



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2012 – 827 Newsy Stuff

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/DangerousGoods>

April 10 2012



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ENGLAND, FAVERSHAM, APRIL 2 2012. TALES OF HORROR AND HEROISM AFTER THE GREAT EXPLOSION

On April 2, 1916 a factory in Uplees, Faversham, became the site of the worst disaster in the history of the UK explosives industry. A fire spread to 15 tons of TNT and 150 tons of ammonium nitrate, and 120 people died in the resulting explosion. The blast shattered windows across the Thames Estuary in Southend and the tremor was felt in Norwich. Ahead of the 96th anniversary of the Great Explosion next week, Claire McWethy met the Chart Mill Gunpowder Museum's curator, 78-year-old amateur historian John Breeze, to find out how a hobby researching its victims turned into a 15-year project chronicling thousands of lives. Poring over ring-binders crammed with names, addresses and faded black and white photographs of the victims of the explosion, Mr Breeze said: "I've been interested in researching family history for a while and ever since I did my own I wanted to start on other people's. "I originally started the project 15 years ago thinking looking into the histories of 120 people would be a nice little project but it quickly expanded to cover about 3,500 people affected by the blast." John started his research with little more than a newspaper report from 1917, which published the names and ages of the victims of the explosion. The disaster happened when a fire in the Explosives Loading Company's chimney spread to fifteen tons of TNT and 150 tons of ammonium nitrate. Among the victims was Sidney Lloyd, who lived in Westgate Road. He was just 26 years old when he died in the explosion, leaving behind four children. John recalled that an ancestor came to him a few years ago. He said: "I was approached to help someone find a family member by the name Lloyd who might have been killed in the great explosion. "There were two Lloyds but when I read out Sidney's address they immediately knew it was him. We both welled up and the hairs on the back of my neck stood up. "The family were able to give us photographs of Sidney a few months before he was killed and pictures of his children in mourning gowns after the explosion. It just makes it all real." Mr Breeze's research also extends to the heroic efforts of the rescuers and firefighters. Numerous medals were awarded for bravery in the aftermath of the explosion, including five OBEs. Mr Breeze added: "I just hope that people are interested enough to come along to the commemoration to find out more about all the remarkable stories of those that were involved." The Faversham Society will be sharing photos, family histories and tales about the heroes and victims of the explosion at the Memorial in Love Lane Cemetery between 11am and 3pm on Monday.

<http://www.thisiskent.co.uk/Tales-horror-heroism-Great-Explosion/story-15667862-detail/story.html>

USA, GA, JULIETTE, APRIL 1 2012. A POWER PLANT, CANCER AND A SMALL TOWN'S FEARS

john sepulvado

Click-2-Listen Podcast: [Power plant's neighbors complain of illness](#)



Robert Maddox of Juliette, Georgia, poses on his property. Maddox says Georgia Power expressed interest in buying his property after leveling the house next door and sealing the water well.

Story Highlights

Some people in Juliette, Georgia blame recent illnesses on Plant Scherer. The company that manages the plant, Georgia Power, says the plant is in compliance with regulations.

High levels of uranium have been found in residential water wells

"Y'know they're going to tear that house down, don't you?" Robert Maddox has just opened his front door to let me in for the third time in three weeks. During

each visit, Maddox talks about the house next door. It looks like the other houses in this rural middle Georgian town: two stories high, with a stone face and long rooftop arches, sitting on a few acres of wooded hills. Maddox turns toward his dining room, walking by the oxygen tank he uses when he makes the 300-foot trek to the two-lane road where he picks up his mail, and shares the gossip he heard at the local market an hour earlier. "Yeah, someone said Georgia Power will tear it down to the ground sometime this week." Robert Maddox is a bulky man with gray hair, a deeply lined face, squinty eyes and a thick Southern accent. He lives in Juliette with his wife, Teresa. The two of them invested their life savings building their home. It's a large ranch house on several acres, and the plan was the two of them would leave it for their sons and grandchildren. They gave up that dream after Maddox's mother developed a rare form of ear cancer and died after living at the home for three years. "I'm not going to bring my grandchildren up in this," Maddox says. "Anybody who does would be a fool, I think." The problem, Maddox explains, is now he and his neighbors are getting sick. For Maddox, the first signs of trouble would come in



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the middle of the night, when he would wake up with nose bleeds mixed with clear mucus. Then his muscles started twitching, and then he got kidney disease, and then sclerosis of the liver.

His doctor wondered whether Maddox was an alcoholic. "I don't drink," Maddox says dismissively before ticking off his other health problems:

"I also had a gallbladder that had to be removed, and they give me a one in six chance of surviving that. And right now I could walk from here to my mailbox and I'm out of breath."

The neighbor who used to live in the now-empty house has abdominal cancer. In the house two doors over, a once healthy woman has a form of dementia that's left her "unrecognizable," according to Maddox. "Besides us all being sick, we've all been approached by Georgia Power, with them looking to buy us out" Maddox says. "And in that house next door, [Georgia Power] has sealed the well." Maddox leans away from his kitchen table, crosses his arms and sighs. "Y'know it's coming from over there," he says, nodding in the direction of one of the largest coal plants in the world, right across the two lane highway where Maddox collects his mail. Maddox believes the coal plant is making people sick, and the "it" he refers to is cancer.

A Plant's History of Purchasing Properties

Compared to other coal-fired power plants in the United States, Plant Scherer is Colossus. Two 1,000-foot chimneys can be seen towering over the pine forests from miles away. The plant, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is the largest producer of greenhouse gasses in the country. The plant generates the fifth-most power in the nation, according to government statistics. Georgia Power owns a portion of Scherer, and manages the plant on behalf of five other utility stakeholders. CNN has confirmed at least two houses across from the plant have been bought. Meanwhile, another 10 owners of nearby houses claim Georgia Power representatives have approached them with offers to purchase their property. The first house purchased belonged to a woman suffering from cancer. In public statements before the purchase, Gloria Dorsett told neighbors she had breast cancer -- cancer she said her doctor had diagnosed as environmentally caused. Neighbors say after Dorsett wrote letters to the local paper, Georgia Power bought her home, leveled it, sealed the on-site water well, and planted tiny pine saplings on the property. CNN reached the family, who refused to comment for this story. The second house, also across from Plant Scherer, was owned by a couple. According to neighbors, the woman suffered from a form of stomach cancer, and she told neighbors before the buyout it too was diagnosed as environmentally caused. CNN reached that family as well they, too, refused to comment. Almost immediately after Georgia Power purchased that house, the company sealed the on-site water well. A Georgia Power spokesman tells CNN the company was "unaware of any health problems" around Plant Scherer. The spokesman, Mark Williams, says Georgia Power routinely purchases property around power plants. However, in the case of Scherer, Williams says Georgia Power "is not approaching people and offering buyouts." Yet, three homeowners across from the plant showed CNN business cards left by Georgia Power employees indicating the company was opening up discussions to purchase their homes. When presented with this contradiction, Williams holds firm. "We have not been approaching people," Williams said. Donna Welch lives a few miles from Plant Scherer. Middle-aged and gregarious, Welch suffers symptoms similar to those of Robert Maddox and his neighbors. And as with Maddox, Welch's doctor also asked if she had a drinking problem. "They asked me if I was a closet alcoholic," Welch says, chuckling. "They tested me for diabetes, they tested me for multiple sclerosis ... they couldn't figure it out." Curious to see if there were any toxins in her body that could be causing health problems, Welch had her hair checked. Hair stores chemicals and toxins absorbed in the body. "My hair is 68 parts per million uranium," Welch says. "And then my husband started breaking out in disfiguring hives. His kidneys started acting really bizarre." Welch says her doctor linked the family health problems to uranium poisoning. The uranium was traced to a water well on her property. That discovery led to more robust testing by University of Georgia researchers, who found more than 20 homes in the area with high concentrations of uranium. Hair testing revealed that another Juliette resident, Jamie Worley, had high concentrations of uranium in his hair. Worley developed liver cancer and died, although it's unclear whether the uranium triggered the cancer. The researchers say they haven't traced where the uranium comes from, although EPA officials said they believed the contamination to come from underneath a layer of granite 70 miles away near Atlanta. Uranium is also heavily concentrated in coal ash. Plant Scherer produces hundreds of acres of coal ash per year. The waste is stored in a 900-acre pond surrounding the plant. Over the past 30 years, several studies have found coal ash more radioactive than the waste from nuclear power plants. So when Georgia Power sealed two wells, many in the community began to suspect the massive coal plant could be causing the contamination and the illnesses. One of the most commonly accepted theories by residents of Juliette is that uranium and other toxins from the coal waste are leaking from the ash pond into the area water table. "Through the grapevine and small community talk, that's what I hear," Welch says. "Over and over again people ask me, 'Is it Georgia Power? Is there any proof it's Georgia Power? Is it the ash?' I don't know. I can't



