

TRACETEK FUEL LEAK DETECTION PREVENTS POLLUTION AT A LARGE OIL DISTRIBUTOR'S TANK FARM

PROJECT DETAILS

Location:	San Jose, USA
Completion Date:	October 2007
Contract Scope:	Design, supply & site installation of hydrocarbon leak detection system for existing tank farm
Applications:	Fuel Leak Detection for Tanks
Technology:	nVent RAYCHEM Fuel Leak Detection sensing cables and monitoring solution

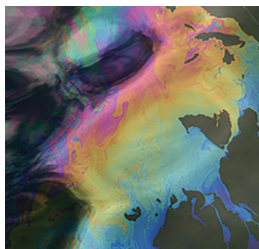


KEY CHALLENGES

One of the USA's largest distributors of gasoline, diesel fuel and lubricants get rid of the comma wanted to prevent ground water pollution at its San Jose tank farm and exceed the standards set forth by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

SOLUTION

The facility, consisting of 12 closely grouped small diameter tanks, needed an effective leak detection system to monitor the soil beneath the tanks without interrupting commercial operations. The solution was a complete monitoring solution to detect hydrocarbon leaks and signal an alarm. Working within space limitations, engineers used a small, customizable drilling machine to retrofit an existing tank farm with a sensing system underneath the tanks.



Avoiding ground water pollution at tank farm.



TraceTek systems provide early warning of oil leaks into soil.

PRODUCTS

nVent recommended its TraceTek leak detection system using nVent RAYCHEM TT5000 sensing cable, installed in PVC conduit under the tanks. The cable contains a hydrocarbon scavenging material. Any spillage is drawn into the conduit by capillary action and is absorbed by the cable jacket which creates the signal. The cable is not sensitive to water and will not create false signals due to groundwater or rain. Sensing cables are brought to the surface and terminated at the top of a short piece of pipe-work to make it accessible. This provides a simple facility for periodic checks by local management. The box used for the checks is a nVent RAYCHEM TT-Flasher-BE which gives a leak / no leak signal and allows the operator to test if the cable is broken or not.

BENEFITS

- The system quickly detects and signals an alarm if the fuel leaks.
- Appropriate action can be taken with confidence due to the accurate location of the leak.
- It can be safely and reliably used to generate alarms in the tank farm environment.
- The system can be retrofitted to existing tank farms.



Since the 1980's TraceTek products have been helping operators detect spills, locate the source of leaks and take corrective action before an incident becomes a "news story."

The key is quick detection and accurate location at the source of the leak. TraceTek sensor cable and monitoring systems let you do that.

For tank farms, cable is installed around the circumference or beneath tank floor plates of above ground storage tanks as a permanent safeguard against undetected leakage through corroded bottom plates.

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