tank Farm with the help of Tenco Services, Inc., the contractor operator. Two environmental and engineering consultants also provide services: Groundwater Technology, Inc., works for DFSC, and Geomatrix works for Santa Fe Pacific Pipeline Partners. The regulatory agency responsible for Norwalk is California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control. Remediation work also complies with regulations from the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD TO BE FORMED

In a effort to provide enhanced community involvement in the environmental cleanup, Lt. Col. Charles Gross, the new Commander of DFR-W, has announced the formation of a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). The RAB is intended to be the framework for a partnership between Norwalk citizens, local officials, regulatory officials, and DFR-W personnel. The RAB will meet on a regular basis to exchange information, review and comment on environmental documents relating to Tank Farm actions, and review the progress of cleanup activities.

The formation of the RAB is in accordance with the new initiatives for environmental cleanup and restoration at active and inactive military installations announced by President Clinton in July of 1993. The RAB will be co-chaired by a representative from the community, DFR-W, SFPP, and the City of Norwalk. Citizens on the RAB will act as a liaison between the community and DFR-W and SFPP.

Those interested in joining the RAB will be asked to complete a short application form. Membership selection will be coordinated by a Selection Committee, which will include one or more Norwalk citizens. If you are interested in a membership application or being on the Selection Committee, please call one of the numbers provided.

GET THE FACTS

INFORMATION REPOSITORY

Norwalk Public Library (Reference Section)
12350 Imperial Highway, Norwalk

POINT OF CONTACT

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GLOSSARY

Free Product Recovery refers to the fuel on top of groundwater which is skimmed off and recycled or disposed.

Health Risk Assessment is a study done to see if chemicals at a site pose a risk to human health; if steps should be taken to reduce human exposure; and if the public should be monitored.

Monitoring Well is a well 2 to 4 inches in diameter with a removable cover that is drilled and constructed in a way that allows water samples to be taken and groundwater conditions to be evaluated. While wells are drilled, soil samples of the drill cuttings are often taken and analyzed for chemical compounds.

Plumes are formed when fuel floats on or is dissolved in groundwater. Movement of groundwater causes the plume to spread.

Remediation is the process of cleaning up contaminated soil and groundwater to levels that are acceptable to the regulatory agencies and that protect public health and safety as well as the environment.

Vapor Extraction System is a remediation system that works like a vacuum cleaner to vacuum fuel vapors from the soil. The fuel vapors are removed in a treatment unit and the clean treated vapors are released to the air.

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