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say. I just want the truth." Georgia Power, meanwhile, denies the coal ash is causing the high levels of uranium found in the wells. "Our ash pond is in full compliance with state and federal guidelines," says Georgia Power's Williams. It's impossible to tell who is right. Coal ash ponds are not frequently monitored by state regulators, and there is almost no federal oversight of these ponds. In Georgia, and many other states, dried coal ash is regulated by the same rules that govern landfills holding household trash.

A Sick & Scared Community

Along Luther Smith Road in Juliette, most of the houses are simple, one-story wood-frame structures with a small porch and a few single-paned front windows. Looking out from those windows toward the street, you would see a thicket of pine trees in front of a large mound of dirt, about 15 feet higher than the two-lane road. The rise in the ground is the levy holding the coal ash pond. Gloria Dorsett lived across the road from the coal ash pond for decades before Georgia Power bought her house. Neighbors say the cancer survivor drank water from her well. That well is now sealed; the only indication of it is a small rubber hose popping up from a newly laid patch of grass. For environmental activists such as Jeff Stant, the sealing of the wells should be a red flag for residents. Stant works for the Environmental Integrity Project, an advocacy group, and he says Georgia Power is taking similar actions as other utility companies when coal ash ponds have contaminated water supplies. "When they do it quietly like that and when they are sealing the wells," Stant explains, "it creates concerns that there might be something wrong with the water people are drinking." Stant hasn't monitored Plant Scherer, but he is an expert on coal plants. He says it's also concerning that Scherer's ash pond isn't lined at the bottom, a step he says would greatly protect the public's health. "The EPA has estimated the risk of people getting cancer around unlined ash ponds were as high as one in 50 individuals exposed," Stant notes. "So, it's extremely important to line these ponds. It's nine times higher than the risk of cancer from smoking a pack of cigarettes a day for your entire life." There are no regulations requiring liners at Plant Scherer's coal ash pond. Many residents around the coal plant have started asking for their wells to be tested, including Robert Maddox. He's convinced that Georgia Power knows something is wrong with the water, or else they wouldn't have sealed the well. Maddox was right about his neighbor's house. Georgia Power tore it down on a chilly Thursday night. It took two men and a bulldozer to tear it apart, leaving a pile of broken wood planks and roof tiles. "Georgia Power should do the same for us," Maddox says. "Even if it ain't them causing these problems, who would ever buy my house, or the neighbor's house, with that mess next door?" He sighs, and says, "They'd be a fool to."

<http://edition.cnn.com/2012/03/31/us/georgia-coal-power/index.html>

GERMANY, MARL, CHEMIEPARK, APRIL 1 2012. ONE DEAD, ONE INJURED IN GERMAN CHEMICAL PLANT BLAST: POLICE



Black smoke billows up into the sky following an explosion at the Chemiepark in Marl, western Germany March 31, 2012. Two of the chemical plant workers were injured in blast on Saturday police said. The cause of the explosion is still unknown.

An explosion at a German chemical plant killed one person Saturday and left another injured, rescuers and industrial park administrators said. The explosion of a tank at the Evonik Degussa plant in the western town of Marl sent black smoke billowing over the town, and residents were warned to stay indoors, with their windows and doors closed. The injured man was flown to a hospital, but officials later said his life was no longer in danger. A third person suffered only light injuries and had already left hospital. Police later said that two employees who had been reported missing were found to be at their homes. The substance contained in the tank is used in the production of plastic parts in the auto industry, as well as in cosmetics and electronics, an industry spokesman told

AFP. "Firemen have the blaze under control," a police spokesman said. "A column of smoke rose 100 metres (320 feet) high in the wake of the explosion, but initial checks by environmental authorities don't indicate there's any danger to health," the spokesman added. The cloud spread south towards the centre of town but was rapidly dispersed by the wind, he added. The cause of the blast was not immediately known. Marl, a town of 87,000 in the Ruhr industrial heartland, some 40 kilometres (25 miles) from Dortmund, is a key chemical industry centre.

<http://www.omglobe.com/2012/03/31/top-news-world/one-dead-one-injured-in-german-chemical-plant-blast-police/>



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USA, WI, LACROSSE, APRIL 1 2012. COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS: HOW IT WORKS

chris hubbuck

Natural gas vehicles aren't new, nor are they radically different than conventional vehicles. Honda has been building them in the United States for the past 14 years, and there are aftermarket conversions — including bi-fuel systems that rely on gasoline or diesel as a backup — for almost any application. Diesel engine manufacturer Cummins has recently brought natural gas technology to the heavy-duty market with a CNG version of its 9-liter diesel engine used in trucks. With the exception of sturdier pistons and valves, CNG engines work much like conventional internal combustion versions, though the cleaner-burning fuel requires much less emissions equipment than diesel. They get similar mileage (measuring in terms of BTUs, a standard for comparing the amount of energy contained in fuel), although they deliver slightly less power. The most noticeable difference is fuel storage, as highly compressed or chilled gas requires bigger and stronger tanks than gas or diesel. In Honda's Civic NG, the aluminum-lined carbon-fiber tank takes up about half the trunk space. The rounded cylindrical shape is designed to minimize pressure points for the gas, which is stored at up to 3,600 pounds per square inch, unlike gasoline tanks, which can be configured to fit under the car. Some heavy-duty trucks use liquefied natural gas — chilled to -260 degrees — because it takes up less space. Despite the high pressure, natural gas vehicles are considered no more dangerous than conventional models. Honda Motorwerks owner Chris Schneider points to stress tests in which natural gas tanks sustain direct gunshots and vertical drops that simulate a rear-end collision at 60 mph. The tank, he said, is stronger than any part of the vehicle. And in the event of a puncture, the gas rapidly escapes into the air, unlike gas or diesel fuel that puddles on the ground. Tanks are filled with a nozzle that couples to the tank like an air hose, and commercial pumps operate much like conventional gasoline dispensers, filling in about the same time and shutting off when the tank is full.

http://lacrosetribune.com/news/local/compressed-natural-gas-how-it-works/article_a5c8424a-7bb0-11e1-a08b-0019bb2963f4.html

USA, N.J, PARAMUS, APRIL 1 2012. A SHOTGUN MARRIAGE? ETHANOL AND OLD OUTBOARD BOAT ENGINES

mel fabrikant

Ever since E10 gasoline (gas containing 10% ethanol) became widely available several years ago, the nation's largest recreational boat owners group, BoatUS, has received hundreds of calls and emails complaining about boat engine problems. The majority of complaints concern older outboard motors, those made before about 1990. BoatUS' Seaworthy magazine asked Mercury Marine's Ed Alyanak and Frank Kelley, who between them have over 60 years of experience, to find out what's made these decades-old outboards more susceptible to ethanol's well-known problems and what owners can do.

