



TANK HILL FACILITY UPDATE

SITE RESPONSE SECTION

November 2013

BACKGROUND

Tank Hill includes an active petroleum storage tank farm covering an area of approximately forty acres (tank farm), as well as all other areas where contamination has come to be located. During operations at the tank farm, crude oil and petroleum condensate were spilled or leaked from tanks and piping. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is overseeing the investigation and cleanup under the Comprehensive Environmental Cleanup and Responsibility Act (state superfund).

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE TANK HILL FACILITY?

Remedial Investigation

The remedial investigation is complete and shows the extent of contamination throughout the Tank Hill facility. This includes results from soil, soil vapor, sediment, groundwater, and surface water samples. The remedial investigation also evaluates how the contamination may move through the environment.

Based on the remedial investigation results, there are no identified drinking water supply wells in the area where contamination has been found in the groundwater. Additionally, no contaminated vapors above screening levels are currently moving from the subsurface into buildings. No contaminants in Cut Bank Creek are above water quality standards, including the city of Cut Bank drinking water source, which is upstream of the site.

The risk of exposure at this site is low as long as people do not drink or come into direct contact with the contaminated groundwater, seeps or sediments.

DEQ has determined that more information is needed before the final cleanup can be proposed. This includes:

- Refine the understanding of the rate that dissolved petroleum contamination decomposes at the facility.
- Identify the presence and extent of petroleum and dissolved groundwater contamination east and south of the tank farm.

- Identify the degree of interconnection and movement of water and contamination between three water-bearing zones beneath the facility.

Human Health and Environmental Risk Assessment

A draft of the Human Health and the Environmental Risk Assessment report (risk assessment) is currently under review by DEQ staff. The risk assessment evaluates the potential risk to humans, plants, and animals from exposure to chemicals at the facility. It also identifies site-specific cleanup levels.

WHAT'S COMING UP AT THE TANK HILL FACILITY?

Feasibility Study

DEQ will look at various cleanup options in the upcoming feasibility study. The feasibility study will identify clean-up options that address unacceptable risks, if any, to human health and the environment as identified in the risk assessment.



The area of contaminated seeps along Cut Bank Creek.

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Anticipated timeframe for future work

In fall of 2014, DEQ anticipates evaluating final cleanup options in the feasibility study, followed by the solicitation of public comment on the proposed final cleanup in the spring of 2015. DEQ anticipates issuing its final cleanup decision in the fall of 2015. DEQ will then provide the parties responsible for cleanup with the opportunity to enter into a consent order. If the parties are unable to reach agreement, DEQ can unilaterally issue an order requiring cleanup, conduct the cleanup itself, or pursue legal action. Final cleanup could begin as early as 2016.

Who is Responsible for the Cleanup?

DEQ has identified the following parties (Respondents) as responsible for investigation and cleanup at Tank Hill (the parties listed are the current parties):

- ConocoPhillips Company
- Ashland, Inc.
- Union Oil Company of California, doing business as Unocal, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Chevron
- CHS, Inc.
- Black Eagle LLC.

DEQ also initially identified Flying J Inc. and Flying J Petroleums, Inc. as responsible, and has subsequently resolved the liability for the Flying J entities in the Flying J Inc. bankruptcy.

WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE?

Some cleanup has already been performed, including:

- Previous installation of seven vapor mitigation systems done by DEQ's Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Trust program. This work was separate from the vapor intrusion investigation that the Respondents conducted.
- Petroleum removal from an interceptor trench and from groundwater in localized areas done by Glacier County and LUST Trust. Limited contaminated soil removal from the petroleum storage area on Tank Hill.
- Action taken to keep contaminated groundwater from impacting two structures.
- Capture of petroleum in groundwater seeps from the bluff above Cut Bank Creek.



Some excavation work has been done in the past at Tank Hill. Absorbent pads soaking up crude oil can be seen in the bottom of this hole.

What is the risk of exposure to contaminated groundwater?



