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"RELEASE 2009 – 560 NEWSY STUFF"

December 31 2009



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Could We Hope for Year of lesser injuries & fatalities, a Year of Safety Harmony in our Industries, one in which no man or woman has to knock on anyone's door and have to say

"I'm sorry to inform you that....."

May your start of a new Decade be the Best Ever.

Don

SPAIN, MADRID, DECEMBER 24 2009. GIBRALTAR GROUNDINGS PROMPT WATCH INQUIRY >> AUTHORITIES SUSPECT POOR WATCH-KEEPING WHILE THE VESSELS WERE AT ANCHORAGE

brian reyes

Two Gibraltar-based bunker tankers ran aground in neighbouring Spain in foul weather yesterday, but there were no injuries or pollution reported. Both had been riding the storm at anchorage off Gibraltar, but one ship dragged anchor and hooked the chain of the other vessel. "Initial reports suggest one started to have a problem and drifted ...

<http://loydslist.com/ll/news/gibraltar-groundings-prompt-watch-inquiry/1261062353005.htm;.5d25bd3d240cca6cbbee6afc8c3b5655190f397f>

USA, AKA, ANCHORAGE, DECEMBER 24 2009. BP'S LATEST SPILL COVERED MORE THAN 200K SQUARE FEET, DEC SAYS

ted land

Watch the Video http://dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/response/sum_fy10/091221301/091221301_index.htm

Photo's http://dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/response/sum_fy10/091221301/091221301_index.htm

Situation Reports http://dec.state.ak.us/spar/perp/response/sum_fy10/091221301/091221301_index.htm



BP says the 6-inch line separated because of a faulty weld.

The Prudhoe Bay oil and water leak discovered Monday at a BP well pad covered an area greater than two-and-a-half football fields, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation said Wednesday. Produced water containing salt water, oil and natural gas sprayed out of a 6-inch flow line running into a well house when the line separated from the building, the DEC said. The cause of the line separation is under investigation. A worker discovered the produced water spraying out of the line Monday. BP blames a faulty weld. BP spokesperson Steve Rhinehart says the company's calculation shows that about 3 gallons of oil mixed with 131 gallons of produced water spewed from the pipe. The leak at Well House 11 is BP's third release in a month's time. In the latest release, about 64,000 square feet of gravel pad area and about 158,000 square feet of snow covered tundra were affected. At least 72 cubic yards of contaminated snow have been removed so far, mostly from the gravel pad the well house sits on, but the DEC says there is much more left to dispose of. Last month one of the North Slope's largest spills happened when 46,000 gallons of oil, water and natural gas leaked at a different BP-operated field. The DEC says it's looking at each of the release incidents separately and will determine later if there is a pattern.

<http://www.ktuu.com/Global/story.asp?S=11724718>

USA, NY, NEW YORK, DECEMBER 25 2009. CHILLY CLIMATE FOR OIL REFINERS

jad mouawad

Only a few years ago, a cry went up that the United States needed more [oil](#) refineries. The perceived shortage was so acute that [George W. Bush](#), president at the time, even offered disused military bases as sites for building them. Not only did that never come to pass, but the reverse is now happening. The business of oil refining is mired in a deep crisis, with five refineries having shut down this year, including plants in Delaware, New Jersey, California and New Mexico. Gasoline demand, which many analysts had long expected to keep rising for decades, is down sharply in the [recession](#). And refiners are increasingly convinced that even after the economy recovers, demand will not grow much in coming years because of the rise of alternative fuel supplies and the advent of tougher efficiency standards for automobiles. The recent closings signal the end of a period from roughly 2004 to 2008, when demand soared, refineries operated near capacity and profits swelled. For drivers, that meant gasoline prices at \$3 or \$4 a gallon, especially when [hurricanes](#) knocked out refining capacity on the Gulf Coast. For refiners, this gilded period turned out to have been an anomaly. Plagued by boom-and-bust cycles of rapid expansion followed by sharp belt-tightening, refining companies have often struggled to operate at a profit. That is a contrast to the production side of the oil business, long a road to riches. "Oil production creates wealth, but oil refining has often destroyed it," said Costanza Jacazio, an analyst at [Barclays](#) Capital in New York. Even so, these are unusually harsh times for oil refiners. The recent drop in gasoline demand could result in more refineries being closed in the coming year. "We have too much capacity," said Lynn D. Westfall, the chief economist at the Tesoro Corporation, a midsize refiner, who estimated that the industry's capacity of 18 million barrels a day must be cut 5 to 8 percent. "We need refineries to be shut down." Refineries, especially smaller ones, have been closing for many years. The number of refineries in the United States fell to about 150 in recent years from more than 300 in 1982. At the same time, the nation's refining capacity grew by about 13

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percent, as companies expanded their most efficient refineries. But the shutdowns are now coming so fast that the United States is losing capacity as refiners struggle to match their output to falling demand. Some energy experts have said that gasoline consumption most likely peaked in 2007, when it reached 9.7 million barrels a day, and will not rise to that level again. Even as demand has dropped, gasoline is still relatively expensive because of high oil prices. Gasoline prices have dropped to an average of \$2.58 a gallon, according to the motorist group AAA, with many analysts predicting further declines this winter. Gasoline consumption fell 3.5 percent last year, the steepest decline since 1965, while diesel consumption fell 6.8 percent, the most in 28 years. Both are set to fall again this year. Government mandates for ethanol, meanwhile, are expected to grow through 2022. Biofuel supplies, which were negligible a few years ago, are set to reach 15 billion gallons in 2012 and 36 billion gallons in 2022. As production grows, ethanol and other [biofuels](#) displace gasoline and diesel; at many gasoline pumps ethanol is now 10 percent of the blend, and the ethanol industry is pushing to raise the percentage. The refining industry is also faced with a new political reality. Unlike the Bush administration, which offered support and incentives to petroleum producers, the goal of the Obama administration is to encourage alternative fuels and reduce the use of gasoline. Refiners are complaining about the [climate change](#) legislation is making its way through Congress, fearing that it will impose higher costs on the petroleum industry and result in more gasoline imports from lower-cost refiners overseas. The increase in automobile fuel-efficiency standards — by 2016, the fleet average will rise to 35.5 miles per gallon from an average of about 25 miles per gallon for vehicles on the road today — is expected to reduce oil consumption by a total of 1.8 billion barrels between 2012 and 2016. Automakers from [General Motors](#) to Nissan are also betting on a new generation of [electric cars](#) that will become available in the next few years. In a speech this month at the Los Angeles auto show, [Robert A. Lutz](#), General Motors' vice chairman for marketing, said, "The automobile industry simply can no longer rely on oil to supply 98 percent of the world's automotive energy requirements." That leaves refiners with difficult choices: cut costs and hope to survive the downturn; try to sell plants; or shut down unprofitable refineries. "The industry is on its collective knees right now," said Charles T. Drevna, president of the National Petrochemical and Refiners Association. About 700,000 barrels a day of refining capacity have been idled or shut down in North America in the last year, according to Aaron Brady, an oil expert at IHS Cambridge Energy Research Associates. The industry is expanding elsewhere around the world, especially in Asia, where gasoline demand is expected to rise in the coming decades. Thanks to multibillion dollar projects in China, India and Saudi Arabia, the industry is expected to add two million barrels a day of refining capacity this year, even as global oil demand drops by around 1.7 million barrels a day, or about 2 percent, according to Barclays. American refiners are bearing much of the brunt of the downturn. Last year, the American industry operated at 85.3 percent of capacity, the lowest level since 1988, according to the Energy Department. The utilization level is on track to sink to 75 percent this year, compared with highs above 90 percent just five years ago. The [Valero Energy Corporation](#), the nation's largest refiner, announced this month that it had shut down its refinery in Delaware City, Del., which could process 210,000 barrels of oil a day. Once the industry's highflier, Valero, based in San Antonio, has seen its stock price plummet as a result of the economic downturn. The stock is down 22 percent this year, after a 69 percent drop in 2008. "The golden age of refining — if it ever existed — didn't last very long," said Bill Day, a spokesman for Valero. Two other refineries were shut down since October: [Sunoco's](#) Eagle Point plant, in Westville, N.J., and [Western Refining's](#) plant in Bloomfield, N.M., with a combined capacity of about 160,000 barrels a day. Refineries in California and Aruba, the latter operating primarily to supply the United States market, were also closed earlier this year. Oil majors, like independent refiners, are also suffering. [Exxon Mobil's](#) domestic refineries lost \$203 million in the third quarter, a period when earnings at its global refining business dropped by \$2.7 billion, to \$325 million. [Chevron](#) earned \$34 million at its domestic refineries in the last quarter, compared with more than \$1 billion a year earlier. In a bid to diversify its supplies, Valero, which has 15 refineries in the United States, Aruba and Canada, has recently bought a handful of ethanol refineries. Even though ethanol refiners have also struggled in the recession, mandates passed by Congress ensure that increasing amounts of that fuel are likely to be mixed into the nation's gasoline supply in coming years. "We recognize that ethanol is an important side of the fuel mix that is not going to go anywhere," said Mr. Day, of Valero. "That's where the future of demand growth and transportation fuels will be."

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/24/business/energy-environment/24refining.html?_r=1

USA, NC, CHARLOTTE, DECEMBER 25 2009. DIESEL FUEL FROM A CATS STORAGE TANK LEAKS

Diesel fuel from a CATS storage tank leaked into an underground storm drain, showing up more than a half-mile away at a Revolution Park reservoir pond. The pond's purpose is to catch and clean stormwater runoff from the uptown area, which has become an issue recently with occasional flooding during heavy rains. The leak wasn't immediately apparent at the South Tryon Street bus facility and had to be traced back to the source, said a written description of the incident from John Muth, CATS interim director. Cleanup is underway, he wrote, and the "impact to the environment appears to be minimal." Christopher D. Kirkpatrick

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/breaking/story/1142449.html>

USA, AKA, ANCHORAGE, DECEMBER 25 2009. ALASKA TANKER-ESCORT GROUNDS AT NOTORIOUS WRECK SITE

yereth rosen

A tugboat used to help oil tankers travel safely through Alaska's Prince William Sound has run aground at the site of the Exxon Valdez disaster and is leaking diesel fuel, the U.S. Coast Guard said on Thursday. The tug, called the Pathfinder and owned by Crowley Maritime Corp, hit Bligh Reef on Wednesday evening. The submerged reef, a notorious navigation hazard, is where the Exxon Valdez ran aground in 1989, leaking 11 million gallons (42 million litres) of crude oil in the country's worst oil-tanker spill. Fuel tanks holding up to 33,500 gallons (127,000 litres) of diesel were breached in the grounding, and aerial surveys show that a sheen about three miles (5 km) long and 30 yards (metres) wide has formed, Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Dana Ware said.

