



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2012 – 860 Newsy Stuff

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July 19 2012



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THAILAND, BANGCHAK, JULY 5 2012. BLAST, FIRE HIT BANGCHAK REFINERY >> SUKHUMBHAND WANTS OIL, ARMS FACILITIES OUT OF CITY

 **Photo's [12]** [Oil Refinery Blaze under Control](#)



A factory chimney at the Bangchak Petroleum oil refinery spews fire as the sky above grows black with thick smoke from a blaze caused by an explosion there yesterday morning.

A huge explosion followed by a raging fire hit a refinery owned by Bangchak Petroleum Plc early Wednesday morning, sending thick plumes of black smoke billowing up into Bangkok's skyline. Explosions could be heard periodically before firefighters managed to bring the blaze under control. People were evacuated from nearby homes and offices. Schools in the vicinity were also closed. Nobody was hurt, however. The blaze broke out at the No.3 crude unit. The plant, among the largest in the country, was operating at 105,000 barrels of oil a day before the blast. The No.3 unit was closed for maintenance in June and resumed operations two weeks ago. About 10,000 communities are located around the Bangchak oil

refinery and depot on Sukhumvit Soi 64. In January last year, the same refinery caught fire _ thought to have been caused by a hydrogen leak. Following the explosion City Hall is looking to relocate oil refineries and arms depots out of the capital. Bangkok Governor MR Sukhumbhand Paribatra said he will meet all agencies involved to discuss the possibility of moving all oil refineries and arms depots away from Bangkok. Speaking during an inspection of communities surrounding the refinery yesterday, MR Sukhumbhand said several oil refineries and arms depots are located near densely populated communities. Similar explosions near crowded areas could cause substantial loss of life and damage to property, he said. MR Sukhumbhand said the incident served as a lesson for all concerned to understand the importance of disaster prevention measures and disaster response management. The governor said the slow response to the explosion and the incident being underestimated by the agencies concerned led to panic among residents living nearby. He said Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) fire and rescue department officials will go to surrounding communities to watch for any impacts from the explosion and fire. Health department officials will be sent to check air quality in the area and examine the health of people affected by smoke from the blaze. Industry Minister MR Pongsvas Svasti yesterday ordered the Bangchak oil refinery to suspend operations for 30 days pending an investigation to determine the cause of the blast. MR Pongsvas said an accident like this should never have happened. The only positive thing was that all safety systems had functioned properly. "What needs to be done next is to monitor environmental impacts from the spread of smoke. It will be the duty of the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry," MR Pongsvas said. The minister said he has assigned the Department of Industrial Works to conduct stress tests to prevent similar industrial accidents. He said the Industry Ministry will ensure that factories are located in industrial estates at least 100-200 metres from communities. In the long term, the Bangchak refinery should be moved away from crowded communities to an industrial estate to ease pollution control. But he said relocating the refinery would be a huge task and the Industry Ministry would have to consult with the Energy Ministry before taking action. Energy Minister Arak Chonlatanon said the proposed relocation, demanded by environmentalists, could cost more than 100 billion baht which would be reflected in retail oil prices. "The oil refinery came here 50 years ago when the area was still remote, far from the metropolis. Over time, however, communities have moved in and surrounded it," Mr Arak said. He noted that Bangchak has maintained good relations with residents and the Energy Ministry had received no complaints about the company. Bangchak Petroleum president Anusorn Sangnimnuan said the blaze caused an estimated 600 million baht in damage, including impacts from business interruption and lost sales. Dhipaya Insurance will compensate the losses. Bangchak has been the only oil refinery located in the heart of Bangkok for 50 years, supplying fuel to motorists in the city and the vicinity. Mr Anusorn said the company's oil supply of 5 million barrels in Samut Sakhon, Ayuthaya and Surat Thani will suffice for the next two months. Thailand uses an average of 800,000 barrels a day at its six oil refineries. Worasart Apaipong, deputy director-general of the Pollution Control Department, confirmed that air quality has been unaffected by the refinery blast and blaze. Its air quality measuring station had found that volatile organic compound emissions have not exceeded the safety standard. After the explosion, the level of particles measured by Bangchak's own air quality measuring station was 71



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microgrammes per cubic metre compared to the 120-microgramme safety standard. Sulphur dioxide was at five parts per billion (ppb) per hour compared to the safety standard of 120ppb, and nitrogen dioxide at 108ppb per hour against the safety standard of 170ppb. "Our team will collect air samples during the next 24 hours. We will closely monitor the level of ozone, which might be increasing at the site. But right now, nothing is higher than the safety standard," he said. The department also collected water samples from Chao Phraya River near the refinery but found no trace of oil leakage or unusual pollution levels.

Related Links

- [Refinery blast rocks upper Sukhumvit](#)
- [Blasts damage homes](#)
- ['Barely a blip'](#)

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/300992/blast-fire-hit-bangchak-refinery>

USA, PA, HARRISBURG, JULY 5 2012. DEP UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CLEAUP WILL CONTINUE THROUGH 2017

A 5-year law extension, signed during the budget debate last week by Governor Corbett, will enable the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to continue to carry out its job of preventing and cleaning contamination caused by abandoned and/or leaking underground storage tanks. The program, which would have expired Saturday, has been extended through June 30, 2017. Senator John Yudichak (D-Luzerne) said the plan is to continue to face the issue head-on before it gets out of hand. "This program has been wildly successful. This bill would extend it another five years so that we can get those old, deteriorating storage tanks out of the ground, clean up the mess before it becomes widespread and more costly to Pennsylvania taxpayers," Yudichak said. The program authorizes the DEP to use money from the Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Fund (USTIF) to clean target sites when there is no clear responsible party. There are currently 25 cleanups in progress in the state and another 23,436 actively regulated underground storage tanks. "In northeastern Pennsylvania, a lot of old gas stations that are out of business now and maybe didn't upgrade their tanks for the last 10-15 years, this is exactly the kind of businesses that we want to help," Yudichak said. The fund also allows for the DEP to provide reimbursement grants of up to \$4,000 to owners of underground heating oil storage tanks with a capacity of up to 3,000 gallons. Up to \$2,500 may be awarded to individuals who have small underground tanks on their property that need to be pumped out, cleaned, and then plugged.

<http://www.essentialpublicradio.org/story/2012-07-04/dep-underground-storage-tank-cleanup-will-continue-through-2017-11589>

AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, JULY 5 2012. CONTAMINATED SITES: POLLUTION WITHOUT LAWFUL AUTHORITY?

mark etherington

Key Points:

- The Court confirmed that lease covenants for the operation of sites are likely to be very relevant to identifying who's assumed the responsibility of preventing pollution. As we foreshadowed last month, the recent decision of BP Australia Pty Ltd v Contaminated Sites Committee [2012] WASC 221 provides [clarity around the process for assigning remediation responsibility under the Contaminated Sites Act 2003 \(WA\)](#) and the significance of covenants for maintenance and repair.

Background

- BP Australia Pty Ltd was the lessee of a petrol station site under a head lease and found to be 36% responsible for remediating the site. The sub-lessee and sometime owner of the site was assigned 41% responsibility.
- Contamination arose from a "weeping anaconda" joint or valve (Equipment) that connected the dispensing equipment to the underground pipework.
- The Court held that the head lease but arguably not the sub-lease assigned responsibility for the repair and maintenance of the Equipment (excepting fair wear and tear).