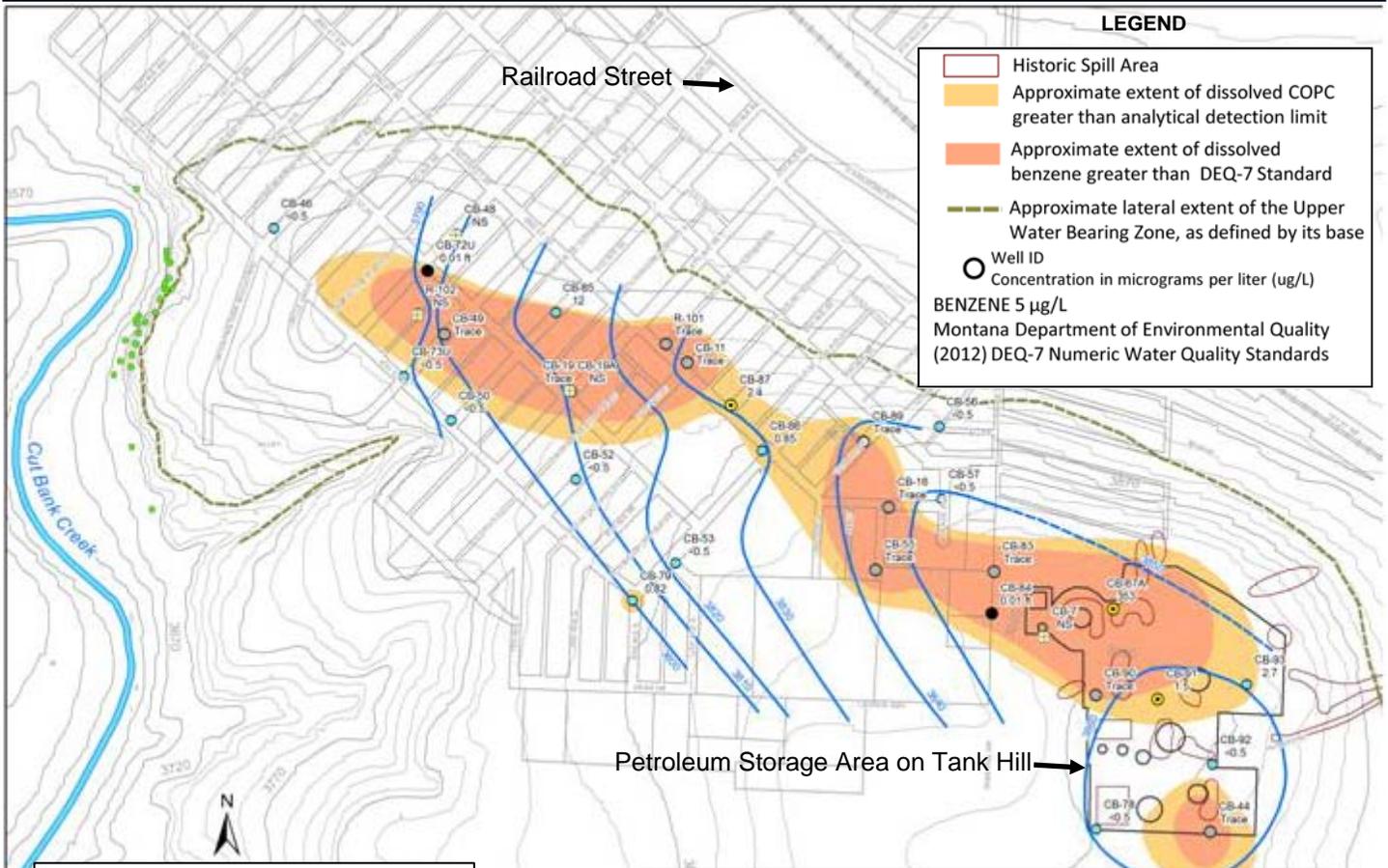
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LEGEND

- Historic Spill Area
 - Approximate extent of dissolved COPC greater than analytical detection limit
 - Approximate extent of dissolved benzene greater than DEQ-7 Standard
 - Approximate lateral extent of the Upper Water Bearing Zone, as defined by its base
 - Well ID
 - Concentration in micrograms per liter (ug/L)
- BENZENE 5 µg/L**
Montana Department of Environmental Quality
(2012) DEQ-7 Numeric Water Quality Standards

How do they know where the plume of contaminated groundwater is in Cut Bank?

This map shows the estimated extent of benzene in the upper water bearing zone.



Analysis of environmental data enables us to estimate the area of the plume of contamination.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TANK HILL FACILITY?

Additional information about the Tank Hill Facility can be found at DEQ's Remediation Division Helena Office located at 1100 North Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT. Some of the site documents are also available for review at the Glacier County Library located at 21 1st Ave. SE, Cut Bank, MT.



The remedial investigation identified various petroleum compounds as contaminants, including benzene and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). More information on these and other substances can be found at:
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/substances/index.asp>.
If you do not have internet access, DEQ can mail you this information at your request.

Contact Information

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*****PUBLIC MEETING*****

Date: November 13, 2013

Time: 5:30 P.M.

Place/Address: Glacier Electric
410 E. Main Street
Cut Bank, Montana

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will host a public meeting in Cut Bank to discuss the Tank Hill Comprehensive Environmental Cleanup and Responsibility Act (state Superfund) Facility in Cut Bank. DEQ will address the investigation of the contamination, the assessment of the risk from the contamination, and the path towards final cleanup for the facility.

The DEQ will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in the meeting. If you require an accommodation, please contact Jeni Garcin-Flatow at (406) 841-5016 or jgarcin2@mt.gov.



P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Current Resident