- Vulnerable hoses: In the mid 1980's new standards (SAE J1527) for fuel hoses were developed for "gasohol," which was known to deteriorate rubber and plastics. Since then, problems with hoses have largely gone away, but that doesn't mean they are maintenance free. Tech Tip: Any hose older than 10 years should be replaced. Here's another way to test rubber fuel hose condition: wipe a clean rag along the hose. If you smell gas on the rag, replace the hose immediately.
- Carburetors: O-rings and rubber carburetor parts on older engines tend to get hard and brittle when exposed to ethanol and then break off in bits and pieces causing clogs, misfires and shutdowns. Pre-1990 carburetors were also made from alloys that didn't stand up to ethanol, leading to corrosion that can cause tiny fuel orifices to clog, resulting in hard starts and poor running. Old carbs are also "dumb" in that they were designed to run on only one type of fuel. Ethanol, however, has more oxygen and affects the air/fuel ratio, causing engines to run leaner and hotter. Tech Tip: The best solution with old outboards is to run straight gas — if you can find it. Some mechanics may also have the ability to "recalibrate" a carburetor to tolerate E10 (note: gas with ethanol greater than 10% should never be used with any boat engine).
- 3. Plastic fuel filter bowl: Some older engines may have plastic fuel filter bowls. Tech Tip: If you still have one, replace immediately with a metal bowl.
- Fuel fill gasket: Keeping water out of the fuel tank is even more important with ethanol as it can eventually lead to the formation of two separate solutions in the gas tank (water and fuel), also known as phase separation. The process is more common on older boats which are more likely to have accumulated water at the bottom of the tank. Once phase separation happens — the tipping point when water in the gas is either harmlessly ingested or transformed into a corrosive mixture no engine will run on — there's no going back. No fuel additive can restore E10 back to its normal state. Tech Tip: Age and exposure to ethanol can rot fill gaskets or O-rings. Replace them every few years.



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- "Gunk" in the tank: it is still possible that some old outboards and boat fuel systems have yet to sip a drop of E10. But once your boat drinks its first tankful, ethanol will "scour" or dissolve the gunk that's been coating the tank walls (and hoses) for years. Tech tip: You may want to think about hiring a professional to have the tank drained completely of any gas and water at the bottom before adding your first load of E10. If not, keep a supply of filters on hand – they will clog quickly. Always use a fuel stabilizer and avoid using octane boosters that contain ethanol.

For more information on ethanol and boat engines, go to <http://www.BoatUS.com/seaworthy/ethanol.asp>
<http://www.paramuspost.com/article.php/20120331150600496>

CHINA, BEIJING, APRIL 1 2012. CONOCO PAYS CHINESE FISHERMEN FOR OIL SPILL-REPORT

U.S. energy giant ConocoPhillips and CNOOC Ltd have agreed to jointly pay 305 million yuan (\$48 million) in compensation to Chinese fishermen and restore the maritime environment in the Bohai Bay area after a major oil spill there last year, state media reported on Sunday. ConocoPhillips and China's top offshore oil and gas producer CNOOC reached a preliminary agreement to pay the compensation through the Qinhuangdao city government in the northern province of Hebei, state-owned China National Radio said. The oil spill at the Penglai 19-3 oilfield, China's biggest offshore oil field, which started in June 2011, has resulted in the release of about 700 barrels of oil, ConocoPhillips has said. The spill polluted more than 840 square kilometres of water, according to the State Oceanic Administration. ConocoPhillips owns a 49 percent stake in the oilfield and acts as the operator, while the state-owned CNOOC has a 51 percent stake. ConocoPhillips and CNOOC reached a settlement with the Chinese government in January to pay 1 billion yuan (\$158.78 million) as compensation, and also to designate 100 million yuan (\$15.88 million) of its previously announced environmental fund to be used to improve fishery resources in the region. (\$1=6.2980 yuan)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/01/china-conocophillips-leak-idUSL3E8F102L20120401>

USA, ARK, BARLING, APRIL 1 2012. OIL SPILL ON ARKANSAS RIVER UNDER INVESTIGATION



The Coast Guard and the Army Corps of Engineers are investigating a possible oil spill in the Arkansas River in Barling. The Coast Guard received a report of a rainbow-colored sheen on the water near lock and dam 13, which they said is consistent with an oil spill. Coast Guard officials told KHBS-TV the river is moving swiftly and they are trying to catch up with the sheen as it moves toward Mississippi. Officials don't know the origin of the spill. They are trying to figure out who went through the river, since all shipments are monitored at the lock and dam before heading further down the river. The Coast Guard said someone who owns a marina near Barling spotted the sheen on the water.

<http://www.ktbs.com/news/Oil-spill-on-Arkansas-River-under-investigation/-/144844/9960040/-/1wys50/-/>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE, APRIL 2 2012. MAN CRUSHED REFUELLING SEMI-TRAILER

marissa calligeros

A man has died after being crushed by a semi-trailer he was trying to refuel at a service station in Brisbane's east this afternoon. Police said the 61-year-old man from Kangaroo Point was refuelling his semi-trailer at the Caltex service station on Mount Cotton Road, Capalaba, when the vehicle rolled backwards, pinning him to the ground about 1.10pm. He died at the scene. The Forensic Crash Unit is investigating and police will prepare a report for the coroner.

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/man-crushed-refuelling-semitrailer-20120401-1w66z.html>

UZBEKISTAN, TASHKENT, APRIL 2 2012. GAS STATION EXPLODES IN TASHKENT

A gas station exploded in the area of the Tashkent International Airport at around 11:30 on Sunday, April 1, which was heard at a distance of more than five kilometers, [Trend](#) informs. According to many witnesses, the second explosion was heard here a few minutes later, presumably in an underground gas tank. At present, the scene is cordoned off, and movement to the



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direction of the airport and small ring road is blocked. Services of fire prevention, ambulance, emergency situations ministry, road safety and other law enforcement agencies are on the scene. There is no official comment on the explosion and its victims at present. However, according to eyewitnesses, none of passers-by was injured, and there is no damage in buildings located near the gas station.

<http://vestnikkavkaz.net/news/economy/24900.html>

VENEZUELA, ANZOATEGUI, APRIL 2 2012. EXP LOSION AT VENEZUELA'S PETROCEDENO UPGRADER KILLS WORKER

An explosion at Venezuela's Petrocedeno heavy oil upgrader killed one worker and injured three others on Sunday, state oil monopoly Petroleos de Venezuela, or PdVSA, said. The accident at the 190,000-barrel-a-day facility is the latest in a string of fires and other mishaps that have plagued PdVSA-run projects throughout the South American country in recent years. Some critics say that the problems partially stem from insufficient investment by the Venezuelan government into maintenance as large sums of PdVSA's revenue get siphoned off to finance President Hugo Chavez's large scale social programs. In a statement, PdVSA said that the explosion occurred as workers were installing a water separator. However, the company said the situation had been controlled and would be investigated. The company identified 33-year-old Carlos Alberto Machuca as the worker killed in the accident. One other worker faced second-degree burns and two others were treated for smoke inhalation. Petrocedeno is 60% owned by PdVSA, around 30% by France's Total S.A and around 9.7% by Norway's Statoil

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2012/04/01/explosion-at-venezuelas-petrocedeno-upgrader-kills-worker/>

USA, FLA, DELEON SPRINGS, APRIL 2 2012. MACHINES UNEARTH CONTAMINATED SOIL, BUT DELEON SPRINGS RESIDENTS REMAIN WARY

patricio g. balona



A giant auger is used to pull contaminated soil from the ground during a \$2.5 million cleanup of an old fuel leak at the corner of Spring Street and North U.S. 17 in DeLeon Springs.