Failure of Appeal

The Court dismissed the appeal from the Contaminated Sites Committee's decision because no error of law was identified in the Committee's decision that contamination arose from:

- BP's failure to:



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- ensure that the Equipment was sound;
- maintain the Equipment; and
- enforce covenants by others for the maintenance and use of the Equipment;
- the sub-lessee's continued use of the Equipment when in a state of disrepair; and
- "an act done without lawful authority" by each of BP and the sub-lessee.

BP's contention that the leak arose from fair wear or tear was rejected as lacking evidentiary support, and (in any event) not giving rise to a question of law. Two significant appeal issues where the correctness of the Committee's approach in:

- finding that the contamination arose without lawful authority; and
- apportioning responsibility between four parties over 15 different time periods.

As to whether BP acted without lawful authority, the Court:

- upheld the Committee's finding of unlawfulness based on a contravention of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA) (EP Act); and
- rejected BP's contention that the criminal burden of proof (ie. beyond reasonable doubt) rather than the civil burden of proof (ie. balance of probabilities) applied in the absence of BP being convicted under the EP Act.

As to the apportionment of responsibility, the Court rejected BP's contention that the Committee failed to provide adequate reasoning. The Court suggested that apportionment involves the making of a value judgement rather than applying the civil burden of proof. This was said to require the making of findings about the contamination and the persons responsible but not the enunciation of "why a particular percentage of responsibility was allocated.... as compared to some other percentage".

Significance of Covenants for Maintenance & Repair

The Court confirmed that lease covenants for the operation of sites are likely to be very relevant to "the identification of the person or persons who had assumed the responsibility of preventing pollution from occurring". This is a critical factor given that the causing of pollution can be "an act done without lawful authority". The importance of such clauses is seen in the Court's finding:

"BP's concession that the contamination of the site came about as a result of leakage of fuel from underground pipes on the site which it was obliged to repair and maintain, a concession amply justified by the evidence before the Committee, was quite sufficient to sustain the conclusion that BP caused pollution at the site by failing to repair and maintain the pipework. Any other conclusion would have been perverse",

BP's proportional responsibility for remediation may have been less if the sub-lease covenant mirrored that of the head lease (ie. by attributing greater significance to the sub-lessee's failure).

Contamination Pre-Dating the EP Act

The Court was not required to consider whether remediation responsibility could be allocated for contamination pre-dating the pollution offence within the EP Act. However, the Court did note that there was some support for the argument that:

- a breach of a written law is not required; and
- unlawful authority may arise in instances of nuisance and trespass (but less likely under contracts) through a breach of common law standards or duties, community standards or norms of conduct.

This issue may yet arise on the redevelopment/urban renewal of or near former market garden or industrial sites.

Review of Act

This Court decision is also timely, in coinciding with the five-year legislative review of the Act's operation. The Department of Environment and Conservation has released a consultation paper (June 2012), which:

- identifies the aim of the review as the fine tuning the Act by making its operations simpler, more transparent and more proportionate; and, poses the questions:
 - has the Act delivered?
 - is the Act meeting the expectations of stakeholders and the wider community in effectively identifying, recording, managing and remediating contaminated sites?
 - is the Act fulfilling its objective of protecting people's health and the environment.

The consultation paper is open for public comment until 28 September 2012.



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Implications

The Court's decision highlights the significance of repair and maintenance covenants in determining responsibility for remediation – specifically, given the high costs involvement in site remediation, the:

- allocation of responsibility based on a failure to prevent leakage from plant and equipment;
- potential for a vendor of a contaminated site to remain liable for remediation as the "polluter" (because the landowner, rather than the occupier, retained responsibility for repair and maintenance of critical plant and equipment);
- importance of historical agreements in determining proportional responsibility (which should also be addressed as part of acquisition due diligence); and,
- potential liability for remediation arising from pollution that precedes the commencement of the EP Act pollution offence on 20 February 1987.

These may be issues that are addressed as part of the current review.

You might also be interested in...

- [WA land-owners might soon have clearer idea of their responsibilities for contaminated land](#)
- [Deadline imminent for reporting contaminated sites](#)

For more information, contact: [Brad Wylanko](#), Partner Tel: +61 8 9426 8552, [Mark Etherington](#), Senior Associate Tel: +61 8 9426 8012

http://www.claytonutz.com/publications/edition/5_july_2012/20120705/contaminated_sites_pollution_without_lawful_authority_page

USA, MA, OAK BLUFFS HARBOR, JULY 5 2012. FUEL SPILLS INTO OAK BLUFFS HARBOR AFTER PIPE RUPTURES

steve myrick

 **Photo's [3]** [Fuel Spills](#)

 **Webcam** [Oak Bluffs Harbour](#)



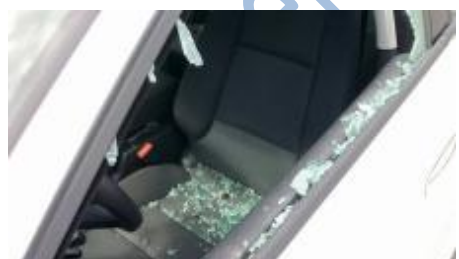
Firefighters deployed a boom to contain a fuel spill in Oak Bluffs harbor late Wednesday afternoon.

Oak Bluffs firefighters, police and members of the harbor master's department responded to a report of a gasoline spill in the harbor, at about 5 pm. First reports are that a pipe that supplies a gas pump at the end of Church's Pier ruptured, releasing several gallons of fuel into the water. The spill is not extensive, harbor master Todd Alexander told The Times. Cleanup crews used chemical dispersants and absorbent mats to sop up the gasoline. The spill left a strong odor of gasoline hanging over the area. Police cordoned off the sidewalk in front of Nancy's snack bar but did not ask people to leave the area. Police did ask

boaters not to start their engines while the cleanup took place.

<http://www.mytimes.com/2012/07/04/fuel-spills-into-oak-bluffs-harbor-after-pipe-ruptures-11429/>

FINLAND, ESPOO, JULY 5 2012. ESPOO EXPLOSION HIGHLY UNUSUAL



Car window broken by stones from the explosion in Matinkylä, Espoo.

Explosions leading to casualties are rare in Finland. With seven people injured, the accident that shook an Espoo construction ground on Tuesday was exceptional. "These kinds of events do not occur every year. A few rocks may be blown out each year, but serious accidents are relatively rare," says Timo Pinomäki, an expert in explosives safety at railway track construction company VR Track. According to experts, quarrying is strictly regulated, legislated and monitored in Finland. There should be no risk of an accident at a construction site if regulations are adhered to and explosions are well-planned. Safety manager Marko Kilpeläinen of Peab Ltd., the company responsible for the construction in

Espoo's Matinkylä where the dangerous explosion occurred on Tuesday, said that no plan for the explosions has been



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recovered, and that such a plan might not have been drawn out at all. "It seems like something unpredictable or strange happened, or that there was some kind of negligence involved here," Kilpeläinen commented. He added that Peab Ltd., which was carrying out and supervising the construction work at the site, has demanded a report on the accident from their subcontractor and subsidiary company Peab Infra Ltd., which had commissioned the quarrying work.

Tough Legislation

Finnish legislation stipulates that a plan must be drawn out for every explosion. The plan should include safety precautions and information specifying the area at risk from the explosion. The qualifications of those responsible for setting the charges of the explosives are also strictly enforced. Although bystanders should have nothing to fear in the vicinity of construction grounds, some caution is nevertheless well advised. "One problem we have is that people often like to look at quarrying. It is difficult to get every person away from windows, as there can be tens and tens of windows around the explosion site. It should be clear to everyone to stay away from windows when such quarrying is going on," Pinomäki from VR Track notes. Pinomäki adds that construction sites are, however, always responsible for explosions, which should never pose any risk for bystanders.

