

Tank Farms 4 and 5 Fact Sheet Update (August 2002)



INTRODUCTION

Tank Farms 4 and 5 have undergone extensive investigations under the IR and UST programs. Tanks were demolished in 1997 and 1998.

BACKGROUND

Tank Farms 4 and 5 are part of a series of five fuel depots that were used to store fuel oil for ships. Tank Farm 4 consisted of 12 underground concrete tanks, each with a capacity of 2.5 million gallons. Tank Farm 5 consisted of 11 similarly sized underground concrete tanks.



Air Photo, Tank Farm 5 (1943)

These fuel tanks were constructed in the 1940s and used to fuel the ships berthed at Newport until the 1970s when the ships were assigned to other ports of call. The tanks were then used for reserve supply until the late 1980s. The tanks were cleaned and balasted between 1994 and 1997. After cleaning was completed, the tanks were demolished by implosion.

These sites were identified in the Initial Assessment study as potential sources of chemical contaminants. Study Area Screening Evaluations have been completed at both that included soil and groundwater sample collection and analysis.

At Tank Farm 5, two of the tanks (numbered 53 and 56) were singled out because they were RCRA Hazardous Waste Storage Tanks, which then underwent RCRA Closure. These were used between 1975 and 1980 for storage of waste oil. Following these investigations, an interim Record of Decision (ROD) was prepared in 1992 to describe remedial actions.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Between 1997 and 1998, the tanks that were no longer needed were imploded in place. The ground was re-graded and the affected areas were re-seeded.



Tank during implosion (1997)

A groundwater collection and treatment plant was constructed in 1994 to treat groundwater passing under and around tanks 53 and 56. The plant operated from 1994 to 1996.

Groundwater quality monitoring indicated the removal of the fuel and demolition of the tanks was effective in reducing contaminant concentrations to meet RIDEM groundwater standards for GA aquifers.

Additional monitoring wells were installed in the vicinity of the former waste oil tanks to evaluate the condition of groundwater in the bedrock. These additional efforts are nearing completion.

NEXT STEPS

The Navy is evaluating a proposal to build an 18 hole golf course in 2005. We are developing plans to complete the cleanup of the site by September 2004.