The giant yellow and black crane whined and groaned as it buried a huge drill 35 feet into the ground and then pulled it up filled with soil reeking of gasoline. Across Spring Street, standing outside the office of his car dealership, Mark Snell watched. A whiff of gasoline fumes coasted by in the wind. He wondered how much good the \$2.5 million contamination cleanup would do this time around. "They tell me the fumes are so strong that they cannot smoke around it," Snell said, pointing to the workers. "That's pretty strong." In the 23 years since he's had his car dealership next door, Snell has seen four or five different companies come to the site at the corner of Baxter Street and U. S. 17. Each tried different cleaning methods in the same spot over and over and none worked. "There has been no continuity to the whole thing," Snell said. "They keep changing the cleaning crew and the problem is still there." There is greater skepticism by those near the gasoline mess because recent documents show it is still a considered a serious problem and DEP officials admit that

contamination still exists in the area they cleaned three years ago in Phase I. The cleanup, which started Feb. 20, is the second part of a four-phase \$8 million effort by the Department of Environmental Protection aimed at removing gasoline-contaminated soil from the site. The DEP has been unsuccessfully trying to clean up the contamination since 1989 when underground leaking tanks were changed at the gas station that is now a Valero, east of the property of Cezar Perez and his car-stereo installation business. The tanks buried then were not properly sealed and continued to leak, states a December 2005 report by Universal Solutions Inc. of Tampa to DEP. Universal Solutions, a contractor, was hired in June 2009 and collected \$3.5 million to carry out Phase I, excavating an area east of U.S. 17 on the Valero gas station property. The project replaced the 1989 leaking tanks, said Robert Brown, chief of DEP's Bureau of Petroleum Cleanup. The Tampa company is back to dig up gasoline-soaked soil from the back of Perez's property, the parking lot for his business. DEP spokeswoman Jennifer Diaz said this time the company is using an augering system, where the auger, or large drilling device, leaves an open column or "bore hole" that is then filled with clean material.



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Worries, Smell Strong

The noise not only gets on Snell's nerves but the high smell of the soil being extracted worries him that his property could possibly be damaged, too. Over the years, experts dug 20 monitoring wells on his property, which are still there, and have shown the presence of gasoline products. "I keep wondering if I would be able to sell the property when I am ready to do so," Snell said. Perez has similar concerns, especially because DEP is only cleaning his parking lot, and contaminated soil under his structure will remain. The December 2005 report shows DEP had initially planned to demolish Perez's business by offering to pay him for the building so it could clean out the contaminated soil underneath. But in the end, Perez said DEP ended up offering him \$55,000 and then said there is no money. Brown said his agency never offered to buy Perez's building. The state agency only offered to compensate Perez the value of the building. The initial cleanup plan involved using a backhoe, which required tearing down Perez's building to remove the contaminated ground under the structure. But once DEP determined Perez would not be able to replace the structure because of new building codes, DEP abandoned the original plan, Brown said. "We went with the current approach, which is excavation by large diameter augers removing the soil in a vertical column and then filling the openings with a concrete-like substance," Brown said. Brown is now saying there is no contamination under Perez's building, which has a thrift store and his stereo installation business, both closed during the cleanup. Brown's new information contradicts a 2008 email by Susan Fields, site manager, to Mike Ashey, chief of the Bureau of Petroleum Storage Systems, that "if the building can be demolished it would provide access to additional soil contamination." According to Rebecca Lockenbach, environmental manager for DEP, Brown's new information was derived from soil samples taken on the right of way on the Casey Furniture side of the property, now Perez's property. No soil samples were taken from underneath Perez's building, Lockenbach said.

Distrust in DEP

Residents and business people in DeLeon Springs are not readily buying DEP's recent position as there is no clear explanation as to how the westward contamination got by the right of way and ended up in Perez's backyard. "It's not reasonable to assume that the contamination is occurring in random places," Snell said. "They (DEP officials) always told us the plume was moving west toward the St. Johns." Snell said the contamination had to have crossed the right of way to contaminate Perez's parking lot and thus damaged soil is also under the building. In the plume's path is DeLeon Springs, a popular swimming spot, a mile away from Perez's property. The spring attracts more than 230,000 visitors a year. Visitors spend more than \$8 million and generate an estimated \$608,000 in sales taxes, said Amy Munizzi, a member of the DeLeon Springs Association and head of the DeLeon Springs Utility Task Force. Munizzi said DEP's "new information" came about because the agency did not want to pay Perez enough money to rebuild. Perez was forced not to agree to the DEP's \$55,000 offer because he would have lost his source of income and livelihood, Munizzi said. "It's very clear that it all comes down to money," Munizzi said. "I guess now they (DEP) are just pretending there is nothing under it (Perez's building)." Of greater concern to people in the DeLeon Springs business corridor along U.S. 17 is that recent reports show that there still is contamination where Universal Solutions carried out Phase I cleanup, Munizzi said. "If they just cleaned it up, why is there still contamination?" Munizzi queried. DEP's Lockenbach admitted that the Phase I cleanup did not totally eliminate the contamination but reduced it. The December 2005 report submitted to DEP by Universal Solutions showed there are two 6,000-gallon gasoline tanks and a 6,000-gallon diesel tank installed in 1989 in the same place where old tanks were removed. These were buried near U.S. 17 and Baxter Street when the highway was widened and expanded. The plume of estimated benzene contamination was 875,514 gallons, extending west from the Valero gas station under U.S. 17, and contamination was shown to have migrated farther west, including Perez's property. Lockenbach did not know how much of the more than 800,000 gallons of contamination was removed in Phase I. DEP has 23 monitoring wells in the area, including where the Phase I one cleanup was done in 2009. The wells, including those on the Valero property, continue to show contamination but the levels of gasoline pollution have decreased, Lockenbach said. "In February 2010 one of the wells on the gas station property showed levels of benzene (gasoline contamination) to be 1,500," Lockenbach said. "On Feb. 21, 2012, the benzene was 860." Still, that does not comfort Munizzi and other business people working to revitalize the DeLeon Springs downtown area near the contamination. There is doubt that the millions spent is paying for an effective decontamination of the site, she said. A Jan. 5, 2010, letter, written shortly after Phase I was completed, shows DEP officials believe the situation in DeLeon Springs is still a hazardous one. In the letter, Richard Ruscito to Fields, the DEP engineer discusses the failed efforts with fields and describes the scenario in DeLeon Springs. "The main point to the note is that the Valero site is just the tip of the iceberg, and that the adjacent area under the road and across the street has, over the years, become part of the source area, including free product," Ruscito wrote. "That's how bad the situation really is." And still, the job goes on without hopes of a total



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decontamination, Munizzi said. "We feel very sad about the situation," Munizzi said. "The contamination will not be 100 percent removed from Cezar's (Perez's) place." Snell agreed. "If they can't clean under it, how complete could the cleanup be?" Snell asked. "I thought it would have been done in one piece rather than in a piece-meal way."

<http://www.news-journalonline.com/news/local/west-volusia/2012/04/02/machines-uneearth-contaminated-soil-but-deleon-springs-residents-remain-wary.html>

USA, FLA, MARGATE, APRIL 2 2012. POISON FROM SUICIDE ATTEMPT SHUTS DOWN FLORIDA EMERGENCY ROOM, SICKENS PARAMEDICS

The emergency room at a Florida hospital was temporarily shut down Sunday morning after a man who had attempted suicide vomited up poison, sickening three paramedics. Emergency rescue workers responded to the Coconut Creek home of a man who tried to kill himself by drinking the pesticide malathion at around 1:30 a.m. local time, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported. Margate Fire Rescue division chief Dan Booker said they found the man on his front lawn. As the paramedics transported the man to Northwest Medical Center in nearby Margate, about 14 miles northwest of Fort Lauderdale, he vomited, causing the rescuers "to become dizzy, nauseous" and suffer headaches, according to Booker. The man was brought into a containment area and the emergency room was closed as a precaution. The vehicle that transported the man to the hospital was put into quarantine. A hazardous materials team from the Broward Sheriff's Office was called to the scene, and the three paramedics were treated for contamination sickness. The emergency room was cleared for reopening by the hazmat workers and the Florida Department of Health at 9:00 a.m. A commercial cleaning firm was working Sunday to decontaminate the emergency vehicle and hospital equipment, according to the Sun-Sentinel. The man who attempted suicide was conscious and talking later Sunday morning, Booker said.