Related Links [Explosion injures seven in Espoo](#)

http://yle.fi/uutiset/espoo_explosion_highly_unusual/6206322

CANADA, N.L., ST. JOHN'S, JULY 5 2012. BIOLOGISTS CALL FOR ACTION TO STOP MULTIPLE OIL AND MUD SPILLS OFF NEWFOUNDLAND

sue bailey

More than 34,000 litres of oil and drilling mud that spilled off Newfoundland last year are a threat to wildlife that highlights a need for more offshore oversight, say biologists. Incidents posted online by the federal-provincial regulator suggest there were 39 leaks in 2011 of various oils and synthetic-based mud, a dense fluid used for drilling. Just two incidents involving about six litres of crude oil have been noted so far this year by the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board after they were reported by oil companies operating about 350 kilometres east of St. John's. The board filed three charges that are still proceeding against Suncor Energy for the spill of 26,400 litres of synthetic mud on March 28, 2011 from the Henry Goodrich drill rig. While the heavy substance is touted by energy companies as relatively benign, environmental activists say it sinks to the ocean floor where its impact on marine life has not been widely studied. The Terra Nova offshore production vessel, also operated by Suncor, leaked almost 700 litres of lubricating oil over five months before a faulty thruster was repaired. That issue alone accounted for 22 reported incidents last year. "That, to me, is a red flag," said Gail Fraser, a biologist and researcher at York University in Toronto who specializes in environmental management of offshore oil and gas extraction. "What this represents is small spills that are now turning into chronic oil pollution." Other incidents include repeated small leaks of hydraulic oil from the Terra Nova, 110 litres of lubricating oil leaked from Husky Energy's SeaRose production vessel in December 2011, and a total of 4,600 litres of synthetic-based drilling mud spilled from the drill rig GSF Grand Banks during two incidents in September and October as it was being used by Husky at the White Rose site. Environment Canada has repeatedly said in environmental assessments for offshore projects that even small amounts of oil can be deadly for seabirds, Fraser stressed. "They're working in one of the most diverse marine biological systems in the world," she said of oil companies at the three major Hibernia, White Rose and Terra Nova sites off Newfoundland. "And they've stated a zero tolerance for spills. There should either be no spills or, if there are spills, there should be a heavy hand from the regulator about getting these repeated problems immediately fixed. "My question is: after the fifth thruster spill, why wasn't the Terra Nova shut down?" The provincial government, which jointly manages the offshore with Ottawa and relies on oil money for one-third of its revenues, has fended off criticism that it's too soft on the operators who generate that cash. Suncor spokesman John Downton said in an interview that a thruster leak began in September 2010, but it wasn't discovered until three months later. It then took weeks of planning to replace the vital piece of stabilizing equipment and a window of calm weather to haul it out of the vessel for repair the following February, he said. "We dealt with it as soon as we could, taking into account all other considerations including vessel safety and operability." Downton said no surface sheens or damage to seabirds were noticed and that the amount of leaking oil was estimated judging from how much more the vessel used than normal. The Terra Nova is now out of commission for several weeks of scheduled maintenance and refits. Suncor has nothing to hide when it comes to spills, he said. "The fact of the matter is that we report everything. If you look at the (offshore petroleum board's) website, there's reporting of everything over a litre. "If we see anything, we report it. If it's not the way it should be, we act on it." Sean Kelly, a spokesman for the board in St. John's, said it did not file charges related to the Terra Nova thruster leaks because



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there was no evidence suggesting Suncor lacked diligence. Kelly said there is no specific spill volume threshold over which charges are laid. Any decision to prosecute is based on diligence shown by an operator, the gravity of the offence, whether the burden of proof is likely to be met and other factors, he said in an emailed statement.

"The reporting requirements placed on companies operating in the Newfoundland and Labrador offshore area are among the most stringent in the world with operators being required to report spills less than one litre," Kelly said. Bill Montevicchi, a research professor at Memorial University of Newfoundland in psychology, biology and ocean sciences, said governments must step up to ensure more independent reporting. "We have observers on fishing boats because we don't ask the skippers if they've overfished," he said in an interview. "When it comes to oil companies, we accept self-reporting. "You know, there's a real disconnect, and we're all aware of it. It just has to be acted on, but it's going to take a pretty big governmental commitment to do that."

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/technology/Biologists+call+action+stop+multiple+spills+Newfoundland/6882911/story.html>

USA, GUAM, HAGATÑA, JULY 5 2012. GEPA-MANDATORY TRAINING FOR OWNERS OF UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS THIS MONTH

 **Watch the Video** [Entire San Diego Fireworks Show Goes Off at Once](#)

For the first time ever, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency is hosting a mandatory one day training for those owning and operating an underground storage tank. Guam EPA spokesperson Tammy Jo Anderson-Taft says with 133 storage tank areas on island, this preventative training will help make sure the people that are in charge of these tanks respond to spills appropriately. Taft says UST's are beneficial to a community by helping store hazardous chemicals, such as fuel oil. however, she says it can also pose as a serious danger to the environment if the tanks were to leak or spill out. "It's an exciting step for Guam EPA," said Taft, "because we'll be able to ensure that people have the proper information to maintain their USTs. But also that we can ensure that all our water is protected from these underground storage tanks." The one day training is required under Guam law and will occur on July 10th, 11th and 19th. For more information, log on to usttraining.com or stop by the Guam EPA Office in Tiyan.

http://www.pacificnewscenter.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=25157:video-20120704jtepa-train&catid=45:guam-news&Itemid=156

USA, MI, CERESCO, JULY 5 2012. SPILL BLAMED ON DISORGANIZED CONTROL ROOM >> U.S. RELEASES RECORDS FROM PROBE INTO ENBRIDGE'S KALAMAZOO RIVER INCIDENT

mike de souza



A worker from Enbridge Energy skims oil off the surface of the Kalamazoo River after a pipeline ruptured in Marshall, Michigan, on Tuesday, July 27, 2010.

A disorganized control room and bullying of inexperienced staff are allegedly to blame for a three-million litre oil spill in a Michigan River from a pipeline operated by Alberta-based Enbridge, says newly released records among hundreds of pages of evidence from a U.S. government investigation. The evidence includes testimony from a senior Enbridge employee who suggests the energy company, now promoting new projects in Canada such as the multi-billion dollar Northern Gateway pipeline from Edmonton to the British Columbia coast, is years away from achieving "world-class" safety standards. The environmental disaster in July 2010 triggered cleanup operations that Enbridge estimates will cost it more than \$700 million. The company is also facing a record \$3.7-million fine for 22 alleged

violations related to the U.S. spill that continues to leave traces of oil in the Kalamazoo River. Enbridge declined interview requests about the evidence, but the president of its Liquid Pipelines division, Stephen Wuori, said in a statement earlier this week that it has made "numerous enhancements to the processes and procedures" in its control centre since the accident, including new training for employees. The evidence includes records of control centre operations as employees took about 17 hours to shutdown the pipeline despite repeated alarms. Stuart Horan, a control centre operator employed by Enbridge since 1980, told U.S. investigators that he was starting to see a negative change in the company's philosophy prior to the accident. "It kind of went (to a philosophy of people saying) let's get the oil out of here as fast as possible and as much as possible, and



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that's kind of when things went down hill a bit," Horan said on Feb. 2 in an interview at an Edmonton hotel. Enbridge said in its statement that it has co-operated with the U.S. regulatory agencies such as the Transportation Department's Pipe-line and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHM-SA) and the National Transportation Safety Board, since the disaster and "appreciates the hard work and due diligence that the PHMSA has put into this investigation." The company has 30 days to respond to the notice of the fine and the alleged violations. Jonathan Vaters, another control centre operator with about four years of experience at Enbridge, suggested super-visors also influenced the decision of one of his co-workers on the floor during the drama. "I think he was almost bullied into starting the line back up," said Vaters, in a separate interview with investigators on Feb. 1. "I don't know the whole story, but - and I'm not sure if he was fully confident in starting up." Records of the evening in question have suggested control room operators were not sure how to respond to the alarms going off and debated whether to start or stop the flow in the pipeline. "Whatever, we're going home and will be off for a few days," said the operator. Allan Baumgartner, the director of Enbridge control centre operations in Edmonton, told investigators on Feb. 2, that it could be years before the energy company achieves its goal of becoming the best and safest in the industry.