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Tanker traffic out of Valdez, site of the marine terminal for the Trans Alaska Pipeline System, was temporarily interrupted but resumed Thursday morning, Ware said. The 136-foot (41-metre) tug, part of the tanker-escort system set up after the Exxon Valdez disaster, had been scouting the tanker route for ice buildup, the Coast Guard said. It was not escorting a tanker at the time. It is unclear what caused the grounding. All six crew members passed the alcohol test that was administered, the Coast Guard said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2418336820091224?type=marketsNews>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, GOLD COAST, DECEMBER 25 2009. COAST TRUCKIE HAILED A HERO

Andrew MacDonald

A truck driver has been hailed a hero by firefighters after risking his own life to avoid a massive gas explosion. Travelling along the Gold Coast Highway at Palm Beach about 2.30pm today, the driver noticed smoke coming from the hydraulics on his prime mover. With a load of LPG gas tanks in the trailer, the driver got out, released the trailer and drove along Sarawak Avenue to thwart a massive explosion.

http://www.goldcoast.com.au/article/2009/12/24/172991_gold-coast-news.html

USA, ID, MUD LAKE, DECEMBER 25 2009. TANKER EXPLOSION FOLLOWUP - IKE'S TESORO LOOKS FORWARD

steven pope

What remains of last week's tanker explosion is well, scrap metal. But there is some good news on Christmas Eve. "It appeared like it was going to rain fire there for a minute, it didn't look it was going to burn out, the fire just kept falling," said Dan Babcock, Jefferson Fire Coordinator. "That night it was kind of mind boggling, you didn't know what was going to happen. You always had that thought in your mind what if this placed blew up? You think you're going to be done and down the tubes. Now it's happened, you just decide you gotta move on, and that's what you do," said Ike Tomlinson, owner of the Mud Lake Tesoro. "(The truck driver) was offloading this truck, and he over filled one of these tanks. I believe it was the tank on the end, with premium gas in it. It sprayed fuel out the vent onto the truck and that's where the source ignition was," said Bancocok. Just four days after the explosion, the convenience store has already reopened. "I can't afford to rollover, I still have bills I have to pay, but the most important thing is to be grateful no one died that night," said Tomlinson. Employees are back to work and customers are already coming in. Even this black cat tried to sneak into the store for some warmth, and I'd go so far as to say it was actually a sign of future good fortune. Pumps at Ike's Tesoro could be used as early as next week.

<http://www.kidk.com/news/local/80079897.html>

USA, NJ, VERNON, DECEMBER 25 2009. ABOVE GROUND TANK LEAKS INTO LAKE

cindy weightman

A Highland Lakes family is dealing with a cleanup after an above ground oil tank leaked into the lake on Dec. 9. According to a report from the County Sheriff's office, oil went into footing drains and sump pump, which in turn discharges into a storm drain at the front of the property on Lakeside Drive West. The drain outflow travels under the road and into a ditch that discharges into the lake. James McDonald from the Sussex county health department says containment containers were placed at a creek and on the lake to absorb the oil. McDonald is Chief Registered Environmental Health Specialist with the health department. According to the incident report the initial call came in at about 4 p.m. Three rows of containers were placed at the lake's outflow and absorbent pads needed to be changed at least once because they were saturated. A contractor arrived at 7:15 p.m. to vacuum from the sump pump in the home's crawl space. There was too much work to be completed that night and representatives from the state Department of Environmental Protection requested a state contractor to do some additional work. McDonald says the homeowners Eric and Tamara Zanetti had just had an oil delivery four days prior to the spill and when "haz-mat" officials responded, the tank was pretty much empty. He says an estimated 250 gallons of oil went into the lake. Just two inches of oil remained in the tank after the spill. The county covered costs for the initial response to clean up the spill, but the homeowners are obliged to pay for a private contractor to finish the job. The state health department is monitoring the cleanup to make sure that the homeowner complies.

http://www.strausnews.com/articles/2009/12/24/advertiser_news/news/7.txt

USA, MT, BILLINGS, DECEMBER 25 2009. CAUSE UNKNOWN IN STORAGE TANK BLAZE AT CONOCOPHILLIPS >> REFINERY OPERATING AT 'NORMAL' AFTER TANK FIRE

tom lutey & zach benoit

Watch the Video <http://www.kulr8.com/news/local/80084412.html?video=YHI&t=a>

Watch the Video http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/vmix_ff64f26a-f0e5-11de-967c-001cc4c03286.html

Photo's http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/collection_3f1193d2-f0e6-11de-b92a-001cc4c03286.html

Slideshow: http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/vmix_a746d72c-f0f1-11de-8193-001cc4c03286.html

ConocoPhillips and Billings firefighters are dwarfed by flames as a storage tank at the Billings refinery.

All units at the ConocoPhillips refinery are operating at their normal rates today while company fire crews monitor the storage tank that caught fire Thursday. Refinery spokesperson Tiffany Wilson said today that a ConocoPhillips fire truck and firefighters remained at the tank through the night as a precautionary measure. She said the fire at the tank was extinguished at 5:50 p.m. Billings Fire Department Battalion Chief Tim McLeod said the last city firefighters left the refinery grounds at 7:30 p.m. after assisting refinery fire crews as part of their mutual aid agreement. Wilson said refinery officials have begun an investigation of the

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fire, which was contained to the storage unit that contained asphalt. She had no details about what triggered the fire and it may take a couple weeks to determine its cause.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/local/article_58389e92-f0db-11de-853f-001cc4c002e0.html

PHILIPPINES, GENERAL SANTOS, DECEMBER 25 2009. SIX DEAD IN CHRISTMAS FIRES: PHILIPPINE POLICE

Six people have been killed in Christmas fires in the Philippines that were blamed on exploding fireworks, police and television reports said Friday. Firecrackers believed set off by customers ignited the rest of the merchandise at a row of fireworks stalls in this southern city shortly after midnight, said the city police chief, Superintendent Marcelo Pintac. "Two were killed on the spot and a third expired at a local hospital," Pintac told reporters. "A fourth person sustained burn injuries." The fire occurred at a city park where the temporary structures were erected for holiday shoppers, the police official said. About two hours earlier, two children and a pregnant woman were killed when a blaze razed 46 stalls selling fireworks in the central city of Mandaue on Christmas Eve, GMA television reported. Hundreds of Filipinos are maimed or burned each year in firework accidents, usually around Christmas, when people set off crackers all night or fire guns into the air in drink-fueled revelry.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jQzCesZ5D5jbTMRC4QAMH1b4M1xw>

USA, ORE, PORTLAND, DECEMBER 25 2009. CONTRACTOR CLEANING UP OIL SPILL AT THE DALLES DAM

eric mortenson

A contractor hired to clean up an oil spill at [The Dalles Dam](#) expected to have the site stabilized today, a [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#) spokesman said. Workers discovered Wednesday that an estimated 3,250 gallons of light, mineral-type oil had leaked from a spare transformer. Most of the oil, which did not contain cancer-causing PCBs, soaked into the ground. However, a small amount seeped into the dam's ice and trash sluiceway through drainage holes, spokesman Scott Clemans said. He said a "light sheen" was visible in the sluiceway near the dam, but termed it as "not a significant amount." The contractor was removing oil-soaked dirt and blocking off the oil's route to the Columbia River, Clemans said. Clemans said a valve failed on the transformer, allowing the oil to leak. Inspectors don't yet know why the valve failed and are checking other transformers that have similar valves. The transformer, with an oil capacity of 6,500 gallons, was stored in a facility designed to contain spills, but that system also failed and is being investigated, Clemans said. The Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Washington Department of Ecology sent emergency response teams to the dam after the leak was discovered.

http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2009/12/contractor_cleaning_up_oil_spi.html

TAIWAN, TAIPEI, DECEMBER 25 2009. GASOLINE VAPOR RECOVERY UNITS INSTALLED IN GAS STATIONS NATIONWIDE: EPA

Authorities in Taiwan have put many efforts into making gas stations more environmental friendly. Gas stations in cities are a concerning source of air pollution. The Gasoline vapor emitted from gas stations pose health hazard not only to the staff, but also drivers and neighborhood residents. The government has been pushing for gasoline vapor recovery units among gas stations since 1993, according to an EPA official. Initially, stations were subsidized for installations. Since 2006, recovery facilities have been compulsory at all gas stations in Taiwan, said Hsieh Yeh-rui, who is in charge of air quality protection at the administration. Currently, some 2600 gas stations nationwide all have recovery facilities installed, which has effectively reduced benzene concentration by 88%, and Volatile Organic Compound (VOCs) by more than 80%, which is a reduction of more than 20,000 tons of VOCs. As Hsieh points out, VOCs emitted by gas stations have proven to be a cause of anemia and leukemia. MTBE, another chemical compound in gasoline, also increases the risks of various cancers. In addition, VOCs will react with nitrogen oxides in the sunlight to produce ozone, which reduces air quality and cause harmful effects on the respiratory system.

