

CASE HISTORY: Taft, Texas Coastal States Crude Gathering – Crude Oil Tank

March 2000:

Texas EnviroChem, Inc. was called to clean a 96,000 bbls storage crude oil tank located in Taft, Texas. The task was to remove 8,000 bbls of crude oil bottoms and water. Texas EnviroChem moved onto the site and began removing the hydrocarbon-contaminated water and placing it in four 500 bbls frac tanks for treatment with TxChem HE-1000. The process took approximately 48 hours to perform, and final testing for TPH (Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon) levels revealed a 97% reduction.

The next step was to remove any oil which had been freed up and place it up for sale and then to analyze the tank bottoms. Upon doing this, it was determined that in order to be sellable, the remaining crude would then need to be blended in order for it to meet the criteria of being less than 1% BS&W. EnviroChem ACL was introduced as a blending agent to liquefy the crude bottoms and assist in the cleaning of the tank.

Testing showed that EnviroChem ACL almost immediate liquefied the heavy bottoms that consisted of 12% paraffin, 8% BS&W, gravity of 21, and a flashpoint of 340 degrees F. After the blending, the testing showed a remarkable change in the liquidity and a flashpoint of 136 degrees.

The tank cleaning was completed within two weeks, and TxChem HE-1000 was used to de-gas the tank and wash out the remaining residue so that disposal did not become a factor.

Conclusion:

It was determined that EnviroChem ACL and TxChem HE-1000 could be used in conjunction with each other and make the job much more simplistic. EnviroChem ACL can reduce cost, time, and the need for a large cleaning crew onsite, all while creating a burner fuel from the tank bottoms. The process of using TxChem HE-1000 and EnviroChem ACL for tank cleaning greatly reduced exposure to liabilities.