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/Spill+blamed+disorganized+control+room/6885274/story.html>

CANADA, QUEBEC, LAVAL, JULY 6 2012. TALK OF SALE OF EXXONMOBIL'S ESSO CHAIN IN GERMANY HARKENS BACK TO STATOIL STRATEGY

greg lindenber



Exxon Mobil Corp. is weighing a sale of its German Esso gas station chain, sources told Bloomberg on Wednesday. The unit, which includes more than 1,100 stations, could fetch more than one billion euros (\$1.3 billion U.S.), people familiar with the process told the news agency. The possibility puts the stations on the European chessboard recently dominated by Canadian retail giant Alimentation Couche-Tard Inc., which just wrapped up its purchase of Norwegian c-store/gasoline chain Statoil. In April, Couche-Tard tagged Germany as a possible next stop on its acquisition train. Houston-based ExxonMobil is in preliminary talks with multiple parties, two or three of which may be from Russia or eastern Europe, the sources told Bloomberg. No final decision on a sale has been made,

they said. Exxon Mobil Central Europe Holding GmbH, the Hamburg-based holding company that includes the German business, had 2011 sales of 12.8 billion euros (\$15.9 billion U.S.) and operating profit before taxes and interest of 856 million euros (\$1.06 billion U.S.), according to its website. The business includes oil, natural gas and refineries as well as the retail network. An ExxonMobil Central Europe spokesperson, Gabriele Radke, declined to comment to Bloomberg on any possible process. Germany, the United Kingdom and the Benelux countries--Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg--are next on the list as oil producers such as Royal Dutch Shell PLC and Exxon Mobil Corp. divest retail assets over time, Couche-Tard CFO Raymond Pare said earlier this year, according to a report by The Montreal Gazette (see Related Content below for previous coverage). "Germany is clearly on our radar and at the top of the list," Pare told the newspaper then, adding the nation's market is as solid as Scandinavia. "We did assess basically almost all the networks in these countries. We know pretty well what we want and what we don't want." Couche-Tard did not respond by press time to a CSP Daily News request for comment on the possibility. Analysts at Barclays Capital said that Couche-Tard's next European target could potentially be ExxonMobil's stations in Germany, added a report by The Financial Post. There is one big obstacle facing Couche-Tard if it does go after the ExxonMobil properties, the newspaper said. The pursuit of Statoil has left Couche-Tard highly leveraged, considering the price tag on the German properties. But previous statements from Couche-Tard suggest a deal would still be possible, said the report. "They [Couche-Tard] have limited borrowing capacity without risking the loss of their investment grade rating, which they have indicated they are prepared to do for the right opportunity," Barclays' analysts wrote in a note cited by the paper. "If this acquisition materializes at this time we believe it would be prudent to issue equity at the expense of immediate term accretion." ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson has divested almost one-third of the company's gas stations during the past four years to exit markets where fuel demand is stagnating or declining, and has focused investment on higher-profit oil wells and chemical production, the news agency said. Exxon's portfolio of owned or leased stations fell to 7,753 as of Dec. 31, 2011, from 11,446 at the end of 2007, according to a company statement cited in the report. In 2010, Exxon Mobil agreed to sell its downstream activities in Austria to Eni SpA (ENI), Italy's largest oil producer, which gained a retail network with 135 stations. In March last year, the U.S. company agreed to sell Argentine assets including a refinery and stations to Bridas Corp., the oil company part-owned by China National Offshore Oil Corp.

<http://tinyurl.com/7nmhck>



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USA, ME, AUGUSTA, JULY 7 2012. STRONGER ACTION URGED AFTER MAINE DEP RELEASES LIST OF 49 CHEMICALS DANGEROUS TO CHILDREN

alex barber

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection has published a [list of 49 chemicals](#) whose everyday use it deems dangerous to the health of Maine children, but an environmental policy group is urging stronger action. The DEP met a July 1 deadline set by the Legislature requiring it to adopt a list of up to 70 Chemicals of High Concern. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention aided in compiling the list. The list follows last year's changes to the Kid Safe Products Act. "We congratulate the Administration for taking these first, small steps toward safer products for Maine families," Sierra Fletcher, public affairs and policy director of the Environmental Health Strategy Center, said in a statement this week. "Now it's time to take great strides to protect the health of Maine's children. The State should require product makers to replace these dangerous chemicals with safer alternatives." Fletcher said she was disappointed that more chemicals weren't included in the list. Maine's new list of Chemicals of High Concern includes toxic substances commonly found in many products in the home, including shower curtains and other plastic items, furniture and carpets, as well as personal care products such as nail polishes, lotions and sunscreens. Phthalates, widely used to soften vinyl plastic; parabens, preservatives in shampoos and lotions; flame retardants; sunscreen chemicals; perfluorinated chemicals found in fabric treatments; and siloxanes found in personal care products were highlighted among the 49 chemicals by the Maine DEP. "We're disappointed that more chemicals weren't formally recognized as threats to children's health," said Mike Belliveau, executive director of the Environmental Health Strategy Center. "The science supports a longer list." Many of the chemicals named can harm children's development, causing learning disabilities, reproductive problems, cancer and other diseases later in life, according to the center. It said that several of the chemicals are known to disrupt the hormone system that regulates the functioning of healthy bodies. A [2007 Maine study](#) found several of the listed chemicals in blood, urine and hair of Maine residents. In 2010, the first priority chemicals named under the Kid Safe Products Act were bisphenol A and nonylphenol ethoxylates. To date, manufacturers have reported the use of these two chemicals in paint, toys, containers for infant formula and baby food, and cosmetics, according to the center. In 2011, despite opposition from the governor and the chemical industry, the Legislature upheld a ban on BPA in plastic baby bottles and sippy cups and strengthened the law to require the DEP to identify Chemicals of High Concern. DEP spokeswoman Samantha DePoy-Warren said anyone can petition the department to add or remove a chemical from the list. "That's why we have the BPA ban now," said DePoy-Warren. DePoy-Warren said that because 49 chemicals are on the list out of a maximum of 70 spots, there is room for more to be added. The 49 chemicals listed are the only ones that met all the criteria needed to be placed on the list, she said.

<http://bangordailynews.com/2012/07/05/news/state/stronger-action-urged-after-maine-dep-releases-list-of-49-chemicals-dangerous-to-children/>

USA, WA, SEATTLE, JULY 7 2012. SHELL MAY BE READY FOR THE ARCTIC, BUT ITS OIL SPILL BARGE ISN'T

kim murphy



Members of Shell's well delivery group, along with representatives from the federal Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, witness the deployment of the capping stack that will join Shell's Alaska drilling fleet. It is designed to stop the flow of oil in the event of a well blowout.