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/gasoline-vapor-recovery-units-installed-in-gas-stations-nationwide-epa.1102029.shtml>

USA, IA, DES MOINES, DECEMBER 26 2009. IOWA LOOKS TO CLEAN UP LEAKY FUEL TANKS

State of Iowa regulators and gasoline station operators are looking to bury their differences in hopes of resolving lingering issues linked to cleaning up leaky underground tanks before a funding source dries up in 2016. Proponents and critics agree that the federally mandated effort begun 20 years ago has been one of Iowa's most-successful environmental programs. But the roughly 1,400 sites — including about 750 considered high-risk — that still need clean-up measures or monitoring probably are among the most challenging and expensive to address. "I'm optimistic that we're going to come up with some strategies that will get significant numbers of those sites moved more quickly," said Tim Hall, bureau chief for the state Department of Natural Resources, or DNR, geological and water survey, who is spearheading a collaborative effort. "The devil's always in the details." At issue is the need to protect people, water supplies and soil from contamination caused by petroleum tanks, primarily at gas stations, commercial sites and some school properties, while providing "closure" to property owners who have repaired, replaced, removed or taken other action to address faulty underground storage containers. "The things we're concerned with are public health and environmental risk," said Elaine Douskey, who supervises the DNR's underground storage tank program. Site inspectors look for evidence of soil or water pollution, defective pipes or water lines, the presence of vapors that get into buildings or sewers, and other concerns when a petroleum release is detected. Public health officials warn that people who breathe or ingest high concentrations of chemicals, such as benzene, could be at greater risk for cancer, leukemia or other health issues. With a 1-cent-per-gallon state gas tax dedicated to the prevention, monitoring and clean-up effort slated to "sunset" in June 2016, DNR officials, tank owners and petroleum marketers, groundwater professionals and the Underground Storage Tank, or UST, Board and its administrative staff are

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working to establish goals, milestones and accountable results aimed at reducing the remaining contaminated sites while there are adequate resources to deal with the backlog. To date, nearly \$250 million has been spent on testing and the remediation of thousands of contaminated sites, many of them detected before Oct. 26, 1990, said Scott Scheidel, Iowa's underground storage tank fund administrator. The impetus for Iowa's program was a federal requirement that forced states to begin cleaning leaky underground tanks — many of which were abandoned — that could threaten water supplies and pose risks of explosion or exposure to harmful fumes. "It used to be one of the most controversial issues that we had to deal with because it had extreme economic impacts on communities that had gas stations or a former gas station on every corner," said Chuck Gipp, a former state representative from Decorah who worked on the environmental issue. "The fact that it's considered to be noncontroversial now would indicate to me that the program works." A 1988 federal law imposed technical and financial responsibility upon owners and operators of underground storage tanks. However, private insurance was unattainable at that time, so Iowa responded with a 1989 act that created a fund and an oversight board to help owners and operators who have to comply with Environmental Protection Agency standards. "At the time that we did it, it was the largest public works expenditure in the history of the state," said Sen. Jack Hatch, D-Des Moines, who previously served in the House and worked extensively on helping establish Iowa's underground tank legislation. Leaks detected before the October 1990 threshold were eligible for help from the state fund, which was bolstered by the penny diminution fee on gasoline and diesel fuel sales to underwrite the state insurance pool, bonding authority and multimillion-dollar settlements with major oil companies that were responsible for a number of leaking tanks. State lawmakers required underground tank owners to carry liability insurance, to upgrade or equip their new and existing tanks with leak-guard systems and to report tank failures. Officials note that fuel releases often occur when tanks are being filled, either due to spills or overfills. Susan Heathcote of the Iowa Environmental Council said the initial scope of the problem exceeded expectations and that people were surprised by the amount of time that it took to get sites cleaned up and into a "no further action" status. A positive outgrowth of the tank legislation was that it modernized Iowa's fuel-delivery system, she said. A downside, however, was that the new rules caused a number of small, independent service station owners and operators to quit the business in the face of increased financial and regulatory requirements. "It was kind of sad to see how it affected small businesses that were caught up in this. "But I do think that the environmental concerns were real. We had to address it. We've done the right thing," she said. "I would say that it has accomplished most of what was set out to be accomplished. I think the length of time that it's taken was maybe a surprise." Jeff Hove, vice president of the Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Stores of Iowa, said the program has been effective at addressing an environmental concern, but the time has come to end some ongoing monitoring and over-regulation of sites that are low-risk or not in need of further action to provide some certainty to the industry. Hove said he was hopeful but less optimistic that the new look at stalemated issues mired in mistrust and long-term disagreements would dramatically reduce the backlog of unresolved cases without some type of legislative impetus for change. "We can talk until we're blue in the face and paint rosy pictures and everybody's on the bandwagon, but as soon as it leaves the building, people are jumping off and it never gets done," he said. Hove said he opposed to recommendation made by a consultant hired by Gov. Chet Culver to find efficiencies in state government that called for eliminating the UST board and administrator and redirecting money so DNR officials would administer the program in the future. The move was projected to save the state \$4 million over five years.

http://www.qctimes.com/news/state-and-regional/iowa/article_b2050bee-f1d6-11de-b160-001cc4c002e0.html

USA, AKA, VALDEZ - New Sheen Delays Effort To Get Fuel Off Crippled Tug

USA, AKA, VALDEZ, DECEMBER 26 2009. **NEW SHEEN DELAYS EFFORT TO GET FUEL OFF CRIPPLED TUG >> PATHFINDER: DISCOVERY OF LEAK HALTS PROCESS; FISHING BOATS TRY TO ABSORB SHEEN.**

don hunter

Watch the Video:

http://community.adn.com/mini_apps/vmix/player.php?ID=8247766&GID=118

Watch the Video:

<http://www.ktuu.com/global/video/flash/popupplayer.asp?vt1=v&clipFormat=flv&clipId1=4412193&at1=News&h1=Raw.&gallery&rnd=39386624>

Photo's: [5]

<http://www.adn.com/news/alaska/rural/southeast/v-gallery/story/1069573.html?/1521/gallery/1069574.html>

Photo's: [8]

<http://www.adn.com/photos/environment/story/1069196.html>

Updated ADEC Situation Report:

ADEC has updated its [incident notification page](#) for the Pathfinder grounding. Use this link to access updated situation reports throughout the response. A [situation report for December 25, 2009](#) at 3:00pm is now available.



The Valdez Star, an oil response vessel, is skimming the water in the vicinity of the light silver diesel sheen from the tug Pathfinder near Bligh Reef Dec. 24, 2009. The tug Pathfinder went aground on Bligh Reef Wednesday evening creating a light grey or silver diesel sheen spanning an area approximately three miles long and 30 yards wide approximately one mile east of Glacier Island.

As a new, mile-long sheen of diesel fuel drifted away from the disabled tugboat Pathfinder on Friday, salvage crews worked into the night to get fuel transferred from two tanks slashed open

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when the vessel ran aground on notorious Bligh Reef on Wednesday night. The sheen was the second time that diesel fuel from the damaged tug had entered uncontrolled into the resource-rich Prince William Sound environment. The first sheen was discovered Thursday morning, the day after the vessel ran aground and then limped to shelter in a cove on the south side of Busby Island, near the reef. The new sheen was discovered inside a containment boom just after crews began transferring fuel from the tug's two damaged tanks to a rescue vessel about 12:30 a.m. Friday. The transfer was immediately stopped as workers scrambled to figure out why the fuel was lost and how to prevent another spill. Overflights after daylight found the diesel sheen had escaped the containment boom and was moving to the southeast in a trail about a mile long and 50 feet wide, according to spokesmen for a command team made up of state environmental officials, the Coast Guard and the boat's owner, Crowley Maritime Services. A half-dozen fishing boats equipped with boom and absorbents tried to recover as much as possible. Lightering resumed about 4 p.m. Friday. Workers expected the transfer to continue past midnight, but conditions were favorable and they improved their estimate. Work on the tank with the most fuel was completed by 7 p.m., said Crowley spokesman Jim Butler. Once the fuel from the Pathfinder settles into tanks on the Valdez Star, the salvage team will have a good idea of how much was lost. Weather cooperated with the transfer. Butler said winds in the bay where the tug is anchored were running from zero to five knots, with calm seas. When the fuel has been removed from the damaged tanks, salvage crews will begin to move her to a safer harbor, possibly Valdez, according to Butler and Gary Folley, the incident coordinator with the state Department of Environmental Conservation. "The most important thing really is to get the fuel lightered from the damaged tanks," Folley said. "After that ... we'll be working with the salvors on a plan to get the thing out of there. We need to be very careful in formulating that plan and towing it back in." Once the Pathfinder is under tow, escort vessels will follow and be in position to respond in case more sheen appears. The Pathfinder's misfortune produced both irony and outrage. Bligh Reef is the same charted rock where the tanker Exxon Valdez grounded in 1989, spilling an estimated 11 million gallons of crude oil into Prince William Sound and causing the nation's worst oil spill. The Pathfinder had been scouting for ice in shipping lanes between Valdez and Hinchinbrook Entrance when it, too, hit Bligh Reef at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday. The cause of the collision remains under investigation, though alcohol use among the Pathfinder's six-member crew has been ruled out. Gov. Sean Parnell and U.S. Sen. Mark Begich issued statements decrying the spill. Parnell described himself as "indignant," especially in light of three recent North Slope spills, and said he had called officials at BP Exploration and Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. "to express ... deep concern." "The spills harm both Alaska's environment and Alaska's reputation for responsible resource development," Parnell said. "I let the companies know this was not acceptable." "I'm troubled that a spill response vessel, which is mandated by federal law to help ensure safe passage of oil tankers through Prince William Sound, managed to run aground on one of the most well-marked and well-known reefs in the northern hemisphere," Begich said. "At a time when Alaskans are advocating for new oil and gas development, especially in the waters off our coasts, we must demand a higher level of operational competence." It was unclear how much fuel spilled from the tug. Three of the Pathfinder's nine tanks were damaged, but only two had fuel in them at the time -- one containing about 10,000 gallons and the other, 23,500. Divers examined the hull Thursday and found a 4- to 5-foot section of the keel was ripped open. Efforts to corral and recover the spilled diesel started immediately, both at the scene of the grounding and early Friday morning at Busby. Diesel is toxic, but dissipates fairly quickly, much more so than heavier products like crude oil, Butler said. "It tends to evaporate more quickly and is affected more by any churning in the water," he said. "It tends to break down more quickly than bunker or crude oil." Still, he said, "we have made aggressive efforts to recover" as much as possible, using absorbent sweeps and pads. The Pathfinder's main engine is inoperable, and the vessel will need help getting anywhere once the diesel fuel is transferred. "What's going on now is in addition to lightering, Crowley and their salvage consultant, Titan Marine, are preparing a towing plan," Butler said. "That will begin as soon as we get permission to move the vessel, perhaps as soon as (Saturday). Once they get the fuel off, they'll be able to gauge her stability." The vessel can be towed only during daylight hours, he said. It could take about five hours to make the 17-mile trip to the Valdez port, depending on weather and other variables. Crowley, based in Seattle, is a marine services contractor for Alyeska Pipeline, which operates the trans-Alaska pipeline for its oil company owners. The National Weather Service was predicting snow and rain for Valdez and surrounding areas Friday night and today, with east winds from 15 to 25 mph this morning and becoming lighter in the afternoon.