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/04/01/poison-from-suicide-attempt-shuts-down-florida-emergency-room-sickens/>

USA, N.J, EGG HARBOR CITY, APRIL 2 2012. OFFICIALS TRYING TO DETERMINE EXTENT OF SOIL CONTAMINATION IN EGG HARBOR CITY

lee procida



A former clothing factory at the corner of Atlantic and Buffalo avenues in Egg Harbor City left the ground contaminated with dry-cleaning chemicals.

In some ways, this little community wishes it could regain the glory it once had as a bustling hub of South Jersey. In other ways, the city is haunted by its industrial past. The government is currently investigating the extent of soil contamination at the corner of Atlantic and Buffalo avenues, where a long-gone clothing production operation dumped dry-cleaning chemicals in the '60s and '70s. The state has directed the current property owner, Pembroke Associates, to pay more than \$1 million for the site's remediation, but Pembroke filed a suit in February against the city and individual defendants seeking that they share in the clean-up cost. The site is one of more than a dozen polluted sites in

downtown Egg Harbor City that the Department of Environmental Protection has identified as hazardous remnants of former businesses. "The sins of our fathers are born upon us," said City Attorney James Carroll. The Pembroke site has housed a number of operations in the past century. Companies there manufactured mirrors and cut glass at one point, and today it's the headquarters for a food distribution company. A history included in the lawsuit states the city acquired the property in 1871, selling portions of it and leasing others. Liberty Cut Glass opened at the site in 1903, said Mark Maxwell, president of the Egg Harbor City Historical Society. The company was known worldwide, and its glassware is on display in the city's museum. The site later became Nurre Mirror Co., a mirror manufacturer. Maxwell said he would not be surprised if there is any heavy metal contamination left over from these uses as well. When it became a garment factory, it joined a number of other clothing factories in the city. In the early 20th century, 10 percent to 15 percent of people in the city worked in the garment industry, according to U.S. Census reports from the era. Pembroke Inc., a different entity than the current owner, acquired part of the property in 1964, the lawsuit states, but the city also leased the manufacturing area to the company until 1980. The property was then sold to brothers Melvin and Lee Levine. Pembroke Associates became the registered owner in 1997. Obituaries in The Press of Atlantic City from the past 20 years include dozens of residents from Egg Harbor City, Hammonton, Galloway and Hamilton Township who were seamstresses, pressers, cloth cutters, pocket setters and machine operators at the



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Pembroke factory. For a time, the company produced military uniforms, specifically overcoats for pilots, Maxwell said. "In fact, I had one," he said, since they sold excess materials to the public. Anthony and Linda DiPaola, who are both deceased and whose estates are named in the suit as defendants, owned Pembroke Inc. as well as A. DiPaola and Company. They used the Egg Harbor City site to manufacture their clothes, which they sold at stores in Hammonton and Vineland. They primarily made men's clothing, and old advertisements for the company included the tagline, "The Man Who Knows Wears DiPaola Clothes." The chemicals released during that operation include PCE and TCE, both industrial solvents that can cause liver damage and cancer if consumed in high enough concentrations for an extended period of time. The chemicals were detected during another remediation project undertaken by South Jersey Gas at the adjacent park. The DEP first filed its action against Pembroke Associates in 2008. Officials said the underground pollution does not pose an immediate threat to public health, but they are also unsure about the extent of the contamination. The city began examining the problem when it also was developing plans to improve the nearby train station several years ago. The city has sought grants that could help fund the untold cost of cleaning up any chemicals found. "It could be a very expensive project, and that's what the concern is," Carroll said. Mayor Joe Kuehner said the city is trying to work with the property owner to resolve the issue. In March, the city approved spending \$3,500 for the city engineer to investigate the issue. Unfortunately, Kuehner said the government is all too familiar with these environmental issues. Old gas stations have left a number of sites with gasoline contamination and underground tanks that remain today. "We're working with our resources available to address some of them," Kuehner said.

http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/communities/hammonton_egg-harbor-city/officials-trying-to-determine-extent-of-soil-contamination-in-egg/article_d2b5c268-7c5b-11e1-bcf0-0019bb2963f4.html

PHILIPPINES, MANILA, APRIL 2 2012. PETRON KEEN ON ACQUIRING ESSO THAILAND

The Philippines' largest oil refiner by sales and capacity, said Friday it is interested in acquiring Esso (Thailand) Public Co., a unit of [Exxon](#) Mobil Corp. The company's statement to the stock exchange confirmed a news report Thursday in local newspaper Philippine Star. "If it (Esso Thailand) becomes available, we will look at it," Petron president Eric Recto said in the report. Last week, Petron said it was seeking full control of Esso Malaysia Bhd (3042.MU) through a mandatory takeover offer to the minority shareholders that own the remaining 35% of the Malaysian oil firm. The mandatory offer was triggered by Petron International's acquisition of a 65% stake in Esso Malaysia.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2012/03/30/petron-keen-on-acquiring-esso-thailand/>

INDIA, WADIWARHE, APRIL 2 2012. ONE THYSSENKRUPP WORKER KILLED, FIVE CRITICAL IN NASHIK CO2 FIRE EXTINGUISHER TANK EXPLOSION



A labourer died of asphyxiation, when a carbon dioxide tank exploded in the ThyssenKrupp plant in Wadiwarhe, 22 km near Nashik on Friday morning. Five others are currently critical. The carbon dioxide tank was part of an automatic fire extinguisher apparatus, sources claimed. When the tank exploded, the deceased Kiran Prabhakar Wani (38) took an oxygen cylinder and ran to save the other workers, who were gasping for breath. In the chaos, Kiran slipped

and fell down and suffocated. His colleagues, however managed to escape. Top police officials reached the spot and rushed the critically ill workers to the Nashik Civil Hospital. The workers were later admitted to Wockhart and Suyash Hospitals in the city. Wockhart Hospital in a statement, said that two workers had been admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU). At the time of going to press, they were still "critical and not out of danger". They will be kept under observation for the next 48 hours, doctors said. Another worker has been admitted in the general ward and was out of danger, but will need close observation, hospital sources said. Almost all employees of Thyssenkrupp Electrical Steel rushed to Wockhardt Hospital on Friday soon after Kiran Wani and other employees who suffered from carbon dioxide poisoning in the fire at the company were admitted there. Considering the rush at the hospital, the city police also reached the spot to ensure that things were kept under control there. A large number of workers alleged that no senior official from the company had come to the hospital to enquire about the deceased and the injured employees. The workers contended that they would not accept the body of Kiran Wani until the management gave them the assurance that Wani's would be properly compensated. With things heating up at the hospital, the hospital management called the city police to take care of the situation. A discussion later took place in the presence of assistant police commissioner Ganesh Shinde and senior police inspector of Bhadrakali police station, Bajirao Bhosale. While the officials from the management said that Wani's family would be compensated as per the rules, the workers said that the



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legal compensation offered was the same even for natural death and questioned what the company was offering in case of such accidents. The workers demanded that apart from the legal compensation, the company should also pay more on its part and absorb Wani's wife into the company's fold on compassionate grounds, and on the same salary that her deceased husband was drawing. By evening, the stand-off between the workers and the management had been resolved after talks between them and senior officials from the company. Pratibha Chaudhary, who said she was related to deceased Kiran Wani, said, "The incident was unfortunate. I feel that the oxygen mask Kiran Wani put on to save the life of a fellow worker must have failed, due to which he got suffocated." She added that the it was shocking that the top management of the company failed to take note of the gravity of the situation. The workers were admitted to hospital by 10am and till 2pm, none of the senior officials of the company reached the hospital to take stock of the health of their injured employees. When they finally arrived at 3pm, they said they couldn't meet any further demands other than the compensation and dues as per rules. Chaudhary said, "Our demand was that since Wani was 38 years old, and he had put in 22 years of service, the company should at least give half the salary of half the period of his remaining service and absorb his wife into the firm on compassionate grounds. However, the officials refused all our demands at that time. They have decided to give the family Rs 11 lakh, and we have accepted it, considering that the workers cannot stretch things beyond their limits."

