PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

TEX-79

FROM LONG BEACH PRESS TELEGRAM
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24, 1982

Cypress City Council asks for health probe of Texaco oil tanks

By Scott Brown
Staff Writer

They loom up toward the sky in Cypress — neat rows of towering oil and fuel tanks owned by Texaco Inc. and laid out acre upon acre in a massive storage area known to residents simply as the "tank farm."

Robert Bess, who lives nearby at 9682 Salisbury Lane, thinks the tank farm may be contributing to disease in the surrounding neighborhood.

Bess has cancer. Two more of the people on his block have cancer, he said. And he has heard through word of mouth that yet another two people on his block have cancer.

"I find that it is like living on infirmary row," he said.

Bess, 51, a counselor at Artesia High School, asked the Cypress City Council this week to investigate the possibility that the tank farm is releasing fumes or chemicals that are causing illness in the community.

The council decided to have the city staff ask Orange County health officials and the Air Quality Management District to examine air around the tank farm.

A Texaco official said Tuesday that he doubted pollutants were coming from the tank farm, located at 4743 Ball Road.

Lowell K. Craft, Texaco Pacific Coast Pipeline district manager, described the area as little more than a sealed network of underground pipes and storage tanks complete with an internal vapor recovery system.

He said the tank farm is inspected by air pollution officials at least once each month.

Bess himself seemed far from convinced that the tank farm was responsible for the serious illnesses in his neighborhood.

"I don't want to cry wolf, really, because there may be absolutely no connection. I was a heavy smoker before and it may be that my time is up. I would be truly pleased if an investigation showed that my concerns were groundless."

Just the same, Bess added, he has talked to several of his neighbors.

"They would not be the least bit surprised" if tests showed the presence of some hazardous chemical, he said.

Bess moved to Cypress from Lakewood in April 1979. He was diagnosed 14 months later as having cancer. "I'm still fighting it," he said.

latency period for carcinogenesis gen 15-20yrs

WA-TEX 005731

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FROM THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER 2-24-82

Tanks' fumes a peril? Cypress wants answer

(vapors)

By Christopher Dee
Register staff writer

CYPRESS — A claim that residents may be endangered by fumes from petroleum tanks has prompted city officials to ask for an investigation.

The 52 tanks, owned by Texaco, are in a half-mile-square block bounded by Ball Road, Orange Avenue, Moody and Denni streets.

Robert Bess, who lives a block east of the tanks, told the City Council on Monday that his street has become an "infirmary row." At least three, possibly five, neighbors have cancer, he said.

Bess asked the council to require continual air monitoring to determine whether the emissions from the tanks have caused the cancer.

The council unanimously voted to ask the county Health Department and the four-county South Coast Air Quality Management District to investigate the claim.

Mayor Jerry Mullen said Tuesday he hopes the agencies will prepare reports for council review March 8.

"I'm sure we're going to have to get deeper into it. The issue is one of such crucial importance that it can't be swept under the rug," Mullen said.

However, Texaco spokesman Norm Stanley said Tuesday that AQMD officials inspect the tanks monthly. He said the 52 tanks — 40 of which are leased to Southern California Edison — are equipped with a vapor recovery system to prevent emissions.

Still, Councilman Chuck Coronado said at Monday's meeting that he detected a nauseating odor coming from the tanks last May. He said his complaints to authorities brought no results.

Mullen replied to that statement Tuesday. "I jog around that area three to four days a week. I've never experienced anything like that (odor) at all. I've never heard anybody with a serious complaint other than Mr. Coronado."

Mullen said Texaco and Edison officials have assured the city that "there is no chance of pollutants coming from those tanks. But, then again, we haven't verified it through an agency that is independent of the owners."

The tanks are a big moneymaker for the city. Finance director Lee Powell said sales taxes on the oil net the city between $500,000 and $1 million yearly.

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