<http://www.adn.com/news/alaska/rural/southeast/story/1069573.html>

AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, DARWIN, DECEMBER 26 2009. MAN DISMEMBERS HAND IN FIRE CRACKER MISHAP

[Map: Darwin 0800](#)

Darwin police say a Palmerston man will be permanently disabled after a fire cracker exploded in his hand overnight. Police say the 42-year-old man's hand was partially dismembered in the blast which happened shortly before 8:45 pm (AECT) last night. He is undergoing surgery at the Royal Darwin Hospital. Duty superintendent Bruce Porter says it is illegal to set off fireworks outside of permitted times. "We do believe that alcohol and old fireworks are believed to be contributing factors," he said. "Really this is an incident which should not have happened and this person will now carry a permanent disablement."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/12/26/2780827.htm>

USA, TX, SAN ANTONIO, DECEMBER 26 2009. FIREWORKS STAND DESTROYED IN NORTH SA >> INVESTIGATORS TRYING TO DISCOVER CAUSE OF FIRE

Just north of San Antonio, residents woke up to the sounds of fireworks on Christmas morning. A fireworks stand near U.S. 281 and Overlook Parkway caught fire just after 4:30 a.m. Fireworks operator Betty Salas, her husband and the stand's owner were

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staying on the site when their stand went up in flames. "By the time he was out to see what happened, the flames were already shooting out the first window," said Salas. "We tried opening the door to it, but that's when we realized we shouldn't, for the safety of the children." When firefighters got to the scene, the stand was engulfed in flames. The stand was also locked, making it difficult for crews to get in and get the fire out. Salas also said Friday that the fire, surprisingly, did not set off a huge display in the sky. However, she said some of the fireworks shot off into the median at U.S. 281, causing a small grass fire. Crews with the Bexar-Bulverde Volunteer Fire Department got the grass fire under control and the fire at the stand. Nobody was hurt, but the fire caused an estimated \$80,000 in damages, destroying the stand and everything inside. "It's unfortunate," said Salas. "I don't know. It's an experience. I guess, but we're just glad that everybody is ok and not hurt. That was our main concern." Still, a glimmer of hope for Salas and her family, they have a second stand that was untouched by the fire. "We are still open and hopefully we will get some business for the second stand." The cause of the fire is still under investigation. Although Bexar-Bulverde Fire officials said Friday they do not suspect arson.

<http://www.ksat.com/news/22060811/detail.html>

THAILAND, BANGKOK, DECEMBER 26 2009. CHEMICAL LEAK AT SUVARNABHUMI AIRPORT UNDER CONTROL

A chemical leakage at Suvarnabhumi Airport on Friday morning has stopped, Airports of Thailand (AoT) President Serirat Prasutanond said later in the day. The leak was reported at a cargo terminal of the Bangkok Flight Services, a leading ground handler at the international airport. The chemical, Iridium-192 (IR 192), was flown in via a Fedex flight and kept at the cargo terminal, said Serirat, adding that the AoT had asked the Office of Atoms for Peace to send its expert to inspect the chemical. An inspection found that the chemical was not harmful and the leak was caused by a dilapidated container. There was no report of injury but, according to AoT regulations, workers exposed to the chemical must undergo medical check-ups. Seven workers were sent to a hospital for the check-ups. The warehouse resumed operations after the inspection, said Serirat.

<http://world.brunel.fm/2009/12/25/thailand-chemical-leak-at-suvarnabhumi-airport-under-control/>

INDIA, NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 26 2009. NEW RULES TO TRACK AMMONIUM NITRATE SALE

raghvendra rao

The Centre is planning to impose a strict regulatory regime to check the easy availability of ammonium nitrate, which is a preferred ingredient in improvised explosive devices (IEDs) used in terror strikes. The Draft Ammonium Nitrate Rules, 2009, prepared by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), seeks to regulate and put restrictions on the loading and unloading of bulk ammonium nitrate from a ship, its import, export, transport, possession for sale and use, except as permitted under the rules. Anyone seeking to engage in any of these activities will have to obtain a permit from the government. Those already in the business will have to apply for a permit within six months from the day the rules are published. The use of ammonium nitrate, also commonly used as fertiliser, has been reported in bomb explosions in Varanasi, Lucknow, Jaipur, Faizabad, Hyderabad and the serial blasts in Bangalore.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/New-rules-to-track-ammonium-nitrate-sale/559386>

NETHERLANDS, AMSTERDAM, DECEMBER 26 2009. FIREWORKS SET OFF ABOARD AIRLINER

A passenger on a Northwest Airlines flight from Amsterdam, Netherlands, to Detroit, Michigan, caused a brief disturbance Friday at the end of the trip by igniting firecrackers, a Delta Air Lines spokeswoman said. The passenger was immediately subdued, according to Susan Elliott, spokeswoman for [Delta](#), Northwest's parent company. The incident resulted in some minor injuries, Elliott said. The FBI is investigating, bureau spokeswoman Sandra Berchtold said. The [Northwest](#) plane, an Airbus 330, landed around noon ET. It was carrying 278 passengers. The Transportation Security Administration had no immediate comment.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2009/TRAVEL/12/25/airliner.firecrackers/index.html?ref=allsearch>

UK, ESSEX, DECEMBER 26 2009. WARNING OVER CAR FUELLING ERRORS

Breakdown services are receiving hundreds of calls a day from motorists putting the wrong fuel in their car, with most mistakes made on Mondays and Fridays, it has been disclosed. Some drivers even drip the wrong fuel into tanks when the petrol pump nozzle does not fit. A study by Direct Line insurance in north Kent and south-west Essex during January, February and March this year found around 150 incidents of misfuelling - the damage to each vehicle cost on average around £1,330 to fix.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ukpress/article/ALeqM5jHShRnNlzSYyI8aj32Opt1RkDqfQ>

NIGERIA, NNEWI, DECEMBER 26 2009. CAPITAL OIL BUYS MOBILE FUEL STATIONS TO FIGHT SCARCITY

moses akaigwe

Fair visitors surround the fuel dispensing tanker at the Capital Oil stand during the recent Nnewi International Auto Trade Fair.



One of the major attractions at the 2nd Nnewi International Auto Trade Fair which ended recently at the Beverly Hills Hotel, was a long, articulated fuel tanker displayed by a leading investor in the downstream sector of the oil industry, Capital Oil And Gas Industries Limited. The mobile filling 'station' has provisions for dispensing fuel to motorists and other users anywhere and anytime, and is part of a shipload of such vehicles imported by Capital Oil to address the recurring problem of scarcity and unavailability of petroleum products in different parts of the country. Showing the tanker to the Minister of State, Commerce and Industry, Humphrey Abah and the Deputy Governor of Anambra State, Dame Virgy Etiaba, who paid a visit to the stand, the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Capital Oil, Mr. Ifeanyi Ubah, said the mobile fuel dispensers would soon be

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deployed to all parts of the country to make fuel available at the official prices. The enlarged fleet also includes tankers to distribute petroleum products to Capital Oil's mini depots located in the six geo-political zones of the country. "This tanker can be driven anywhere to dispense fuel. If we wish, we can take it to Nkwo Nnewi or to any part of the country and dispense fuel to people", youthful Ubah told his special guests, hinting that his company which he described as the biggest investor in the downstream sector of the oil industry, has been investing hugely in preparation for the planned deregulation and (in the interim) with the intention of making petroleum products available at the approved prices. Ubah, who was with the company's Manager (Engineering), Mr. Algis Cininas, disclosed that as part of this preparation, Capital Oil opened a couple of years ago, a mega fuel depot with a storage capacity for about 40 million litres, adding that it expanded its tank farm at Ibafo (Lagos) to an ultra-modern facility about 174.5 million litres. The Minister and Dame Etiaba (whom Ubah recalled was his teacher in his school days) were also informed that the company was in conjunction with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) establishing mega filling stations and retail outlets in all parts of the country with the objectives of not just ensuring pump price stability, but also availability of the products all year round. Earlier at a reception for the Minister by the organizers of the auto fair, Nnewi Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture, Ubah who is an indigene of Nnewi, disclosed that two out of the three NNPC mega filling stations in Anambra were built by Capital Oil and have contributed to the stability of the pump prices of petroleum products in the state. While the Nnewi Auto fair lasted, it was observed that most motorists and okada (motorcycle) owners preferred to patronize the mega filling station operated in the town by Capital Oil, apparently owing to the fact that fuel was being sold at the government-approved prices. Petrol, for instance, sold there at N65 a litre. The obvious impact, according to some okada operators, was that the usual habit of selling at far above the official prices was gradually receding into the past, as other marketers were beginning to adjust their pump prizes so it would be close enough to what the mega filling stations were charging..

<http://www.sunnewsonline.com/webpages/features/motoring/2009/dec/25/motoring-25-12-2009-002.htm>

INDIA, CALCUTTA, CUTTACK, DECEMBER 26 2009. 'ROGUE' TAG ON ORISSA VESSEL

A Mongolian ship that sank near Paradip in September and sparked fears of an oil spill that could threaten Olive Ridley turtles was a rogue vessel with fake papers, a preliminary probe said. MV Black Rose had entered the Paradip port without valid documents to carry illegally extracted iron ore, sources in Orissa police's crime branch, which took up the case on Wednesday, said. "The ship was 32 years old and evidently not seaworthy. It had gained access to the Paradip harbour on September 4 despite having no valid documents. Even the insurance papers submitted were found to be fake," a source said. The ship left the port on September 9, five days after its arrival, and sunk hours later. Reports of the oil spill had triggered environmental concerns as the site where it went down is close to Gahirmatha marine sanctuary, one of the few remaining nesting sites in the world for the endangered Olive Ridley turtles. Chief minister Naveen Patnaik had ordered the pollution control board to probe the spill. "The ship had left the harbour without filing proper documents and taking customs clearance for the cargo (iron ore)," the source said. Nearly 23,843 tonnes of ore was loaded in addition to 971 tonnes of inflammable furnace oil and substantial quantities of lubricant oil, the probe has revealed. Suspicion about the vessel, registered in Mongolia's Ulan Bator but owned by Singapore-based Black Rose Maritime Ltd, deepened

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1091226/jsp/nation/story_11910481.jsp

USA, CO, LOWER POUDBRE CANYON, DECEMBER 26 2009. TWO ASPHALT SPILLS POLLUTE THE POUDBRE

bobby magill



A pile of liquid-asphalt chunks wrapped in plastic sits by the Poudre River on Aug. 28 as a crew from Belfor Environmental cleans up the spill. On Aug. 25, a tanker dumped about 5,000 gallons of molten asphalt into the river when its driver lost control of the vehicle. On Sept. 2, another tanker plunged into the Poudre, dumping another 5,000 gallons of hot asphalt and some diesel fuel into the river.