A unique ice-class barge designed to clean up any oil spills that might result from Shell Alaska's upcoming operations in the Arctic Ocean has so far failed to acquire final U.S. Coast Guard certification. Engineers from the oil company say it's no longer appropriate to require them to meet the rigorous weather standards originally proposed. Further, sea trials for the Arctic Challenger — a 37-year-old barge undergoing a multimillion-dollar retrofit — have been delayed in Washington state as federal inspectors insist on improvements to electrical, piping and fire protection systems, a senior Coast Guard inspector confirmed Thursday. The delay in certification adds another notch of uncertainty to Shell's narrow window for operations in the Arctic, which already is tight because drilling must halt by September in the Chukchi Sea and by October in the Beaufort Sea to avoid the dangerous advance of sea ice that comes with winter. Though drilling initially was scheduled to commence by mid-July, [unusually heavy sea ice](#) from the past winter has postponed that, probably until the first week of August. The federal Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement has said it will not issue final drilling permits until the Arctic Challenger receives final Coast Guard



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certification. Both of Shell's drilling rigs set sail for Alaska in late June, and federal officials last week conducted successful tests of a specially designed capping stack designed to control a blowout. Only the Arctic Challenger remains stuck in Washington state awaiting Coast Guard approval. The 294-foot barge, being revamped by Superior Energy Marine Technical Services in Bellingham, Wash., is designed to carry an array of sophisticated [containment equipment](#) that would collect spilled oil, separate it, flare off any natural gas and pump the remainder onto a storage tanker for removal. It would be deployed in the event that a blowout preventer or a capping device failed to completely halt the flow of oil from a failed well.

A difference in Standards

Coast Guard officials said Shell Alaska had initially received approval for the vessel in December under a stringent set of structural standards based on the American Bureau of Shipping's standards for floating production installations. Since then, they said, Shell engineers have said they believe the company should be held to the less rigorous standards for mobile offshore drilling units. The difference, said Coast Guard Cmdr. Christopher O'Neil, is in the strength of storms the vessel can withstand. "Because of the intended use of the Arctic Challenger and the harsh conditions experienced by maritime traffic in the Arctic, the Arctic Challenger is required to be able to withstand the forces generated by a 100-year storm. The operators of the Arctic Challenger contend that the 100-year standard is too stringent of a design standard, and that a 10-year [storm] standard is more aligned with historical conditions for the area of the Arctic they intend to operate [in] this summer," O'Neil, who is chief of media relations for the Coast Guard, said in an email to The Times. Coast Guard officials also have identified several other "issues" with the vessel that they are ordering corrected before certification can occur. These include the fire protection system, including measures necessary to contain the effects of a fire and aid the possibility of personnel escape; questions about how the emergency generator is connected to the switchboard; and couplings on the piping system that had to be reengineered. A source familiar with the reconstruction, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss it, said the problems with the piping system entailed a three-week delay because the entire system had to be pulled out and reinstalled with more robust couplings.

Problems not Irreversible

Coast Guard officials said the inspection problems found so far can likely be corrected and that they expect the ship to eventually meet their rigorous standards for deployment in the often-harsh conditions of the Beaufort and Chukchi seas. "As you do during any modification or new construction process, you're going to find some issues," said John Dwyer, an official with the Coast Guard's inspection division in Puget Sound, which oversees the shipyards in Bellingham. "Some of the issues are substantive, and although I don't consider them to be really unexpected or terribly intractable, they are serious and do have to be done before the vessel can leave." Shell Alaska officials said they are working closely with the Coast Guard to resolve the remaining issues and that the company will be able to do so with no additional delay in drilling operations. "We appreciate the Coast Guard's collaboration in this effort, as we are only interested in deploying world-class assets that can execute flawlessly," Shell spokesman Curtis Smith said in a statement to the Los Angeles Times. "We have every confidence the Arctic Challenger will achieve the certifications necessary and that it will be available in the Arctic in 2012," Smith added. "Because a system like this has never been built for the Arctic, it's natural that modifications will be made along the way." Shell officials say the systems aboard the Arctic Challenger are part of the company's "tertiary" response and not specifically required by federal regulation. They would be deployed only in the unlikely event that the well's built-in blowout preventer failed, and then the capping stack failed to completely check the resulting flow. But Nicholas Pardi of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said the containment system is part of the company's approved oil spill response plan, and the company is required to get it certified by the Coast Guard before drilling permits can be issued. "We need a positive test on the containment system as one of our conditions," he said.

Environmental Concerns

Critics of offshore drilling in the Arctic have long argued that harsh, unpredictable weather can be a hazard to oil operations even during the summer months, and they questioned any move to hold Shell's drilling vessels to anything but the strictest structural standards. "Of anyplace in the world where you don't want to be hoping for the best, it's the Arctic Ocean," said Holly Harris, an attorney for Earthjustice, the environmental legal group that has filed lawsuits in the past challenging offshore Arctic oil operations. "The folks in Barrow, Alaska, have temperatures below freezing 320 days a year. The average temperature in September is roughly 30 degrees. And the storms are so unpredictable that to sort of ... hope the big storm doesn't come is frankly irresponsible," she said. O'Neil said suggestions that the vessel be prepared only for the equivalent of a 10-year storm appear to be an attempt by Shell to steer the certification process to "within the world of the possible and the world of the reasonable." Dwyer said he expects that Shell engineers will be prepared next week to discuss a variety of options that will



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make it safe to operate the Arctic Challenger in adverse weather conditions, even if the original structural standards are not required. This could include the ability to shut down operations and move away or evacuate the vessel in the event of an approaching storm, he said. "We're going to continue to apply the standards as originally proposed unless they offer up some operational equivalents," he said. "We'll have to see what Shell submits to us."

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-arctic-drilling-shell-barge-20120705,0,2975319,full.story>

USA, CA, SAN DIEGO, JULY 7 2012. ENTIRE SAN DIEGO FIREWORKS SHOW GOES OFF AT ONCE; LAUNCHED BY N.J. COMPANY

 [Watch the Video](#) [Entire San Diego Fireworks Show Goes off at Once](#)



In this photo provided by Ben Baller, a yachts are illuminated in the foreground as a malfunction causes the entire Fourth of July fireworks show to go off all at once over San Diego Bay near Coronado Island in San Diego, Wednesday, July 4, 2012. The Coast Guard says the mishap occurred minutes before the scheduled opening of the Big Bay Boom show. More than 500,000 people witnessed the short-lived spectacle. No injuries were reported.

A major fireworks display went out with a bang — almost immediately.

The Big Bay Boom extravaganza over the San Diego Bay was set off all at once Wednesday night, sending a spectacular barrage of color into the sky for about 15 seconds. Then it was over, [CNN.com reported](#). Amateur videos from the fireworks faux pas show what looks like a grand finale. Only there was nothing to follow. The kicker? Garden State Fireworks, the [New Jersey company](#) that typically runs the Kaboom! Fireworks on the Navesink display in Red Bank, was behind the mistake, [Yahoo! News said](#). Garden State Fireworks says barges stocked with the explosives received a signal to "set the timing" of the show, but it inadvertently launched the whole show at once, according to Yahoo! News. The Long Hill-based company's website reads: "Pleasing millions of spectators

for over a century!" Too bad this time it was only for a few seconds.

