



Environmental
Management
Services

Diesel Tank Decommissioning Case Study

Summary

Following a liquid pollution risk assessment we were asked to quote for the removal of 3 redundant diesel tanks on a large hospital site.

Due to the commercial value of the redundant fuel and the steel tanks we were able to conduct all works on a cost neutral basis removing a major pollution risk from site free of charge.

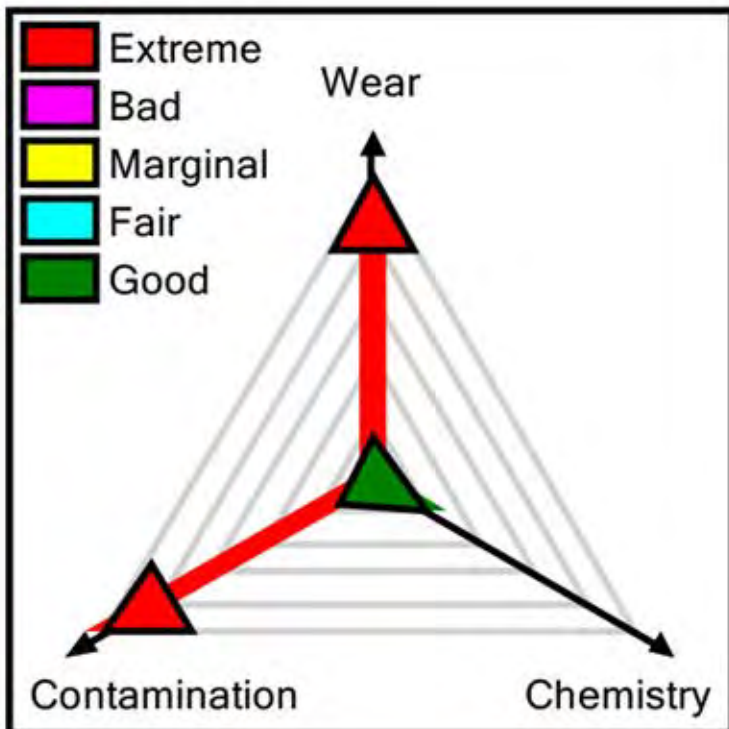
During an oil tank and bund inspection it was identified that the bund was not watertight and would need repairs to meet the requirements of the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) Regulations.

The tanks were also identified as being in poor physical condition meaning the integrity of the bund was even more critical with the tanks being at an increased risk of failure.

There were 3 tanks contained within the bund, 2 x 9,500 Litre Tanks and 1 x 11,500 Litre Tank. The tanks contained approximately 23,000 litres of diesel.



Unsealed & ineffectively sealed cable & pipe entries into the bund



The client advised that given the tanks were redundant and space was a major issue on site they wanted the tanks decommissioned and removed if it could be completed within their budget.

In order to put in an accurate quotation we took fuel samples to ascertain the condition of the fuel. Due to the fact the tanks had been unused for a substantial period of time and were in poor physical condition the fuel had become extremely contaminated.

Even with its contamination we were able to arrange for the oil to be removed and recycled with the oil recycling company paying for the fuel.

Once we had ascertained the commercial value of the fuel and estimated the scrap value of the metal tanks we were able to offer the full project on a cost neutral basis to the client allowing them to remove a high pollution risk without spending any money.

The first stage of the project was to remove the recyclable fuel, 23,000 litres of fuel was pumped to a tanker and taken for recycling.

The contents from the bottom of the tanks contained water and a high level of particulate; these contents were unrecyclable and were drained into an IBC for disposal as hazardous waste.



The headworks of the tanks were removed and the tanks were degreased, decontaminated and gas tested in situ. Once the tanks were fully decommissioned they were able to be removed.

Due to access restrictions the tank lift needed to be conducted on a weekend when the site was less busy, and was conducted using a Hiab which minimised the space needed to complete the lift and transfer.

As the tanks had been cleaned in situ they were able to be recycled as scrap metal with the commercial value of the tanks contributing to the cost neutral project.