Twice in as many weeks this summer, ribbons of black asphalt stretched like glistening taffy down the Poudre River. It seemed like, at the very least, minor ecological disasters devastating not only the most celebrated and wild major river in Northern Colorado, but also the Fort Collins and Greeley municipal water supply. Tanker driver Kenneth Gale, 52, of Rawlins, Wyo., was driving his load of hot asphalt up the Poudre Canyon on Colorado Highway 14 on Aug. 25. His destination: an asphalt plant in Gould, which supplied blacktop to a paving project on Colorado Highway 14 near Cameron Pass. One of five such daily asphalt shipments from a refinery in Denver to paving project, Gale's trip took him along a particularly winding section of the highway in the lower Poudre Canyon. Near milepost 114, he missed a curve. The tanker plunged into the Poudre, spilling about 5,000 gallons of molten asphalt into the river. The asphalt solidified immediately, preventing the river from becoming seriously contaminated. Gale was taken to Poudre Valley Hospital with minor wounds and cited for careless driving. Louisa Carman, 15, who was rafting on the Poudre with her parents, encountered the spill just after it happened. She said she thought the tanker would explode, but her rafting guide assured her it probably wouldn't. "Then, I guess, it was more sadness for the river and disbelief at what a huge effect one accident had," she said. The tar from the spill was so hard and taffylike that members of a cleanup crew were using handsaws to loosen one of the black masses from the river rocks. The city of Fort Collins, which gets half its water supply from the river, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began testing the quality of the river water to assess its level of contamination after the spill. At the same time, the U.S. Forest Service closed the river to recreational use. As the EPA and the city were about to declare the cleanup complete, on Sept. 3, another asphalt-loaded tanker plunged into

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the Poudre, spilling another 5,000 gallons of hot asphalt and some diesel fuel into the river. The second spill happened at milepost 117, just a few miles up the canyon from the first. The driver, again headed west toward an asphalt plant in Gould, missed a curve, crashed through a barrier and careened into the river. "We were supposed to be done," said crash witness Kent Alexander, a senior chemist with an EPA contractor overseeing the first crash cleanup. "This was not how I hoped to start my morning." Like Gale, tanker driver John Morris, 44, of Rawlins was cited for careless driving. Both drivers worked for paving contractor LaFarge's trucking subcontractors. The EPA cleanup team mobilized once again, and the Colorado Department of Transportation almost immediately ordered a halt to the Colorado 14 paving project. Concerned about the impact of the two spills, CDOT suspended the project until LaFarge corrected its subcontractors' driving problems in order to prevent yet another spill. The agency on Sept. 4 required the tankers to commit to using alternative routes to the project and avoid Poudre Canyon. The EPA completed the cleanup of both spills by Sept. 8, and the cities of Fort Collins and Greeley later determined that the spills had little effect on the water quality of both the river and the municipal water supply. Fort Collins began taking water from the river again Sept. 17 after 22 days of taking water from just Horsetooth Reservoir to ensure polluted water did not end up in the city's water supply. For each day the asphalt and diesel fuel were in the river, the trucking contractors could be fined \$25,000 by the EPA for Clean Water Act violations. The contractors have not been fined yet, but the gears of government work slowly. "We have several years to make that happen," Craig Myers, the EPA's on-scene coordinator for the spills, said Dec. 17. "Six months would be an incredibly fast action." The EPA, he said, works through the courts if the agency decides fines are warranted. But in the grand scheme of all the environmental problems the EPA deals with each year, Myers said the Poudre asphalt spills weren't such a disaster. "As far as environmental harm and threats to human health, it was pretty low," Myers said. "It was more of a tragedy because of the scenic value of the river. There was very little ecological impact or human health impacts from it."

<http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20091226/NEWS01/912260335/1002/CUSTOMERSERVICE02>

BANGLADESH, CHITTAGONG, SITAKUNDA, DECEMBER 27 2009. TANKER BLAST KILLS 4 >> TRAGEDY AT SHIP-BREAKING YARD AGAIN

At least four workers were killed and 13 injured in an oil tanker explosion at a ship-breaking yard at Madam Bibir Hat in Sitakunda yesterday morning. Fire service officials said casualties could rise, as some workers are feared trapped inside the decommissioned tanker at the yard named Rahim Steel. Three of those dead were identified as Mohammad Selim, 25, of Barisal, Rana Babu, 22, of Bogra, and Rabiul, 22, of Naogaon. Name of the other could not yet be known. Seven of the injured were identified as Nikhil, 25, Nazrul, 25, Raihan, 22, Nurul Alam, 26, Lutfur Rahman, 35, Saddam, 18, and Mintu, 35. They were undergoing treatment at a clinic in the port city. Four others were admitted to Sitakunda upazila health complex. For throughout the day, firefighters and locals struggled to douse the blaze raging through the freighter. Their efforts succeeded at around 8:00pm. The ship was engulfed in flames in no time. The fire burned so strongly that it could be seen from a long distance, causing panic among people living nearby. Abdus Sattar Selim, manager of Rahim Steel, claimed they had ensured the vessel was cleared of gases. Still, how the explosion occurred is beyond his comprehension. Monirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sitakunda Police Station, told The Daily Star, "Exactly how many have died and how many have been wounded could be known once the recovery drive ends." Eighteen workers were killed in various accidents at Sitakunda ship-breaking yards in 2006 and 2007, and 15 the following year, sources said. The ship-breaking industry in Sitakunda is the world's second largest. Over 30,000 people work at some 70 yards there. Most of the yards are running without environmental clearance. The working conditions there remain poor though the High Court earlier this year directed the government to ensure safety of the workers.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=119441>

USA, NY, STAR LAKE, DECEMBER 27 2009. DEC CREATING PLAN FOR J&L SITE >> REMEDIATION: COUNTY HOPING TO REDEVELOP PORTION OF PROPERTY

martha ellen

The state Department of Environmental Conservation is preparing a remediation plan for the former Jones & Laughlin site that could set the stage for its partial redevelopment, although actual cleanup might not happen for some time. "We're in the middle of it," said William R. Jesmore, DEC's project manager for J&L. "We made promises for the first of the year. That is not going to happen."

'Big, Complicated Site'

It likely will be spring before the report is done, making it easier for St. Lawrence County to take title to the 54-acre site. The DEC plan would specify that the county isn't liable for cleanup of the site's contamination, which includes petroleum, PCBs and other hazardous material. "It is a big, complicated site," county Planning Director Keith J. Zimmerman said. "They are aware we are interested in developing a part of it." If the county subdivides about 10 acres of the property, a tenant could be Northern Biofuels Energy, Chateaugay, which is interested in building a wood chip drying plant. It could be a supplier for Newton Falls Fine Paper if the mill converts its heating system from fuel oil to a biomass-fired steam boiler.

Solvent Plume Found

"About 90 percent of the site is not contaminated. Redevelopment would create jobs and help with an eyesore. It's going to be a ray of sunshine," Mr. Jesmore said. "It's high time we get done with it." However, Mr. Jesmore said, trying to have the work done by the beginning of the year was too ambitious because further discussions are needed on the findings of a county consultant who mapped out the contamination. There were few surprises in the consultant's report. "The petroleum plume is pretty well defined," Mr. Jesmore said. "We did find the remnants of a solvent plume. We're not sure of its significance yet. My gut feeling is that it's not

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going to be that significant." Until 1991, contaminants were flowing into the Little River and on into the Oswegatchie River. "We did some sediment sampling to see how well the rivers had recovered," he said. "We sent the information to Fish & Wildlife, and they have some concerns, but we haven't talked to them yet. It could be significant or not." The state has no money for cleanup of contaminated sites, but the plan will lay out a course of action, Mr. Jesmore said.

<http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20091226/NEWS05/312269995>

INDIA, MUMBAI, DECEMBER 27 2009. OIL SPILL IN MAHUL CREEK

Thousands of winged visitors to the city landed in serious trouble since late Friday evening as the oil from Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) refinery spilled into Mahul creek. "The oil started spilling late on Friday evening, but was noticed only on Saturday morning when some of us went fishing in the sea," said Waman Koli, fisherman from Mahul. Since the movement of fishermen in the sea has reduced the last few days the spill was only just noticed. "When some of us went to the creek this morning, we were shocked to see a thick layer of oil. The matter was immediately brought to the notice of other fishermen," Koli said. When some of them tried to trace the source of the spill, fishermen reached the nullah between Tata Power and BPCL. "It is a serious matter which is bound to affect the marine and avian life in the creek including flamingos," said environmentalists Stallion Dayanand, who visited the spot on hearing about the spill. The waste oil from the refinery has spread through the creek and has killed the fish. The foul smell from the water has posed as a threat to the health of fishermen living in Mahul village. "It is a serious neglect on part of the BPCL, which needs to be dealt with the problem on priority. Government must take concrete action to ensure that similar incidents are not repeated," Dayanand said. The matter was reported to police and company officials. A team of six officials arrived on the spot at around 1.30pm. "However, they left the scene after a preliminary inspection claiming that the discharge of oil has been stopped. But the oil continued to flow into the creek. However, the officials did not acknowledge our difficulties," Koli said. This has become a regular feature in the area. "The officials don't listen to our complaints. The industries in the area have virtually destroyed the marine ecosystem adding to our problems," Koli said

http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report_oil-spill-in-mahul-creek_1327895

CZECH REPUBLIC, LITVINOV, DECEMBER 27 2009. SUBMERSIBLE WALLS TO STAY IN CZECH RIVER BY MON OVER PETROL LEAK

Submersible walls will remain minimally till December 28 in the Bilina River between Litvinov and Usti nad Labem due to petrol that leaked from the Unipetrol RPA company on Wednesday, Petr Suma, from the CIZP Czech environmental inspection, told CTK today. Experts are removing the chemicals, a mixture of petrols, from the river and investigating the case. Bilina, a tributary of the Labe (Elbe) River that flows to Germany, is among the most polluted rivers in the Czech Republic. Hazardous substances have leaked into the river quite frequently. However, the source of pollution is usually not revealed. A large number of fishes died because of the petrol leak. Moreover, hazardous substances got to the Labe River. It is unlikely that Germany would be hit by the leak yet Czech experts reported it to their colleagues in Saxony. Suma said he could smell petrol in Labe in Usti nad Labem on Friday but that no petrol could be seen on the water. "The substance was already very diluted," he said. CIZP will start disciplinary proceedings against Unipetrol RPA. The company may be fined up to millions of crowns. Czech firefighters had immediately assisted in the accident on Wednesday, which had minimised its impact on the environment. They had to build over ten submersible walls in the river between Litvinov and Usti nad Labem-Trmice. The substance had leaked from the Petrochemie complex, which is part of the Unipetrol.