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2012/07/video_entire_san_diego_firewor.html

USA, TX, PALESTINE, JULY 7 2012. TSRA SEEKS DIESEL SPILL REPAYMENT

faith harper

The Texas State Railroad Authority (TSRA) assumed financial responsibility on Monday for the remediation and reimbursement efforts concerning a large diesel spill at the Rusk depot. The spill is one of several items to be hammered out before the transfer of the rail line from its current operator American Heritage Railways to Iowa Pacific Holdings. Nearly 1,000 gallons of diesel spilled from an alleged faulty underground compression valve at the Rusk depot on Feb. 29. According to American Heritage and TSRA officials, the cleanup was found to be more extensive than originally anticipated as they discovered they were also digging up remnants of a spill from 1998, when the land was controlled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The TSRA authority is seeking reimbursement from TPWD or the state of Texas for the amount they have spent on spill cleanup. As part a resolution proposed by the board, the TSRA would take over and exhaust all means to receive reimbursement. According to Dave Schrank, general manager of the Texas State Railroad, American Heritage assumed most of the financial burden for the cleanup, spending about \$240,000 for remediation efforts. The TSRA spent about \$50,000 to help solve the problem. TSRA attorney Ronald Stutes reported that TPWD claims the TSRA took over the land as-is and therefore assumes responsibility, while the TSRA claims the 1998 spill was not known when it was transferred to the board. "I don't know where in that process we are," TSRA Chairman Steve Presley said. "At this point I'm going work to try to get a full refund of all money spent by us or any other group here back. I don't know if we can get it, but that is my goal." On Friday, Iowa Pacific's attorney sent a letter to Stutes stating as a condition of closing the deal, the authority would have to adopt a resolution whereby they assumed the responsibility of the remediation, including monitoring of the wells to ensure diesel is not in the groundwater. Steve Presley Chairman of the TSRA reported that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) visited the site, did testing and deemed the soil in the area safe, but now is requiring testing



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to be done to ensure the groundwater underneath is not contaminated. "We are not going to do it," Presley said. "It's not our responsibility, it's Texas Parks and Wildlife's responsibility. We are not doing it ... We will see who can push the hardest I guess." The money the railroad board controls is intended to match grants for capital improvements on the railroad and any money spent would take away from planned projects.

<http://palestineherald.com/local/x1483827821/TSRA-seeks-diesel-spill-repayment>

USA, ORE, FLORENCE, JULY 7 2012. BOY BURNED WHEN FIREWORKS THROWN IN GAS TANK

Authorities say a half dozen young people celebrating the Fourth of July along the Oregon Coast poured gasoline into an underground tank. One tossed fireworks into it, and another boy's face was severely burned in the explosion just south of Florence. The Eugene Register-Guard reported Thursday that the unidentified 14-year-old is in stable condition at the Oregon Burn Center in Portland. His face and right hand were burned. A second boy's face was burned. He was treated in Florence and released. The four others were uninjured. Sean Barrett, the district fire marshal, said it was a legal type of "fountain" fireworks.

<http://www.kgw.com/news/Fireworks-tossed-in-gasoline-boy-severely-burned--161476405.html>

USA, OH, AKRON, JULY 7 2012. SEMI LOSES CONTROL, FLIPS INTO GAS STATION PUMPS

 **Watch the Video**

[Semi Loses Control, Flips & Slides into Marathon Gas Station Pumps](#)

[Truck Driver Loses Control & Nearly Crashes Into Gas Station](#)

[Semi Loses Control, Flips into Gas Station Pumps](#)



There were no serious injuries after a semi lost control and flipped into pumps at a gas station in northeast Ohio. Akron police said that the accident happened at the Marathon gas station on E. Waterloo Road Thursday afternoon. Monica Brown was getting ready to fill her gas tank with her daughter when the incident happened. "I just thought, 'Oh my gosh. It's gonna blow up and we're right here. It's all gas.' looked up and the truck was coming right at us," said Monica Brown. Akron Police Lt. Rick Edwards said that a man and woman were inside the semi, but were able to safely crawl out. Another witness, Sara Brown, pulled the woman passenger from the semi. "She just collapsed on me and I just held her until somebody came to help her," said Sara Brown. Officer Hentosz, with Akron's traffic bureau, said that the utility pole the semi hit literally stopped it in its tracks. "As soon as it made contact, it just stopped moving." Initially, police said that the semi flipped off I-77 southbound, but the surveillance video shows

otherwise. It looks like the tractor trailer lost control when it turned onto Waterloo Road. "This could've been a fatality had they, really by the grace of God, been pumping gas because we could've had a fire," explained Sheri Faris, a Marathon gas station employee. "It's just amazing to me nobody got hurt." The semi wasn't carrying anything hazardous.

<http://www.onntv.com/content/stories/2012/07/06/story-semi-crash-gas-station.html>

AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, OAKFORD, JULY 7 2012. WORKER DIES IN GAS EXPLOSION

courtney trenwith

A 38-year-old man has died in a gas explosion south of Armadale this morning. Police said a hydraulic cylinder was believed to have exploded at a rural property on Abernethy Street, Oakford, about 10.10am. WorkSafe, which is investigating the incident, said the man was believed to have been working with a manual hydraulic press when a metal cylinder shattered, striking him. Inspectors travelled to the site soon after and will interview witnesses and investigate the circumstances. WorkSafe WA Commissioner Lex McCulloch said any work-related death was a tragedy, and relayed his sincere condolences to the man's family.

<http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/worker-dies-in-gas-explosion-20120704-21gn1.html>



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USA, PA, BRADFORD CO, LEROY TWP, JULY 7 2012. DEP INVESTIGATES FRACKING CHEMICAL SPILL IN BRADFORD COUNTY >> 4,700 GALLONS OF HYDROCHLORIC ACID

andrea michalenicz

Watch the Video

- [Acid Spill's Burden on Residents](#)
- [DEP Investigates Chemical Spill in Bradford County](#)
- [Investigating Acid Spill at Gas Well](#)

Crews in Bradford County have been cleaning up after thousands of gallons of chemicals are spilled Wednesday afternoon. It happened at the Chief Oil and Gas Yoder well pad in Leroy Township, where 4,700 gallons of hydrochloric acid was spilled along the intersection of Crowfoot Road and South Road. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Emergency Response Team responded to the scene. Some acid flowed into a small tributary that runs into Towanda Creek, killing some fish in the tributary. But dams were built before any acid could make in into the creek. Contaminated soil along the roads is also being removed. There were no evacuations, but a secondary road was closed because of the vapors. Crews were at the scene earlier Thursday, collecting soil and water samples. The cause of the spill is still under investigation, but it is believed to have been caused by a disconnected valve on the tractor trailer's acid tanker, which DEP officials said provides the chemical for the hydro-fracking process

Related Links [Hydrochloric Acid's Role in the Fracking Process](#)

<http://www.wbng.com/news/local/DEP-Investigates-Chemical-Spill-in-Bradford-County-161503165.html>

USA, ME, WALLAGRASS, JULY 7 2012. A YEAR AFTER MAJOR GAS SPILL, WALLAGRASS HOMEOWNERS STILL FEELING ITS EFFECTS



Homeowner Roger Belanger wonders what is to become of the house he says he is unable to sell following last year's truck accident in which 5,000 gallons of gasoline was spilled near the structure. While the Department of Environmental Protection has declared the well water safe to drink, Belanger said just the knowledge of the spill has turned away potential buyers and he is looking for compensation from the owners of the company hauling the gasoline.