<http://www.asianage.com/mumbai/1-killed-five-critical-nashik-tank-explosion-648>

AUSTRALIA, A.C.T, CANBERRA, APRIL 2 2012. HAVE YOUR SAY ON WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY CODES OF PRACTICE

Interested Australians are encouraged to have their say on five new work health and safety model Codes of Practice that were released today for a 12 week public comment period. The Codes released for public comment today are:

- Safe Design, Manufacture, Import and Supply of Plant
- Working in the Vicinity of Overhead and Underground Electrical Lines
- Traffic Management in Workplaces
- Scaffolding Work, and
- Formwork and Falsework.

Businesses, industries, workers and the wider community are encouraged to take this opportunity to contribute to work health and safety issues that directly affect their workplaces and their working lives. This is the third set of Codes of Practice developed to support the WHS Act and Regulations. They are part of a suite of documents being developed by Safe Work Australia, the Commonwealth, states and territory governments as part of harmonised work health and safety laws across Australia. Harmonised laws aim to achieve the best possible approach to safety for all Australian workplaces. The public comment period for these Codes of Practice will close 22 June 2012 5pm AEST. For more information on how to submit comments or on the work health and safety laws, visit

<http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/AboutSafeWorkAustralia/WhatWeDo/Media/Pages/MR02042012.aspx>

INDIA, MAHARASHTRA, THANE, APRIL 2 2012. HUGE QUANTITY OF EXPLOSIVES SEIZED IN THANE

[Watch the Video Explosives Seized In Thane](#)



Thane police on Sunday recovered a huge quantity of explosives from a Mahindra mini tempo in Padgha rural area and arrested two persons. 53 boxes of gelatine, 18 boxes of detonators, 18 bundles of fusewire and 150 km ammonium nitrate were seized from Amit Wagho and Avinash Wagho. Police said, the explosives were being taken for illegal stone crushers, but the carriers had no licence or valid documents. The two have been sent to police custody by a court till April 5. Padgha area is considered sensitive because it was here that Saqib Nachan, who was directly involved in Mumbai local train blasts was arrested.

http://www.indiatvnews.com/news/India/Huge_Quantity_Of_Explosives_Seized_In_Thane-15405.html



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PHILIPPINES, MANILA, APRIL 2 2012. SAN MIGUEL COMPLETES ACQUISITION OF MALAYSIAN OIL REFINER

An affiliate of San Miguel Corp. has completed the acquisition of ExxonMobil Malaysia's 65% stake in the Malaysian oil refiner Esso for \$577.3 million. In a disclosure to the stock exchange, San Miguel said its affiliate Petron Oil & Gas International Sdn. (POGI) has acquired 65% of Esso Malaysia Berhad and its other downstream oil subsidiaries in Malaysia -- ExxonMobil Malaysia SdnBhd and Exxon Mobil Borneo SdnBhd. "On behalf of POGI, Maybank Investment Bank Berhad wishes to announce that the acquisition has been completed on March 30 with the Ringgit Malaysian (RM) equivalent of the final purchase consideration for the acquisition of \$195.12 million being determined at RM598,698,769 or P3.411 per Esso Malaysia share based on the exchange rate of \$1:RM3.0683 as at March 29, 2012," it said. POGI acquired 175.5 million ordinary shares of RM0.50 each in Esso shares from ExxonMobil for \$195.12 million. POGI also said it would implement an unconditional mandatory take-over offer by POGI to acquire the remaining 35% of Esso Malaysia shares at RM3.59 each. San Miguel has diversified its portfolio in recent years, spinning off its traditional brewing business and moving into areas such as domestic power, telecommunications, infrastructure, and energy. It owns the Philippines' largest oil refiner, Petron Corp., which has a capacity of 180,000 barrels per day (bpd) and a network of over 1,700 service stations nationwide. Esso in Malaysia operates a refinery located in Port Dickson on the west coast and a chain of 560 retail stations across the country. Built in the 1960s at an initial cost of 50 million ringgit, the Port Dickson refinery has a processing capacity of 88,000 bpd, but it averaged 45,000 bpd in 2010, according to the company's 2010 annual report. "ExxonMobil's Malaysian downstream business is attractive to San Miguel given that there is plenty of room to move up the value chain by upgrading refinery capabilities," said San Miguel President and Chief Operating Officer Ramon Ang, last year. The refinery presently produces gasoline, diesel, liquefied petroleum gas, jet fuel, kerosene and low-sulfur waxy residue. Ang has said San Miguel's acquisition in Malaysia "provides us with a unique opportunity to expand our participation in the regional oil and gas sector."

<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/business/04/02/12/san-miguel-completes-acquisition-malaysian-oil-refiner>

NIGERIA, LAGOS, APRIL 2 2012. Ogoni Blocking Spillage Clean-up - Shell

The oil giant, Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), has accused some Ogoni communities in Rivers State of barring it from launching clean-up operations in some areas affected by oil spills in Ogoniland. The company's manager in charge of spillage clean-up, Augustine Igbuku, told the Nigerian Tribune in an exclusive chat that the company was not granted access to some spill sites, adding that the situation had worsened environmental impact of oil spills in the areas. According to the official, individuals or community groups or armed gangs denied the company access to spill sites because of many reasons, including expectation of higher compensation if spill sites were not cleaned up. "In some cases, this is because they are angry or worried about the impact on their land and lives. In other cases, it is because some members of the communities want clean-up contracts or greater compensation," he said, adding that the situation was complicating the good intention of the company in the area. Igbuku, who disclosed that the company would soon complete the clean-up of about 10 sites, lamented that the security and community issues in the area meant the company could not always access spill sites safely, causing delays to investigations, clean up and remediation. While linking most spills to vandalism and crude theft, the Shell executive said despite that, "the SPDC is committed to stopping and containing all spills, recovering and cleaning up as much oil as possible and restoring sites in compliance with regulations as quickly as possible."

<http://tribune.com.ng/index.php/news/38575-ogonis-blocking-spillage-clean-up-shell>

RUSSIA, APRIL 3 2012. VIDEO: ACCIDENT WITH CAR FIRE BALL EXPLOSION

[Watch the Video Car Fire Ball Explosion](#)

When you grow up with crappy action movies that contain at least one car explosion, you start to believe that that cars will simply catch fire if struck by a single bullet or even when they're involved in simple accidents. Then the Mythbusters come along and prove that cars are much safer than you'd think. But that might not always be true, because in mother Russia... we don't have a joke, but this is one impressive explosion video. The fire takes place at an intersection, where what looks to be a Renault Clio hatch collides with an indistinguishable sedan model. This then catches fire in what we can only call an explosion, since the flame ferociously engulfs the whole vehicle. We think the old sedan might be running on LPG, judging how the trunk blows open and the way the flame moves, but there's no way of knowing for sure. Usually, only after 3 to 5 minutes of being on fire will a petrol car's fuel tank blow.

<http://www.autoevolution.com/news/video-accident-with-car-fire-ball-explosion-43841.html>



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USA, CT, MERIDAN, APRIL 3 2012. GAS STATION WASN'T THEIRS BUT THEY'RE ON THE HOOK

dan ivers



From right: Joy Fazzuoli and her sister Mary Malchiodi, describe the location of the gas station that used to sit on their property on East Main Street in Meriden, March 30, 2012. Fazzuoli and Malchiodi, along with their sister Ada Gionfriddo and cousins Henrietta Scalise and Paula Guilfoile, are suing the state to pay for the \$350,000 contaminated gas station that used to sit on their property. The gas station was owned by the now bankrupt Petrol Plus.