<http://www.ceskenoviny.cz/news/zpravy/submersible-walls-to-stay-in-czech-river-by-mon-over-petrol-leak/413685>

USA, NY, SARATOGA SPRINGS, DECEMBER 28 2009. TRUCK ROLLS OVER, KILLING DRIVER

andrew j. bernstein

An early morning traffic accident killed one man and left 3,500 gallons of Sodium hydroxide trapped in an upside-down tanker truck. Assistant Chief of the city fire department John Betor said that the department responded around 5 a.m. this morning to a traffic accident involving a tanker truck from Slack Chemical on Route 9, opposite the former Weather Vane restaurant. The Slack Chemical Company is located in the Grande Industrial Park. The truck was traveling from Saratoga Springs to Middletown, N.Y., and was south-bound on Route 9 at the time of the crash. Upon arriving at the scene, emergency personnel found both the tractor and trailer in a ditch off of the road's south-bound lane, having sustained heavy damage. Lt. Patrick Rocco, who served as incident commander for the fire department, said the driver was trapped in the cab when the fire department arrived. It took 10 firefighters, assisted by heavy equipment from Matt's Towing, 45 minutes to extricate the male driver, as-yet unidentified, who is believed to have died instantly. Further concerns arose over the truck's cargo. Rocco likened the corrosive chemical to liquid clog-remover Drano, and noted that the ditch in which the truck came to rest drains in the Kayderosserass Creek. Had the chemical leaked from the tank, it would likely have harmed wildlife in the creek and surrounding areas. "It's fortunate that the tank didn't rupture, and that they don't carry this stuff in vehicles that are easily damaged," said Betor. To safely remove the Sodium hydroxide from the damaged truck, Slack Chemical dispatched an empty tanker to the scene of the crash, and pumped the chemical from the wrecked vehicle up to the second tanker, a process that took about four hours. Once empty, Matt's Towing righted the tractor and trailer, and towed them from the scene. Route 9 was closed between Crescent Avenue and Kaydeross Avenue West from the time of the crash until about 1:30 on Sunday afternoon. Police are investigating the cause of the crash, but Betor noted that it did not appear the driver made any attempt to slow the truck or change directions before leaving the roadway. "There is the potential that he was incapacitated," he said. Although a large number of trucks and trains carrying potentially dangerous chemicals travel through the

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city each day, crashes involving them are unusual. "The potential is very real," said Betor. "We got fortunate that this was a relatively benign chemical in its ability to affect you, unless you got it on your skin or into the water." Representatives from Slack Chemical were not immediately available for comment.

<http://www.saratogian.com/articles/2009/12/27/news/doc4b37b401c03b1905063046.txt>

QATAR, AL HILAL, DECEMBER 28 2009. PETROL STATION SHOPS REOPEN AFTER BLAST

sarmad qazi

Shops on the premises are open, while dispensers remain boarded up

Two months after a blast ripped through the underground reservoir at the Teyseer Al Hilal Petrol Station damaging shops and injuring scores, business has slowly resumed at the outlets on the premises. "We were able to reopen the supermarket after nearly 20 days. The damage to the glass walls and the shop as a result of the blast was fixed thanks to the management. Business has returned to normal since then," one of the shopkeepers said yesterday. "There was further delay because power supply to our shop was disrupted by the blast," he added. More than 50 people were injured, seven of them seriously, when an underground fuel storage tank at the gas station exploded on October 14. A bus carrying workers to a construction site bore the brunt of the blast as most of the casualties were passengers in the bus which was refuelling at the time of the early-morning incident. "The intensity of the blast shattered the glass pane of our pharmacy. We were able to open two days later but only for a few hours a day for weeks," the pharmacist at the medical shop on the premise, said. "We returned to full business a couple of weeks later," she added. Civil Defence officials, at the time, said there was a pressure build up in the underground fuel tank, which caused it to burst. Over a dozen dispensers at the gas station, which suffered extensive damage, remain sealed to date but the car wash nearby, along with shops including juice stalls, an ice cream parlour, car accessories and mechanic's garage were re-opened days after the incident. Most of the injured were released the next day after the incident while only four were kept for screening, according to the Hamad Medical Corp. Following the blast, an adhoc committee was set up, to work under Qatar Petroleum with members from the Ministry of Interior and other institutions, and tasked with examining the condition of old petrol stations and storage tanks.

http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=334073&version=1&template_id=36&parent_id=16

UGANDA, JINJA DISTRICT, EASTERN, DECEMBER 28 2009. FUEL TANKER RAMS INTO ROADSIDE HOUSE

A speeding fuel tanker on Thursday rammed into a house in Bugembe town on the Iganga-Jinja highway, killing one person instantly. The Christmas eve accident occurred at about 7:30am. The victim identified as Agnes, who was a visitor in the area, was smashed by the trailer. The district Police commander, John Cohen Arinaitwe, said the driver lost control, forcing the trailer to swerve off the highway and crash into a house belonging to Joseph Okuku, damaging it and injuring four people. The fuel tanker from Eldoret in Kenya was carrying 40,000 litres of petrol.

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/17/705354>

USA, NY, UTICA, DECEMBER 28 2009. FASTRAC TANK LEAKS IN NORTH UTICA

dan miner

A leaky gas tank was discovered recently at the Fastrac on Herkimer Road in North Utica, state environmental officials said. Gas seeped through the first of two walls in the 8,000-gallon tank but did not get through the second wall, state Department of Environmental Conservation spokesman Steven Litwhiler said. "It was not released to the environment," he said. A call to Fastrac's media representative was not returned last week. The leak was discovered during routine tests after an upgrade of the gas pumps, Litwhiler said. Two other tanks that were tested are fine. The leaky tank, which was installed in 1989, cannot be used again, he said. "They pumped that tank out and they're going to do something in the spring, but they're not sure what yet," Litwhiler said. "It's just sitting there empty right now." Double-walled tanks having leaks is an uncommon occurrence in Oneida County, Litwhiler said. "It happens about three to four times a year out of thousands of them," he said.

<http://www.uticaod.com/business/x664194410/Fastrac-tank-leaks-in-North-Utica>

USA, TX, BAYTOWN, DECEMBER 28 2009. EXXON REPORTED PINHOLE LEAK AT BAYTOWN, TEXAS REFINERY

Exxon Mobil Corp said it has shut a refining unit at Baytown, Texas, for repairs after discovering a pinhole leak, according to a Saturday state regulatory filing. The leak, which occurred Thursday evening, lasted until Friday noon, it said in a statement to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The company didn't specify which unit had been affected. "There was no impact on supply and all customer needs are being met," the U.S. major said. Baytown is Exxon Mobil's largest refinery in the U.S., with a capacity of processing 572,500 barrels of crude oil a day.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20091227-703834.html>

CHINA, SHANXI PROVINCE, JIEXIU, DECEMBER 28 2009. MINE BLAST KILLS 12 WORKERS IN CHINA

Coal mining accidents continue in China with a latest explosion killing 12 in the north of the country, according to local authorities. The blast occurred at the Donggou coal mine in the city of Jiexiu in Shanxi province late Sunday, Xinhua news agency reported. A spokesman for the local work safety administration said the incident happened after workers violated safety rules. The blast also injured four other coal miners. In another explosion on Monday, five workers were killed and six are still missing at the Malishu coal mine in southwest Yunnan province. Rescuers are working to locate the missing workers still trapped in the mine. The mining industry in China is the world's deadliest, with most accidents blamed on poor safety as enterprises scramble to feed the country's

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insatiable demand for coal. Last month, 108 miners were killed in a mine blast in northeast China. It was the country's deadliest mining accident in two years.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail.aspx?id=114794§ionid=3510212>

USA, NY, WASHINGTON SQUARE, DECEMBER 28 2009. LARGE OIL SPILL AT NYU

Reports are coming across the police scanner of a "large oil fuel spill" in New York University's [Washington Square Village](#). According to dispatches, about 6,000 gallons of heating oil have spilled in the basement of the graduate student housing complex at the corner of Bleecker and Mercer streets. NYU personnel are apparently attempting to pump the oil out of the basement. The spill takes place about a block away from the site of NYU's new [underground cogeneration facility](#), which is intended to improve energy efficiency while reducing "fuel consumption and associated emissions of pollutants to the environment."

http://gothamist.com/2009/12/27/large_oil_spill_at_nyu.php

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, BATEMANS BAY, DECEMBER 28 2009. 3 KILLED IN FUEL TANKER COLLISION

ellie harvey

Watch the Video <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/12/28/2781679.htm>

Photo's:

<http://www.theage.com.au/photogallery/national/education/tanker-crash-kills-three/20091228-lhac.html?selectedImage=1>

Three people are dead and six injured after a fuel tanker collided with three cars this afternoon, and rolled over the embankment of the Princes Highway near Batemans Bay. The Princes Highway will be closed until at least midnight in both directions, police say. Two patients with 80 per cent burns have been flown by helicopter to Concord and Royal North Shore hospitals, one has been taken to Batemans Bay hospital with spinal injuries, and three others with minor injuries have gone to Milton-Ulladulla Hospital. An ambulance spokesman said the burns victims were critical. The accident happened around 4.50pm, police said. NSW Fire Brigade Superintendent Mark Reilly said the tanker had gone nose first off the embankment down a gully at East Lynne, 20 kilometres north of Batemans Bay, and caught fire. He was unable to identify the fuel tanker because it was so badly burned. Police say at least two cars caught fire as a result of the collision. There have been unconfirmed reports of two child fatalities. Police, ambulance, fire rescue and fire Hazmat are attending, including approximately 25 firefighters. A Southcare helicopter and a NSW Ambulance helicopter from Wollongong were involved in the patient transfers. The NSW holiday road toll now stands at 17.