It's been more than a year since [a tanker truck overturned on Route 11, spilling 5,000 gallons of gasoline](#). After months of work, the Department of Environmental Protection has declared well water in the area safe. But local residents Roger and Juanita Belanger say their home remains uninhabitable. And, worse, they can't sell it. "Would you buy a house that had a gas spill that close to it?" he asked. "Would you buy a place that was impacted and maybe could be again if more gas

seeps in?" On May 31, 2011, a fuel truck owned by John T. Noble of Caribou, hauling gas for Daigle Oil Co. in Fort Kent, overturned on Route 11 traveling south about five miles outside of Fort Kent. DEP workers were on the scene quickly to contain the gas spill, which directly affected several residences in the immediate area. Over the next several months DEP worked with Stantec, an environmental consultant hired by the trucking company's insurance company to handle site remediation. By September, roughly 1,200 gallons of gas had been recovered, monitoring wells had been dug, and a vapor extraction system and a double carbon filtration system were installed in the Belanger home, in which crews found the presence of petroleum compounds above maximum exposure guidelines. Filters also were installed in eight other nearby homes as a precautionary measure and, at the time, DEP spokesperson Samantha Depoy-Warren said, "The water coming from that well is safe [and] we also put those carbon filtration systems at eight other homes just to be as protective as possible. The water supply is very safe." The DEP is holding what is expected to be the final public hearing on the cleanup efforts next week. The agency is partnering with Wallagrass town officials to host the meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 12, at the Wallagrass Elementary School.

'I am not Willing to take a Chance'

DEP may have declared the water safe last year, but Roger Belanger is unconvinced and continues to wait for action from the parties he feels are responsible for the fact that he can no longer live in his home. He and his wife, both retirees, moved into their new Route 11 home in 2007. Now he claims that, despite heroic efforts on the parts of Stantec and DEP, his home is not



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only unliveable, it is unsellable. "They tell me the water is safe to drink and they put in those filtration systems," Belanger said. "But I had esophageal cancer and I am not willing to take a chance drinking it." Immediately after the spill, the Belangers and their neighbors moved into temporary housing, staying with friends or family or at local hotels. By the end the summer, after environmental cleanup efforts, all were back home. But Belanger claims he and his wife could only live in their home a short time before Juanita became ill and they had to move out again. While still in the house, the couple worried continually about fumes and air quality. "We didn't know if gas fumes were getting in during the night," Belanger said. "Imagine how it feels to sleep in a house and not know if you are going to wake up." Despite the presence of the filters and bottled water, he said they believed conditions were not safe. "We still had to shower with that water and my wife is bothered by allergies," Belanger said. "It was making her sick so we had to get out of there. The house now stands empty and the Belangers are living in a recently purchased home in Fort Kent.

Financial Stress

That move, Belanger said, coupled with ongoing medical issues and related expenses stemming from the spill, has put the couple in a precarious financial situation. They are now paying mortgages, taxes and maintenance costs on two residences. "We put the [Wallagrass] house up for sale a month before the spill," Belanger said. "No one wants to buy that place now." According to Belanger, any interested buyers back off the moment they learn of the spill. The issue, he said, is one of perception, as he is confident DEP's efforts have made the water safe to drink for now. In fact, the most recent DEP data Belanger received found the well "near low contamination, if any," he said. Last year, Belanger said he got lucky and was able to rent the entire house for two months to a crew of engineers working on a project at nearby University of Maine at Fort Kent. "They were not worried about the spill," he said. "They were engineers and understood how the filtration worked but not everybody does." Belanger recognizes the DEP data has declared the water safe, but said he does not feel like rolling the dice given his cancer history. "You drink water and where does it go?" he said. "Right past the esophagus, where I had the cancer. I almost died once and I'm not willing to risk it now." It was Belanger's hope that the owners of John T. Noble Trucking would come forward and offer to purchase the property. "To date we have heard nothing from Noble Trucking," Belanger said. Reached Monday by phone, John Noble declined to comment on Belanger's situation. Regarding the overall spill, Belanger agrees with Depoy-Warren's assessment that John Noble took immediate responsibility for the spill in addition to taking quick action to begin cleanup. "I feel sorry for [Noble Trucking] that they had that accident," Belanger said, "but who is feeling sorry for us? We did nothing wrong." Belanger hopes he may get some direct answers at the upcoming public meeting, which he said he and his attorney will attend. According to a press release from DEP, the meeting will cover air and water monitoring data that demonstrates their progress and discuss how risks from contamination have greatly decreased across the site. Officials also will talk about changes to the remediation plan that residents can expect to see in the coming weeks and months. Speakers will include the project manager, DEP's regional director and municipal officials. For more information about the Wallagrass spill and the ongoing remediation efforts in response, visit maine.gov/dep/spills and click on "Wallagrass Spill" under "Sites."

<http://bangordailynews.com/2012/07/04/news/aroostook/a-year-after-major-gas-spill-wallagrass-homeowners-still-feeling-its-effects/>

AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, ADELAIDE, JULY 7 2012. CONTAMINATION CHECK NEAR PETROL STATION SITES

The Environment Protection Authority says groundwater contamination at three former service station sites in Adelaide may have spread beyond them. Sites in Gorge Road at Athelstone and Tapleys Hill Road at Royal Park are no longer operating. But a third in Lower North East Road at Dernancourt is now run by BP. Independent consultant OTEK Australia has been making an assessment and doing remediation work on behalf of Mobil, which had operated the three sites. The Authority's Director of Science and Assessment, Peter Dolan, said about 170 households in the areas had been notified of the issue. "There's groundwater contamination with total petroleum hydrocarbons, or TPH as we call it. It's basically petrol, oils and lubricants that may have leaked from underground storage tanks," he said. "The actual impact as yet is unknown. What they're trying to do is talk to residents about putting bores down and testing of bores to identify the extent of any contamination. "Tanks were built to a different standard than what they are now and so it's not uncommon for us to find contamination in the vicinity of old tanks. The plumes are relatively small so the odds of a significant risk are low, but they still need to be investigated."

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-07-06/mobil-groundwater-contamination-epa/4114620?section=sa>



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USA, N.J, BERGEN CO, JULY 7 2012. APPEALS COURT SAYS OWNERS OF CONTAMINATED N.J. SITES DON'T HAVE TO PROVE THEY ARE CLEAN BEFORE SELLING THEM

Owners of contaminated sites that have small amounts of pollution do not have to prove that the properties are clean before selling them, a state appellate court ruled Friday. The three-judge panel said that two of New Jersey's major environmental laws are meant to "streamline the regulatory process" and "minimize governmental involvement" for property owners who have "handled or stored minimal amounts of hazardous materials." The effect of the ruling is unclear for the 1,365 active contaminated sites in [Bergen County](#) and the 674 sites in [Passaic County](#). The judges left room for the state Department of Environmental Protection to enforce cleanups through other laws and regulations, such as the Spill Act. They said their ruling answered a "narrow question" over whether two laws — the Industrial Site Recovery Act of 1993 and the controversial Site Remediation and Reform Act of 2009 — require property owners to certify that their land is clean when selling it. The decision was also stayed for 30 days, giving the department more time to assess its implications and set up an appeal. An agency spokesman said officials were still assessing the ruling and could not comment on it. Jeff Tittel, director of the New Jersey Sierra Club, said the ruling would have serious consequences for the environment and, eventually, public health. "The court ruled the ... legislation was passed to make it easier to develop sites, not to clean up sites," he said. "Therefore, the court had to rule with polluters over the DEP." In their unanimous 36-page decision, the judges said the decision would not have dire effects. "To be sure, ISRA and SRRA have not eviscerated our state's additional legislative goals of remediating contaminated sites and protecting the public health, safety and welfare," the ruling states, referring to the laws under review. The ruling comes out of an appeal by the owners of Des Champs Laboratories, a small factory in Livingston. The DEP allowed the factory to be sold in 1997 after its owners reported that it had not discharged any hazardous substances. But in 2005, the DEP said that groundwater contamination in the township originated from the factory. The owners said they never used the chemicals found in the groundwater and refused to carry out department's order to investigate the matter. The agency's order was appealed this year. Tittel said Friday's ruling puts too much power in the hands of polluters and property owners. As long as they believe that either "institutional controls," like capping contaminated soil, have largely eliminated the threat, or that the amount of pollution left is small, they do not have to clean the site any further, he said. "It is not even about how much is discharged; it is about what the polluter thinks, which is subjective and very hard to prove," Tittel said. The DEP has slowly been getting out of the cleanup business. The Site Remediation and Reform Act privatized the oversight of toxic site cleanups, moving that responsibility from the department's case workers to licensed professionals working for the owners of polluted properties.

