



## Information for Norwalk Neighbors

### LATEST CLEANUP OPERATION RESULTS SHOW IMPROVEMENT

#### Introduction

*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.*

*The Defense Energy Support Center (DESC) formerly used the site to store and transfer military fuels. Kinder Morgan Energy Partners uses a portion of the facility for the distribution of commercial and military fuels.*

*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.*

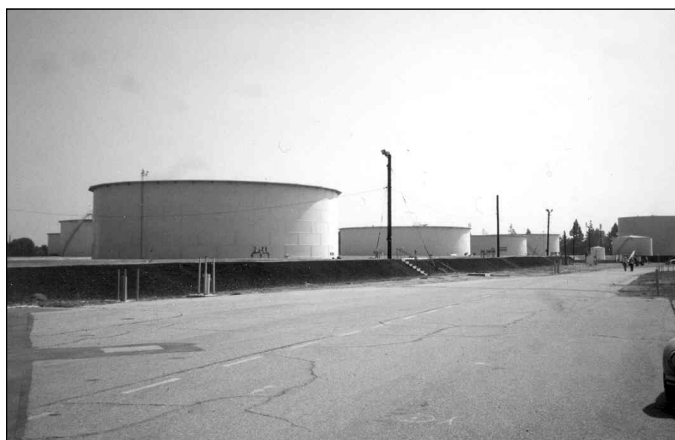
In January 2002, the “Tank Farm Cleanup Progress Update” fact sheet was distributed to the community with information on the latest cleanup results and statistics.

The fact sheet included information on system enhancements conducted over the past year to improve the cleanup operations. The latest groundwater monitoring reports show that the system enhancements have been successful. Overall chemical concentrations have dropped significantly.



Air Sparging. The installation of air sparge wells (shown here in 2000) has enhanced cleanup.

facility and extends offsite to the west, has been reduced in size and concentration. It is also retracting back onsite. This is attributed to improved water flow rates and efficiency of the West Side Barrier wells. In addition, no benzene was detected in the wells offsite to the west, a dramatic improvement.



Soil Investigation. Soil directly beneath the empty tanks was sampled during a recent investigation.

Three areas at the site are identified as having underground chemical plumes: the south-central area, the north-central area, and the southeast area. The 1,2-DCA plume, which originates in the southwestern portion of the

Groundwater quality and the overall boundaries of the central area plume have improved. This is attributed to the expanded air sparging system and new total fluids recovery wells. The free product (fuel) in this area has almost been totally removed. Some residual free product appeared in three wells in the northeast area, which is likely due to recent air sparging operations.

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# INVESTIGATIONS COMPLETED IN TRUCK FILL AREA AND BENEATH TANKS

A soil investigation of the Truck Fill Stand Area has been completed and is under review by the RWQCB.

The Truck Fill Stand Area is located towards the south-central area of the Tank Farm, east of the south-central plume. It contains three loading racks and was formerly used for the loading and unloading of fuel from transport trucks. When in use, it averaged approximately 12 trucks per day. Truck loading operations were discontinued in 1992 due to noise and safety concerns from nearby residents.

This area was not previously investigated because of its location on a concrete pad and its potential need in emergencies. With the closure of the Tank Farm, soil sampling was performed to evaluate the potential need for cleanup in the area. A limited amount of residual fuel from previous operations was discovered in the unsaturated zone between the second and third truck racks, but no significant contribution



Truck Fill Stand Investigation. A soil investigation was conducted in the Truck Fill Stand Area (shown here on the right).

to groundwater degradation was found.

Since the tanks are no longer in use, the areas directly beneath each tank could also be sampled. An investigation beneath the 12 Aboveground Storage Tanks was completed in April 2002 and is under review by the RWQCB. While no direct

evidence of tank leakage is available, it is suspected that the chemicals in the soil in the central area were the result of leaks in the bottoms of three tanks.

