

Expertise Eases Oil Storage Facility Demolition.

Think Green.®

Removing old food from the back of a refrigerator is a task daunting enough to give most people nightmares. Imagine the mettle required to dismantle a three-story-tall waste storage tank that had been filled with standing oil for 10 years.

Tank S3 at the Petroleum Recycling Corporation (PRC) Patterson oil storage facility in Patterson, Calif., was a 2.25 million gallon storage tank built in 1986. It was part of a refinery complex that went through several hands before being abandoned in 1997.

Between November 1998 and May 2000, the tank was systematically dismantled by Chevron Environmental Management Company (CEMC) of San Ramon, Calif. Having a long-standing relationship with Chevron USA, Waste Management was selected to manage the waste removal, recycling and disposal associated with the

demolition of Tank S3.

The massive tank contained 30,000 gallons of oily sludge that had been brought to the former refinery for processing in 1986, but subsequent attempts to recycle the material had reportedly failed. As a result, the oily sludge had been left to sit in the 29-foot-tall dilapidated wood-roofed tank for more than 10 years.

It had since separated into several layers, including (from top to bottom) oil, oily water, a mixed-phase

referred to as the “residual liquid phase” and layers of soft and hard sludge.

Working closely with both CEMC and its technical consultants, Waste Management coordinated the onsite processing and transportation of the various layers of waste material that were shipped to several facilities for recycling or disposal. Because of the hazardous nature of the waste, it was necessary for Waste Management to operate under strict EPA guidelines as well as other state and local environmental regulations.

The entire demolition process took place in several phases between November 1998 and May 2000. During this period, Waste Management removed a total of 25,663 barrels (bbls) of oil and soft sludge, which it transported to a fuel blending facility for recycling. A total of 12,592 bbls of water was taken to the Waste Management Altamont Landfill in Altamont, Calif., for solidification and/or recycling as dust control. Seventy-five hundred bbls of residual liquid oil were removed between March and June 1999; the oil was taken to a fuel blending facility for recycling.

Thanks in part to Waste Management’s expertise in the treatment, recycling and disposal of waste oils, water and associated sludges, the S3 tank cleaning and demolition project proceeded smoothly on schedule, on budget and well within regulatory guidelines.

Waste Management is an old hand at handling old oil for the good of the environment and Chevron USA shareholders

From everyday collection to environmental protection, Think Green. Think Waste Management.



INDUSTRIAL SERVICES