Five women are fighting a \$344,000 bill from the state for cleaning up the damage left by underground gas tanks they say they never owned or operated. Next door to the white house at 885 E. Main St., where sisters Joyce Fazzuoli, Mary Malchiodi and Ada Gionfriddo grew up, was a gas station, which their father, Dominick Tiezzi, leased with his brother, Giordano. The tanks were installed underground to store the station's fuel supply. In the mid-20th century, however, environmental regulations were loose, and tanks often leaked. In 1992, the state began an investigation that found the tanks had been compromised, contaminating both the soil at the gas station and at a neighboring property. By 2006, long after the properties had been passed to the daughters of the Tiezzi brothers, all the environmental risks had finally been eliminated. Alliance Energy, which had taken over the station, agreed to pay for the cleanup of the Tiezzi property, and the company was later reimbursed \$483,000 from the state's Underground Storage Tank Petroleum Clean-up Program. The owner of the neighboring property, Arthur Pfeiffer, refused to allow Alliance Energy access to his property. A second investigation found that harmful vapors were emanating from the ground on the site, and the state stepped in to perform the cleanup. Pfeiffer died this year. A year later, however, the state began pursuing payment for the work. Petrol Plus, the company which originally leased the property from the Tiezzi brothers and installed the tanks, had gone bankrupt without cleaning up the leaks, and Alliance Energy had since abandoned the station. That left only the three sisters, who inherited the station in 1999 along with cousins Henrietta Scalise and Paula Guilfoile, to foot the bill. The women, all in their 60s or 70s, hired an environmental lawyer, Martha Dean, and began contacting state legislators to help them contest the bill. Dean says the state should fund the cleanup using the storage tank clean-up fund, just as it did with the neighboring property. The fund was created in the early 1990s to help gas station owners comply with new federal insurance requirements, and it was funded by raising the state's gross receipts tax on gas by 1 percent. While the gross receipts tax continues to bring hundreds of millions of dollars each year, recent budget issues have resulted in the money's being diverted to the state's general fund, rather than to gas station owners facing large cleanup bills. A total of \$17 million in claims from gas station owners have been approved but have yet to be paid, according to Dennis Schain, a spokesman for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. An additional \$81.6 million in claims have been submitted but have yet to be approved. During a hearing before the legislature's Environment Committee in early March, DEEP Commissioner Daniel Esty recommended that \$5 million be set aside to pay existing claims from small business owners (those who own up to four stations), after which the fund would be eliminated altogether. "In these difficult financial times state government can no longer afford to pay millions of dollars a year - much of it to multinational corporations - for the cleanup of fuel discharges at private businesses," he said. While the state gives preference to small-time property owners seeking reimbursement, a 2005 amendment bars claims from any party being pursued by the state for payments related to storage tank remediation. In a statement to the Record-Journal, Dean said the amendment allows DEEP to almost arbitrarily force people like Fazzuoli, Malchiodi and Gionfriddo to pay for cleanup costs, regardless of circumstance. "It prohibits reimbursement from the Tank Fund simply by virtue of DEEP sending a potentially factually or legally incorrect - and non-appealable - demand letter to a person or entity," she said. The state, however, maintains that it is obligated to seek restitution for the expense of taxpayer funds, and that the Tiezzi family's fight should be with the bankrupt Petrol Plus, the company that allowed the leaks to begin with. "Neither the property owner nor the people leasing the land elected to clean up the contamination from their discharge. They never addressed it, and it was creating a health and safety environmental risk," said Schain. "They're the property owners, so they're ultimately responsible. It was taxpayer money used to clean up the spill that came from their property. That's our obligation." The women say state Sen. Leonard F. Suzio, R-Meriden, is one of several legislators offering support. Others include Rep. Mary Fritz, D-Cheshire, and Rep. Emil "Buddy" Altobello, D-Meriden. Suzio has been a vocal critic of the gross receipts tax on gasoline, which he calls a "hidden tax" that drives up gas prices at the pump. He claims that if the fund is eliminated, it would



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be disingenuous of the state to continue to collect the tax that was instituted to fund it. "They're still collecting the tax," he said. "It's a betrayal to taxpayers and gas station owners. It will definitely put the mom and pops out of business." Meanwhile, the \$340,000 bill remains unpaid, and Fazzuoli, Machioldi, Gionfriddo, Scalise and Guilfoile remain committed to beating it. They declined interviews under Dean's advice, but issued a joint statement about their situation. "We are elderly ladies who have been put in an unfair and financially ruinous situation by Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection and the 2005 changes to the Tank Fund. We are asking for our legislators' assistance because the deteriorating situation with the Tank Fund and DEEP's unfounded demand letter leave us few options," they said.

http://www.myrecordjournal.com/meriden/article_7998aaa4-7ce9-11e1-b63d-001a4bcf887a.html

PHILIPPINES, MANILA, APRIL 3 2012. POLICY ON CHEMICAL ACCIDENT PREVENTION SOUGHT

A string of gas leak episodes in different parts of the country should push government to craft a policy that will help avoid such incidents from happening again. This was the response of toxics watchdog Eco Waste Coalition following an ammonia spill last Sunday at a candy manufacturing plant in Manggahan, Pasig City. In a report by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), the leak occurred from a tank inside the Polar Bear Plant, where two men sustained chemical burns. This is not the first chemical spill of its kind though, according to Thony Dizon, coordinator of the EcoWaste's project Protect (People Responding and Organizing against Toxic Chemical Threats). Dizon was referring to the ammonia gas leaks that affected hundreds of residents in Quezon City and more recently in Zamboanga City causing breathing difficulties, eye irritation, dizziness, and vomiting among the victims. Last February 29, an [ammonia gas leak](#) from the ENL ice plant and storage in Ayala, Zamboanga City sickened over 100 villagers. Nine days earlier, over 300 families had to be evacuated as a result of an ammonia gas spill at VCNC ice plant in Bagong Bantay, Quezon City. In its recommendation, Eco Waste said the government should establish an awareness program on hazardous chemicals. This will allow public awareness on what chemicals are being stored, used, transported or disposed of in their communities, which enables them to prepare a contingency plan for dealing with these chemicals when spills or natural disasters cause the chemicals to spill, the group said. The policy, Eco Waste added, should also support increased capacity-building for rapid response in case of chemical accidents for both the public and private sectors, and further support clean-up and rehabilitation of contaminated areas.

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/breaking-news/2012/04/02/policy-chemical-accident-prevention-sought-214454>

USA, CA, SACRAMENTO, APRIL 3 2012. STATE OFFICIALS ASK ENERGY FIRMS TO DISCLOSE 'FRACKING' SITES >> THE BROWN ADMINISTRATION IS PLANNING A STATEWIDE TOUR TO HEAR RESIDENTS COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE CONTROVERSIAL OIL EXTRACTION METHOD.

michael j. mishak



Oil pumps seen from California 33 in Kern County. Regulators have yet to develop rules or reporting requirements for hydraulic fracturing.

The Brown administration is scrambling to convince an increasingly wary public that state regulators are getting a handle on hydraulic fracturing, a controversial oil extraction method that can pose a hazard to drinking water. State environmental officials last week requested that energy companies [disclose where they conduct "fracking"](#) operations and what chemicals they inject into the ground to tap oil deposits. They also were considering whether to launch an independent study to assess effects of the practice. The administration plans to undertake a statewide "listening" tour for public comment on an extraction technique that until now has drawn the greatest attention in the Rocky Mountain West and Northeast, where the discovery of toxic chemicals in drinking water

near fracking operations has sparked calls for moratoriums and more regulation. Regulators have yet to develop [rules or reporting requirements](#) for the procedure in California, the fourth largest oil-producing state in the nation. Only 78 of the tens of thousands of oil field injection wells in California, where fracking might occur, are listed on a [national fracking registry](#). Though officials maintain that existing laws protect the state's drinking water, they acknowledge they have little information about the scale or practice of fracking, causing growing anxiety in communities from Culver City to Monterey. The energy industry is touting the potential of the procedure here to tap the largest oil shale formation in the continental United States. Mark Nechodom, director of the Department of Conservation, sought to assure lawmakers last week that the state was taking the