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/three-killed-in-fuel-tanker-collision-20091228-lh4p.html>

USA, CA, NOVATO, DECEMBER 28 2009. CONCERNS ABOUT TOXIC CLEANUP PLANS IN NOVATO

brent ainsworth

Spent ammunition, toxic metals and other hazardous waste will be removed from a bayside section of the former Hamilton Air Force Base over the next year, which is good news for residents in the Bel Marin Keys and Hamilton areas of Novato. However, there are concerns about the temporary placement of the tainted dirt only a few hundred yards from homes at the end of Bahama Reef in unincorporated Bel Marin Keys. It will be piled up as a north-south berm for several months so it can be analyzed before it is trucked to landfills. Ernie Ganas, president of the Bel Marin Keys Community Services District, said residents are concerned that toxic material could be blown around as airborne dust or find its way into nearby Novato Creek. "If they are going to dig it up, then remove it, get it out of here," he said. "Don't distribute it and put it 1,000 yards from homes and the creek." It will be less than 1,000 feet, in fact, between the Bahama Reef homes and the proposed temporary stockpile area for the toxic dirt between April and September. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is handling the \$11 million cleanup effort, will be trucking about 30,000 cubic yards of material from Hamilton's former rifle range and skeet shooting area at North Antenna Field nearly two miles north to the stockpile area. Project manager Karole Ward said once the area is cleaned up, it will be turned into wetlands. "This is a low-risk site," she said. "I wouldn't even say this was the worst area out there (at Hamilton) in terms of toxics. It is just barely above the human health standards for recreational use." Dave Killam, public affairs officer for the Army Corps, emphasized that citizens have nothing to worry about. He explained that most of the toxic material is in larger chunks - such as spent bullets from the firing range - that couldn't become airborne or filter into the water table. "We're not going to do anything that would put people in danger," Killam said. "That's something we take very seriously. It's our No. 1 concern." Killam added that any dangerous material that's been at the site for decades would not suddenly become more dangerous if it is temporarily moved closer to the Bel Marin Keys neighborhood. "It has been there quite a while, so I don't see how it can be more dangerous in the future," he said. "It will be a temporary situation. The stockpiles will be analyzed for the chemical content and then evacuated depending on what is found." According to a Department of Toxic Substances Control report, the sources of the toxic material include storage tanks, aircraft maintenance machinery, engine testing and repair machinery, incinerators, hazardous waste disposal, fire training areas and open-burn areas. Potential contaminants include ammunition, explosives, dioxin, pesticides, petroleum and other chemicals. Ward said the most toxic dirt most likely will be trucked to a hazardous waste landfill in Kettleman City, just off Interstate 5 in the Central Valley. Less toxic material could be sent to closer landfills and clean dirt can be saved for the Army Corps' ongoing Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project. Madeline Thomas, manager of the Bel Marin Keys Community Services District, said the Army Corps was scheduled to appear at a Dec. 9 meeting with neighborhood residents, but backed out. She questioned whether a genuine attempt is being made to inform people about the plans. "We have zero tolerance on this one," she said. "But I don't want to sound mad at them. We're just waiting for them to give us a response. We don't want a fight, but we do not feel that we're in the loop." Army Corps

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representatives are scheduled to appear at 7 p.m. Jan. 14 at a meeting of the Hamilton Restoration Advisory Board. The Army Corps is completing a shipment of clean gravel to the North Antenna Field area and removing vegetation from the former rifle and skeet ranges. Trucks used to drive on Todd Road in Hamilton where residents have long complained about noise, dust and potentially hazardous airborne fumes. For this project, trucks are testing another route that runs north to Ammo Hill, away from the homes on Todd Road, before heading to the work site. "We're going to try not to use Todd Road," Killam said, "but if there are really large trucks and they find the other route too narrow, we might have to use (Todd Road)." Brent Ludvigson, a Hamilton resident who walks his dogs regularly in the Todd Road and Ammo Hill areas, said hikers and bikers need to keep an eye out for trucks using the alternate route. "I was disappointed at first because pedestrians have to get off the roadway if the trucks use the levee bypass," he said. "I just have to pay more attention to them. I imagine the people who back up to Todd Road are pleased, though." Ward said the long-closed Hamilton landfill and the North Antenna Field are the last cleanup jobs at the Air Force base, which was in operation from 1935 to 1974.

http://www.marinij.com/marinnews/ci_14079607

USA, VA, CLIFTON FORGE, DECEMBER 28 2009. CREWS WORK TO CLEAN UP DIESEL SPILL IN CLIFTON FORGE

Crews are on the scene of a diesel fuel spill at the CSX rail yard on East Ridgeway Street in Clifton Forge. Officials say the spill happened around 9:30 Sunday morning in the west end of the rail yard and was caused by an overflow valve on a locomotive. The amount of the spill has not yet been determined. Crews from Bluefield are said to be on their way to assist with the clean-up.

<http://www.wdbj7.com/Global/story.asp?S=11734294>

USA, FLA, EDGEWATER, DECEMBER 28 2009. I-95 FUEL TANKER SPILL SNARLS TRAFFIC SOUTH OF EDGEWATER

henry frederick

A tanker truck carrying diesel fuel veered off Interstate 95, just south of Edgewater on Sunday afternoon, forcing the Florida Highway Patrol to shut down a brief stretch of the inside lane heading north, which snarled traffic. Authorities said the tanker went off the roadway just after 3 p. m., spilling in excess of 100 gallons of fuel into the nearby woods, the FHP reported.

<http://nsbnews.net/content/231847-i-95-fuel-tanker-spill-snarls-traffic-south-edgewater>

QATAR, DOHA, DECEMBER 29 2—0. WOQOD PLANS 100 QATAR FUEL STATIONS IN 5 YEARS

pratap john

Woqod has drawn up a plan to set up more than 100 fuel stations across Qatar within five years, HE the Deputy Premier Abdullah bin Hamad al-Attiyah has said. "As our economy expands rapidly, we have new areas that are being developed in Qatar. This necessitates the need for more fuel stations. But I cannot set up these unless the place is allocated to me by the Urban Planning and Development Authority. We speak to them on a regular basis. The UPDA has agreed to speed up the process of allotting land for new fuel stations," al-Attiyah told Gulf Times. He said the existing number of Woqod service stations was inadequate. "Woqod fuel stations have become quite popular as they are neatly maintained, professionally managed and conveniently located. Our study showed there is a need for at least five more fuel stations on the Salwa Road and as many number on the Northern Highway," al-Attiyah said. He said Woqod is now constructing some five new service stations across the country. Woqod's goal is to reach customers wherever they are. Al-Attiyah said Woqod is considering expansion outside Qatar, making use of its expertise in fuel distribution and marketing. "They have the expertise to do that. Woqod is looking at opportunities abroad," he said. On establishment in 2002, Woqod was given a 15-year monopoly over the marketing, transportation and distribution of LPG and petroleum products in Qatar. It has since completely taken over QP's fuel distribution arm- the now defunct Nodco. Woqod, in which QP holds a 40% stake, is the first public limited company in Qatar's hydrocarbon industry. Woqod service centres will have the LPG dispensing facility for public use in due course, al-Attiyah has said. "We are promoting the use of LPG as a fuel as it is less polluting, easy to transport and use," al-Attiyah said. Woqod vice-chairman Mohamed Turki al-Sobai said some 50 Karwa taxis are now being run on LPG as part of a pilot project. "We have signed a two-year agreement with Mowasalat under which we have built an LPG fuelling station at the public transport company's premises near the Industrial Area. We had a meeting with them about two weeks ago. If Mowasalat feels that LPG is adding value to them, they will hopefully consider it as fuel for their growing fleet," al-Sobai said. Woqod marketing general manager Mark Vidler said the company is considering making available 'LPG conversion kits' to companies and individuals. "Kits are already available in the market. Each costs about \$1,000. Any vehicle using gasoline can be modified to run on LPG with the conversion kit. We are thinking of providing these kits to customers," Vidler said. LPG is a growing source of low-emissions energy that is easy to transport and use. It is a suitable alternative to diesel and gasoline, with the advantage of having lower particle pollutants and gaseous emissions, and consequently a much cleaner flame. LPG is often used as a cleaner alternative fuel for road transportation replacing gasoline and diesel.

http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=334312&version=1&template_id=48&parent_id=28

USA, NY, WASHINGTON SQUARE, DECEMBER 29 2009. 6000 GALLONS OF DIESEL FUEL SPILL IN NEW YORK UNIVERSITY-OWNED WASHINGTON SQUARE APARTMENT BASEMENT

mark morales & joe kemp

Thousands of gallons of heating oil spilled in the basement of a [New York University](#)-owned apartment building yesterday, officials said. It was still not clear how 6,000 gallons of fuel leaked from a residual fuel tank inside a Washington Square Village building, which houses NYU faculty members, officials said. "We are determined to figure out what caused the spill and resolve it," said

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university spokesman [John Beckman](#). The oil was stored as part of the building's backup system for heating and hot water, Beckman said, adding that no residents reported any interruption in their service. No one was evacuated but many residents complained of fumes caused by the diesel-based fuel in the hallways and stairways of the building. "You breathe this stuff in for five minutes, you'll get headaches," said [John Waters](#), 45, who lives on the sixth floor with his wife and daughter. "This is a disaster," said the professor of Irish studies. Three trucks from Miller Environmental Group spent the day pumping out the spillage, leaving around 4:30 p.m.

http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2009/12/28/2009-12-28_huge_fuel_oil_spill_in_nyu_residence.html

USA, IA, ALTOONA, DECEMBER 29 2009. WINDS BLOW RAGING FIRE AWAY FROM GAS PUMPS

Watch the Video <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20091228/NEWS/91228005/Update-Cause-of-Altoona-fire-electrical>

Watch the Video <http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/80215987.html>

Watch the Video <http://www.kcci.com/video/22071003/index.html>

Fire crews worked to put out a fire at a gas station in Altoona Monday morning. The fire was reported around 8 a.m. at the BP station at 2635 Adventureland Drive. A KCCI photographer at the scene said the station was "engulfed in flames." Flames could be seen from nearby Interstate 80 and the DOT traffic camera along the interstate. Altoona Fire Chief Jerry Whetstone said an employee was the only one inside the store when the fire broke out. Whetstone said the fire appears to have started in the ceiling above a pop machine. The fire gutted the gas station building and was less than 50 feet from the gas pumps, fire officials said. Winds were blowing east, northeast at the time of the fire, blowing the flames and heat away from the pumps. No one was hurt in the fire.