The two investigations were necessary to ensure the scope of the overall facility cleanup process was comprehensive. A plan will be developed to incorporate these areas into the Tank Farm's cleanup systems. ■

## LATEST CLEANUP....

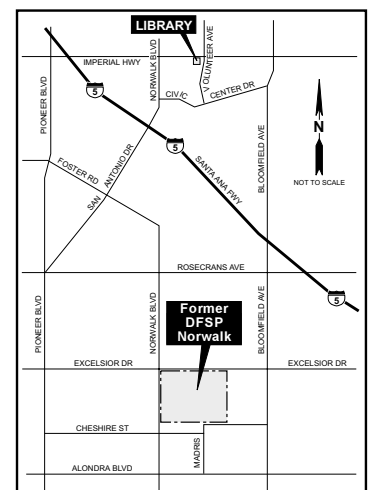
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The air sparging and total fluids wells were expanded into this northeast area in late 2001. Air sparging has mobilized some residual product believed to have been trapped within the saturated zone in this area.

The overall boundaries of the south-central plume have decreased. Benzene concentrations have decreased in wells offsite

near this area. This is attributed to the maintenance conducted on the south-central area treatment system to improve its operation and cost efficiency.

TPH concentrations have decreased in the area between the north-central and south-central plumes, as well as in the southeast area. No free product was found in the southeast plume area. ■



# RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE

The Norwalk Tank Farm Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is a group of Norwalk residents and representatives of the DESC, Kinder Morgan, RWQCB, and the City of Norwalk that meets regularly to discuss the Tank Farm environmental cleanup. The group was formed in 1995. The RAB reviews and comments on groundwater sampling plans and reports, cleanup operation updates, and cleanup systems changes.

At the January 2002 meeting, the RAB membership voted to change the meeting schedule from quarterly to semiannually. The meetings will now be regularly scheduled in January and July, with additional meetings to be held as needed.

The Offsite Chemicals Cleanup Subcommittee (OCCS), a subgroup of the RAB, met in March 2002 to discuss the final revisions to the

Risk-Based Corrective Action (RBCA) report. The RBCA is a risk assessment document created to address the plume offsite to the west. The report included a plan to improve operations of the West Side Barrier System by cleaning the wells and increasing the pumping rates. The West Side Barrier System includes a series of 11 groundwater extraction wells along the Tank Farm's western border. The improved West Side Barrier System has been successful in reducing concentrations in the western offsite 1,2-DCA plume and is retracting it back towards the site.

The next RAB meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2002 at 6:30 p.m. at the Norwalk Arts and Sports Complex. The agenda is scheduled to include the results of the first semiannual groundwater monitoring; an update on the Risk-

Based Corrective Action report; an update on the soil investigation in the Truck Fill Stand Area; and an update on the soil investigation in the areas beneath the tanks.

All RAB meetings are open to the public. If you have any questions about the RAB, please contact one of the representatives listed on page four. ■

**Norwalk  
Tank Farm  
Restoration  
Advisory Board  
Meeting:  
Thursday,  
July 25, 2002,  
6:30 p.m.  
Arts & Sports  
Complex.**

## JANUARY FACT SHEET MAILER COMMENTS

The January fact sheet mailer included postage-paid return postcard for the community to send in any questions or comments about the Tank Farm environmental cleanup. Very few responses were received, including the following:

- We would like to see the removal of the tank farm a little faster. We would like to know what the health hazard is to our family?
- I'm glad the tanks are going. I hope the City continues Holifield Park clear through to Norwalk Blvd. Please no more low cost housing.

Military fuel operations ended at the Tank Farm last year. DESC and Kinder Morgan are continuing to clean up the facility from past fuel releases. The cleanup is expected to take several more years.

Representatives of the U. S. Air Force, the owner of the property, are working with the General Services Administration (GSA) to conduct the facility transfer process concurrently with the cleanup. The facility will be transferred from the Air Force to the GSA. Once this happens, the Air Force will no longer be responsible for the property. The GSA can then dispose of the

property. Comments on the potential future use of the site have been forwarded to a City representative for consideration.

Health risk assessments have been conducted to determine any potential health effects associated with the presence of the chemicals in the soil and groundwater beneath the site. The studies have shown that there are no adverse health effects. In addition, no drinking water wells are affected. The facility cleanup operations are continuing to remove the chemicals from beneath the site, further minimizing any potential risks. ■

## 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:

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

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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.

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*Si quiere una copia de este boletín  
en español, por favor llame al  
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