http://www.northjersey.com/news/Appeals_court_says_owners_of_contaminated_NJ_sites_dont_have_to_prove_they_are_clean_before_selling_them.html?page=all

THAILAND, BANGKOK, JULY 7 2012. BANGCHAK FUELS REFINERY ROW >> THE LATEST FIRE AT THE DEPOT HAS HIT A RAW NERVE, BUT SOME COMMUNITIES ARE NOT AFRAID



In this bird's eye view photo, WatKlong Toey Nai community is seen located adjacent to oil tanks at Shell oil depot in Bangkok's KlongToey district. The fire at Bangchak oil refinery on Wednesday has raised fears about the safety of the community situated near the oil depot, but many residents say they do not want to relocate.

Bangchak oil refinery's second fire in less than two years has jolted the nerves of nearby residents who live in sometimes densely packed communities. Many are ready to leave the area, some have no choice but to stay, while others feel happy to live in the high-risk zone if the refinery can guarantee its safety measures. But it is the "if" that has many worried. The blast and fire at the refinery in Bangkok's

Phra Khanong district on Wednesday caused extensive damage to the facility. It also raised very serious questions about the company's safety measures. Those residents who want to move away insist a second fire in less than two years is too much to take. The refinery went up in flames in January last year. That incident and Wednesday's fire were thought to have been caused by a hydrogen leak. The residents said although no one was injured in either blaze, they no longer felt safe. "Where is it safe?" said Somyos Banju, 41, whose house is in Sukhumvit Soi 62. He and about 10 family members have lived there for more than 10 years. "I heard a very loud bang and I rushed outside to see what was happening. I saw a plume of thick black smoke," he said. Mr Somyos said his trust in the company's safety measures has ebbed after the two fires. However, the



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refinery is almost 50 years old and urban expansion has put it smack in the middle of the city. "No one wants to live near the refinery if they can help it. But some people have no choice," he said. Mr Somyos believes industry and communities can live side-by-side if safety measures are well maintained. "Yes, I want to move to a safer place, but to where is the problem," he said. Tenants at Aue Amorn Suk Condominium at Sukhumvit Soi 62 were also wondering whether to stay. Thanikarn Khechanlai, 38, who has run a barber shop at the condo for 15 years, said her shop was shaken during the blast which preceded the fire. She ran out and saw people screaming and running amok. She said the explosion was less of a concern than the potentially toxic air pollution the fire created. She thinks she should move rather than wait for the plant to relocate. Sawan Rak-kwam-jing, 45, another condo tenant, felt it is the residents who should leave. "If there is anyone who has to go, it might be us because we came [after the refinery was built]," she said. Meanwhile, another group of residents near the oil depot owned by Shell Co in Klong Toey said they did not understand what all the fuss was about. They said they had full confidence in Shell's safety measures. Three communities - Wat Klong Toey Nai 1, Wat Klong Toey Nai 2 and Wat Klong Toey Nai 3 - sit adjacent to the Shell oil depot on Na Ranong Road. There are about 800 houses and more than 2,000 residents in total. Somsri Sathansathit, 59, a deputy chair of Wat Klong Toey Nai 2 community, said she had moved from Nonthaburi province and settled in the community more than four decades ago. The flurry of calls for the relocation of large oil depots away from the city is the least of her concerns. Mrs Somsri is also a grocer and lives with her husband and their two children in the community. "I have lived here for a long time. I know my way around the place very well and I don't see the need to relocate. More importantly, staff of Shell Co have had safety measures in place for years," Mrs Somsri said. In 1993, the company installed water mains connected to fire-extinguishing valves throughout the community. The system provides assurance and peace of mind to the residents. The company staff hold fire drills in the communities and in its oil depot once a year. Ampai Saisan, a 46-year-old housewife in Wat Klong Toey Nai 2, said she has no intention of vacating the neighbourhood. She believes Shell has to safeguard its own assets and, in the process, the residents are also protected. "There have been fires in our community. After a major fire in the community in 1992, Shell installed the water mains to fight fires in the future," Mrs Ampai said. Preecha Ruangruen, a 53-year-old motorcycle taxi driver, who also lives in one of the Klong Toey communities, said the company installed pipes and pumps that could draw water from the nearby Chao Phraya River to battle any blazes. Ms Somsri, Ms Ampai and Mr Preecha agreed that they do not want the oil depot to move away. They believe that if a fire breaks out, staff of the company will reach their community faster than fire fighters. They said local people have nothing to fear from the depot. On the contrary, the company has a reason to fear what might happen to the communities because its safety and enormous assets are at stake. Yongyuth Romchatthong, director of the Bangkok Fire and Rescue Department, said oil refineries and depots usually employ their own highly experienced fire-fighting teams. They also have sufficient resources to protect their valuable assets while his department was on standby in case they sought assistance if a fire breaks out. His department and the petroleum installations store enough foam to fight fires. He conceded it would be difficult to relocate the refineries away from communities. He suggested parties concerned implement effective measures to let both petroleum facilities and nearby communities co-exist in a safe environment. Bangkok Governor MR Sukhumbhand Paribatra said the extent of the fire at the Bangchak refinery may have been underestimated and so there was a delay in sounding the alarm and people living around the facility panicked. He said the relevant parties had a responsibility to quickly inform people nearby of a fire and what they should do. The governor insisted that he would discuss the possibility of moving oil refineries and weapons arsenals away from heavily populated areas of Bangkok.

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/301343/bangchak-fuels-refinery-row>

CHINA, ZHEJIANG PROVINCE, HANGZHOU, JULY 7 2012. TOXIC GAS SEES HUNDREDS EVACUATE

Toxic gas given off by chemicals stockpiled amid the SARS scare nine years ago forced more than 800 workers to evacuate an office building in downtown Hangzhou, capital of East China's Zhejiang province, on Friday. White smog with a suffocating odor fumigated the 19th floor of Tianyuan Mansion in Hangzhou's Xihu district at 7:30 am, according to a spokesman with the local fire brigade. He said the office building, which accommodates about 1,500 people during working hours, was half empty at the time. "But the smog caused panic among the early birds, who rushed downstairs and called emergency services." The firefighters traced the smog to a warehouse where about 3 kg of chlorine dioxide powder was stored. Management of the building said the chemical was used as disinfectant during the SARS epidemic in 2003 and the leftover had not been disposed of. The firefighters removed the chemical from the building and launched a cleanup. Investigators from the local environment protection and work safety authorities tested the indoor air quality before declaring the office building safe.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-07/06/content_15555768.htm



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