<http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/80215987.html>

QATAR, DOHA, DECEMBER 29 2009. TRANSPARENT CYLINDERS MAKE QATAR DEBUT IN A MIDEAST FIRST

pratap john

In a first in the Middle East, Woqod has introduced fibreglass and plastic composite LPG cylinders under the brand name 'Shafaf' in Qatar. 'Shafaf', which in Arabic means transparent, is lighter and safer and deploys 'very latest technology' in LPG cylinder design. Since Shafaf is transparent, the liquefied petroleum gas level inside the cylinders is clearly visible. This helps users place orders for new refills in time. Shafaf will be available in 12kg and 5kg refill sizes. The 5kg cylinders have been designed for household kitchens and outdoor use such as picnics. The initial price for a 12kg cylinder will be QR350 while the 5kg cylinder costs QR275. The LPG refill price remains QR15 for the 12kg cylinder and QR7 for 5kg cylinder. Initially, Shafaf will be available at all Woqod service stations across Qatar. The fuel distributor plans to launch the home delivery service in early 2010. Rasco, the Norway-based manufacturer of Shafaf, has agreed to provide Woqod 100,000 cylinders a year, Woqod marketing general manager Mark Vidler said. Approximately, there are 650,000 steel cylinders in the market. This means, it takes about 5 to 6 years to replace the existing steel cylinders with Shafaf. Rasco is among the two manufacturers of the high-quality fibreglass and plastic composite LPG cylinders in the world. The other one is based in the Czech Republic. Woqod vice-chairman Mohamed Turki al-Sobai said there are plans to phase out the existing steel cylinders and introduce Shafaf in their place. But it may take some time. "Now we are providing Shafaf as an alternative taking into account the safety and convenience of our customers. Shafaf weighs just 5kg when empty, half as light as the steel cylinders in the market today. "This is the very latest technology in LPG cylinder design. There are significant safety and handling advantages with this new technology. Shafaf cylinders have proved they will not explode in a fire," al-Sobai told Gulf Times. "LPG in Qatar is now produced at the Qatar Petroleum Refinery at Mesaieed. Hitherto, the needs were being met through a small LPG filling plant in Mesaieed. We have built the new LPG plant with expertise from Qatar Petroleum taking into account the market needs of our capital city Doha," al-Sobai said. This year the market demand in Qatar for LPG will be just under 90,000 metric tonnes. The 12kg cylinders account for 45,000 metric tonnes or about 3.75mn cylinders filled in a year. The sales growth is estimated to be 18% a year for bulk LPG as Woqod is withdrawing 48kg (100litres) cylinders from the market citing 'safety' reasons. The 48kg cylinder is said to be 'heavy and dangerous to handle'. For this reason, Woqod is encouraging users of these cylinders to switch to fixed bulk tanks. By 2014, the market demand for 12kg cylinders is expected to rise to around 63,000 metric tonnes. This is about 5.25mn cylinders filled a year.

http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=334316&version=1&template_id=48&parent_id=28

USA, CA, RICHMOND, DECEMBER 29 2009. CHEVRON THREATENS TO LEAVE LONGTIME HOME

richard gonzales

Click-2-Listen <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=121974899&ps=cprs>

The biggest producer of greenhouse gases in California is the Chevron Corp.'s oil refinery in the Bay Area town of Richmond, just east of San Francisco. The refinery opened more than a century ago, and in spite of the bad air, Richmond has always been a loyal company town. Until lately. The refinery is nestled on a bank of hills right next to the San Francisco Bay. It's a Byzantine complex of tanks, steam boilers and 8,000 miles of piping. The refinery produces jet fuel, gasoline and diesel. Over the past century, the Richmond refinery has prospered, helping Chevron make billions in profits. And those profits are a target of the city's green mayor, Gayle McLaughlin, who has been trying to raise Chevron's local taxes. "Richmond has suffered, especially in the neighborhoods

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near the refinery," McLaughlin says. She points to high rates of asthma, cancer and heart disease in the neighborhoods affected by the refinery's pollution.

Time to Split Town?

McLaughlin also backed a voter effort to raise Chevron's business license fees, a measure a judge later overturned. Tensions over this and other tax disputes cause company officials to hint that it may be time to leave Richmond. "The Richmond refinery has been here well over a hundred years, and we have had good times and bad times," says Mike Coyle, the refinery's general manager. "Nobody likes divorce." McLaughlin thinks Chevron's talk of moving is a bluff. But the company says it needs to stay competitive, and to do that it wants some major technical upgrades to the refinery. So far, however, a local judge has temporarily blocked the upgrades, pending more environmental review. Meanwhile, Chevron's local critics are emboldened. At a recent demonstration, activists protested the refinery, calling it a corporate polluter and accusing it of ignoring the needs of the community.

The Evolving Corporate Citizen

In reaction to rising tensions, Chevron is trying to boost its local image. It says it will spend more than \$3 million this year helping Richmond's nonprofits and economic development projects. One of those groups is Solar Richmond, an organization that trains workers to install solar panels on homes. The company just received a small grant from Chevron to train another 45 workers. Kande Mosley, director of sales and marketing at the organization, said her group didn't hesitate to take Chevron's money. "Chevron is grappling with what it means to be a 21st century corporate citizen," Mosley says. "And to the extent that we can work together and accelerate renewable energy adoption and create employment opportunities right here at home in Richmond, we want to be part of that work." Winning new friends could forestall talk of the refinery leaving. Still, many are wondering how the marriage between Chevron and the city of Richmond can be saved.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=121974899&ps=cprs>

USA, TX, SUGAR LAND, DECEMBER 29 2009. IMPERIAL SUGAR SETTLES INSURANCE CLAIM FOR \$345M

Imperial Sugar Co. says it has settled a property insurance claim related to a major refinery explosion for \$345 million. The 2008 disaster killed 14 workers and injured dozens more when dust-fueled fireballs erupted at a Georgia sugar refinery. Insurers had previously provided payments of \$300 million under the \$350 million policy, which covers the property damage and business interruption costs. The company says a final \$45 million payment on the claim is expected in early January. Imperial Sugar is one of the largest processors and marketers of refined sugar in the U.S.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9CSIOOG0.htm>

USA, MN, ST PAUL, DECEMBER 29 2009. ST. PAUL, EXXON MOBIL COMPLETE DEAL TO CONVERT OLD OIL TANK FARM INTO PARKLAND >> THE COMPANY WILL PLEDGE \$5 MILLION TO CLEAN AND REDEVELOP THE PROPERTY IN WEST SEVENTH.

chris havens

A legal battle that has lasted for years between the city of St. Paul and Exxon Mobil Corp. has ended. The two sides signed off last week on a deal to transfer 36 acres of a former oil tank farm in the West Seventh neighborhood to the city. Under the agreement, the city's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) will pay the company \$1 and promise to use the land only for a park. In return, Exxon Mobil will give \$5 million to clean and redevelop the property, which is between W. 7th Street, Otto Avenue, Shepard Road and Montreal Way. "This agreement provides both the land and substantial funds to the HRA to complete the current site restoration efforts and eventually give the community a beautiful park -- an excellent outcome for all parties with benefits extending well into the future," said Kim Moore, regional program coordinator for ExxonMobil Environmental Services. Cleanup of the pollutant petroleum hydrocarbon will take two or three years, and 4 feet of clean dirt will be put down. The Parks and Recreation Department will begin a process with the community early next year to figure out what the park should look like. It could have playgrounds, trails, open spaces or sports fields, but stadiums or other enclosed buildings would not be allowed. David Bredemus, president of the West Seventh/Fort Road Federation, said the park will benefit the whole city and be a "spectacular spot." The 36 acres are part of a 65-acre parcel that had once been envisioned as Victoria Park, an 850-unit housing development. The land was once the site of separate oil tank farms owned by Koch Refinery Co. and Mobil Oil Corp. Both companies ended operations there in 1995, and that's when neighbors and the city began to eye the land. Koch sold its land, but Exxon Mobil didn't want to if the city was going to build housing on it. The company was concerned about future liability because of contamination. In 2004, the city began condemnation proceedings, and the ensuing court fight and negotiations led to an agreement in October.

<http://www.startribune.com/local/stpaul/80239027.html?elr=KArksLckD8EQUJoaEyqyP4O:DW3ckUiD3aPc: Yyc:aUUl>

USA, CA, OAKLAND, DECEMBER 29 2009. JET FUEL LEAK MAY AFFECT BAY

Officials at Oakland International Airport were investigating a possible jet fuel leak Monday evening that could reach San Francisco Bay. An airport employee smelled fuel near a group of tanks close to Terminal 2 on Monday afternoon, airport spokesman Robert Bernardo said. Officials were continuing to investigate the odor and whether fuel had leaked from any tanks. Bernardo said the fuel leak could reach the Bay because the tanks are near a retention pond that filters storm water into the Bay. An absorbent boom has been placed in the pond as a precaution to help contain any fuel that may have leaked. U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Russell Nagle said an incident management team did not spot any fuel in the Bay on Monday afternoon.

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/Jet-fuel-leak--may-affect-Bay-80247457.html>

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