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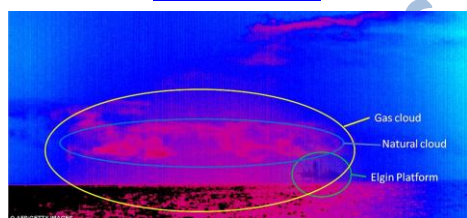
issue seriously. "If there's been any impression that [the administration] has dismissed or ignored public concern about fracking, I apologize but it's simply not true," he said. "We share the concern." Lawmakers were not convinced. At a hearing Wednesday, they blasted the administration's actions as little more than cosmetic tweaks, saying that regulations are long overdue for a state that is widely considered the birthplace of the modern environmental movement. Separately, they are pushing legislation that would require oil companies to disclose where they employ the procedure, what chemicals they use and how much water they pump. The bill stalled last year after objections by the energy industry. "What the Legislature clearly has been saying we want is information and regulations," said Assemblyman Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael). "And we don't have either." The lower house's subcommittee on resources tabled the administration's request for an additional 18 positions in the state's oil and gas agency, noting that 35 positions had already been approved in the last two years, in part to develop fracking regulations. The state's nonpartisan legislative analyst reported that 13 of those slots remain vacant. "To kind of just go along and wait for a study...really isn't acceptable," said Assemblywoman [Betsy Butler](#) (D-Marina del Rey). "There are other states who have prevented fracking from taking place until they have put those regulations into place. So why would California allow this to be happening without regulations?" Nechodom, a former senior adviser and scientist for the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#), told lawmakers he was "a bit surprised" that California had no regulations on fracking, a common procedure at wells statewide, when Brown appointed him conservation director in December. Still, he said, crafting rules would be tricky. Monitoring fracking in oil fields would require more staff in an agency that Nechodom described as short-handed and overworked. And though he said California's geology makes fracking safer here than in the Rocky Mountain West or Northeast, regulators are at the whims of energy companies when it comes to detecting damage. "The industry outguns us in information by orders of magnitude, with their 3-D modeling," Nechodom said. "We simply have to take their word for it unless we develop some other technique for modeling." Tupper Hull, a spokesman for the Western States Petroleum Assn., said his trade organization already encourages oil companies to post fracking operations on the national registry and was working with lawmakers on disclosure legislation. Brown has said he plans to visit oil-rich Kern County to meet with energy companies and environmentalists to learn more about fracking. In the meantime, he recently told a conference of renewable energy investors that oil companies have an incentive to be good environmental stewards. "I don't think any company wants to pollute the aquifer," he said, "because we have trial lawyers in California and a very vigorous tort system. So I think there's a certain self-discipline that they can operate with the management of fracking issues."

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-fracking-20120402.0.4526423.story>

SCOTLAND, APRIL 6 2012. A CLOUD OF FEAR: GREENPEACE RELEASES INFRARED IMAGE OF GIANT 'EXPLOSIVE' GAS SPEWING FROM ELGIN RIG

Lucy Osborne

 [Photo's A Cloud of Fear](#)



The image shows the temperature of the surface of with light tones showing hot areas, and dark tones indicating cold.

It looks like a bizarre piece of 1960s pop art - or perhaps a highly-coloured graphic from an old-style computer game. But in reality, this neon-bright image of the North Sea is a chilling illustration of just how large the potentially explosive gas cloud spewing from the Elgin platform has become. The infrared picture, which was taken using a special camera by environmental campaigners, lays bare the extent of the leak's impact on the atmosphere. The photograph was

released by the Greenpeace activists who have been assessing the potential dangers of the situation since Monday. Greenpeace says the bright pink spots visible in the image show the natural - and non-toxic - hydrogen gases being emitted by the platform. Meanwhile, the darker purple areas depict the dangerous portion of the gas cloud - which consists mainly of methane. The image, taken from outside the security distance of three nautical miles, uses light tones to show heat and dark tones to indicate cold. Christian Bussau, chief scientist and ocean expert at Greenpeace, insist they found evidence of pollution and that there was 'oil on the water surface' and a 'chemical' smell in the air. Air and water samples are being sent for analysis at a German laboratory to find out what is creating the sheen on the surface. Mr Bussau added: 'Although we are five kilometres away, we can feel here that this is contaminating and polluting the environment and this is dangerous for the environment and for the climate.' But a spokesman from the platform operator, Total, said: 'The only confirmation that we have



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had [of anything resembling an oil slick] is a sheen of gas condensate.' He added that this condensate was a light hydrocarbon - similar to petrol - and was expected to dissipate naturally, either evaporating due to warmer weather or through wave action.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2125471/Total-gas-leak-Greenpeace-release-infra-red-image-explosive-gas-spewing-Elgin-rig.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

MALAYSIA, KUALU LUMPUR, APRIL 6 2012. MORE RETAILER-OWNED CALTEX STATIONS BY 2015

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Chevron Malaysia Ltd expects 90% of its Caltex service stations to be retailer-owned by 2015 compared with 60% currently in a move to promote greater ownership by retail operators. The company will grow its service stations by another 25% over the next four years but the new outlets will all be retailer-owned. "We see the goodness in having retailers run the business. It promotes greater ownership and participation, with more flexibility for retailers. When they (retailers) have a greater stake, it helps drive dedication and business," said its country chairman for Malaysia and Cambodia Jeremy Oh. He said Chevron Malaysia plans to add 100 retailer-owned Caltex service stations in four years to its 422 outlets in the peninsula. "We target to have 20 service stations in our network each year. Last year, 12 service stations were opened and this year, we'd probably see about 18 new stations," Oh said at a media luncheon here yesterday. He said the growth of the Caltex brand will remain in Peninsular Malaysia as there are huge opportunities for the company to grow its retail network in many of the upcoming areas. The Caltex brand has a strong presence in Kelantan, with 45 service stations in the state. Locally, Caltex has been around for 75 years. "Fuel quality is important for our customers. Caltex fuel with Techron, an exclusive ingredient developed to keep engines clean and functioning well, is a major draw and a key driver in our business." Chevron Malaysia imports fuels and lubricants from its refinery and blending facilities in Singapore and Thailand. Unleaded petrol, diesel and lubricants are received through the three terminals it operates in Pulau Indah, Prai and Pasir Gudang.

<http://www.thesundaily.my/news/341954>

UK, WALES, LLANDDULAS, APRIL 6 2012. EFFORTS TO SALVAGE STRICKEN TANKER AND REMOVE FUEL UNDERWAY



The salvage operation to remove a stricken tanker and thousands of litres of fuel off the Welsh coast has swung into action. A contractor was today appointed to start work pumping the fuel off the 82m MV Carrier, grounded on rocks in a storm at Llanddulas in North Wales. Specialist equipment was brought in via the coastal path and the public was asked to stay well away while the operation by PGC, a company based in Heywood near Oldham, got underway. North Wales Assistant Chief Constable Gareth Pritchard said: "Specialists are in place and hope to start work very soon and we are asking the public to keep a safe distance from the scene. "There will also be a number of specialist vehicles, equipment and

as safety remains our priority we are asking for the public's continued patience and cooperation so we can bring this matter to a speedy and safe conclusion." The best case scenario, depending on conditions, could see the fuel pumped off the ship in as little as a day or just a couple of days. It was carrying 40,000 litres of fuel, about the same as a road tanker delivering to a supermarket, of which a small amount had leaked out, the Environment Agency Wales (EAW) had said. The impact of the oil leak was expected to be "minimal".

<http://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/2012/04/05/efforts-to-salvage-stricken-tanker-and-remove-fuel-underway-91466-30704391/>

USA, WASHINGTON DC, NIOSH, APRIL 6 2012. DIESEL EXHAUST STUDIES PUBLISHED

Findings by scientists from the National Cancer Institute and NIOSH on risk of lung cancer death from heavy exposure to diesel exhaust among underground miners were published in March.

<http://www.cancer.gov/newscenter/pressreleases/2012/DieselMinersPressRelease>



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